Urgent invitation to employer leaders in Africa to the African Union - European Union Summit from 27-29 November in Abidjan

16 November 2017

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The IOE is making an urgent call to the leadership of its member federations in Africa to ensure that the employer voice is widely represented at the upcoming AU-EU Summit from 29-30 November 2017 in Abidjan, as well as at the preparatory Business Forum scheduled for 27 November and a Business Meeting on 28 November.

As you are no doubt aware, 2017 is a defining year for AU-EU relations. Ten years on from the adoption of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, African and European Heads of State and Government will be joined at this 5th Summit by the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, the President of the African Union and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to take stock of progress since the 2014 Summit and to deepen the AU-EU strategic partnership.

High on the agenda is the future of AU-EU relations, with a focus on a central theme of “Investing in Youth for a sustainable future” - a key priority for the AU and the EU, as 60% of the African population is under the age of 25. The Summit will build on a series of preparatory events which will aim to bring the views of the key stakeholders to the deliberations. Of note to employer leaders is the one-day AU-EU Business Forum on 27 November, which will also provide the occasion for the Business Africa Entrepreneur of the Year Award Ceremony. Between 10:00 and 12:00 on 28 November, a further business event - the Africa-EU Abidjan Business Meeting will adopt and communicate the 2017 AU-EU Business Declaration.

The IOE will be well represented by the General Confederation of Employers of Côte d’Ivoire (CGECI), our Abidjan-based member. In addition, the EU is providing some support to finance the participation of employer leaders from individual member organisations in Africa.

USEFUL LINKS

5th African Union - European Union Summit, Abidjan, 29-30 November 2017

6th EU-Africa Business Forum, Abidjan, 27 November 2017

Joint Africa-EU Strategy adopted in 2007

IOE CONTACTS

To register your interest in participating and being considered for financial support: Ms Caroline Balikungeri at the IOE

All other related enquiries: Ms Anetha Awuku, IOE-EU Projects Manager

CONNECT WITH US!

On Twitter (@ioevoice) and Facebook (facebook.com/internationalorganisationofemployers)
of a limited number of IOE members from other regions to ensure the
diverse perspectives of African employers on the continent are
represented.

If you would like to attend these important events, kindly contact Ms
Caroline Balikungeri at the IOE, ideally by return, and by 22 November at
the latest, indicating whether you wish to be considered for financial
support.

Please refer to the links in the side panel for further information on the
Summit and Business Forum, and for other background and contact
information.

Frederick Muia
Senior Adviser for Africa