



## World Humanitarian Day - AU Humanitarian Week



World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is a United Nations General Assembly-designated day that is dedicated to celebrating the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the world and also drawing attention to humanitarian needs worldwide. The objective of the World Humanitarian Day is to increase public awareness of humanitarian assistance activities as well as to honor all humanitarian workers and associated personnel who have worked in the promotion of the humanitarian cause; and especially those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. First celebrated in 2004 to commemorate the passing of Sergio Veira de Mello and other humanitarian workers who died in the bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, the WHD is now established as a global celebration of the spirit of humanity.

In 2014, we continue the celebration of humanitarian action under the themes: **#theworldneedsmore** and **#HumanitarianHeroes**.

Every year, natural disasters and conflicts cause immense suffering for millions of people - usually the world's poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable populations, requiring the diligent life saving service of dedicated men and women as individuals or in groups and organizations or agencies involved in humanitarian action. The African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration and the humanitarian community in Ethiopia will be marking the 2014 World Humanitarian Day with a week-long series of activities focusing on the humanitarian situation in Africa.

The spotlight amongst others will be on the situations in South Sudan, Central African Republic and the Sahel and the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The AU PSC and the Emergency Preparedness and Response Sub-Cluster welcome your participation in these series of activities during the Humanitarian Week, **18-22 August 2014**. Kindly find attached a draft concept note for your information, interest and follow-on initiatives.

## **Overview of the Humanitarian Week 18-22 August 2014**

### **Session/Activity: Exhibition of Humanitarian Heroes in Action at African Union Commission (18-22 August 2014)**

**Objective:** Pictorial, Video, Online Streaming and experience sharing platform for success stories on humanitarian action in Africa. This will go hand-in-hand with WHD theme for 2014 that will be celebrating humanitarian heroes. The exhibition will run from 18-22 August 2014 and will be officially launched by the protem Chair of the AU Peace and Security Council, His Excellency, Alain Aime Nyamitwe, the Ambassador of Burundi on WHD.

### **Monday 18 August 2014**

#### **Session: Information and Experience Sharing Open Session on the response of the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa and lessons to be learned**

**Lead:**AUC (Social Affairs), WHO, OCHA

**Objective:** Share information and experience with the AUC, African Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives to the AU, Representatives of Regional Economic Communities and invited guests on the current response to the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa. This session is expected to also raise awareness about existing instruments and mechanisms aimed at enhancing preparedness and response to health related disasters in Africa.

### **Tuesday 19 August 2014**

#### **Session: Open Session on the Humanitarian Situations in South Sudan, Central Africa Republic and the Sahel Region**

##### **Objectives:**

- 1) Commemorate the World Humanitarian Day.
- 2) Draw attention to the humanitarian challenges in the Central African Republic, South Sudan and the Sahel with a view to highlighting the strategies in place for mitigating humanitarian challenges and enhancing resilience in the CAR, South Sudan and the Sahel Region.
- 3) Elicit recommendations on measures that could be taken by Member States and the international community to scale up response and recovery in these states/region.

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# Communiqué of the 450th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union Held on 19 August 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Peace and Security Council

African Union Commission

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