

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: +251 11 551 7700 Fax: +251 11 5 517 844

website: www.au.int

**SECOND MEETING OF THE AFRICAN
POPULATION EXPERTS COMMITTEE (APEC)
AND THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE
POPULATION AS A WORKING GROUP OF
THE SECOND SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON HEALTH, POPULATION AND DRUG CONTROL (STC-HPDC-2)**

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

In fulfillment of the decision of the Executive Council EX.CL/Dec.970(XXXI) on the decision of the second Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control (HPDC 2) of the African Union held in March 2017, to organize a special session of Ministers in charge of population to be held in the last quarter of 2018, the Commission is organizing a meeting of the African Population Experts Committee (APEC) which will be followed by a meeting of Ministers in charge of Population as a Working Group of the STC-HPDC-2. The population expert and ministerial meeting will i) review the draft continental report on the 5 years implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD); ii) discuss and agree on the development of a common African Position on Population issues and iii) and consider any other relevant issues on population.

2. Rationale and Justification

In the lead up to the continental meeting, all AU Member States will carry out an in-depth, multi-sectoral and consultative process to review the extent of implementation of the AADPD, based on the Operational Guide of the AADPD and the indicators contained in its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (AADPD OG), which was approved by the STC-HPDC 2. The entire review process, including the development of the continental report on the implementation of AADPD shall be conducted under the auspices of the African Population Experts Committee (APEC). Thus, the continental experts and ministerial meetings will be informed by the continental AADPD implementation report and would aim to identify gaps, challenges, lessons learned and emerging issues to advance advocacy and further implementation of the declaration across the continent.

The Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development beyond 2014 (AADPD) adopted by Ministers in October 2013 and endorsed by the AU Summit in January 2014¹, calls for periodic review the outcomes of the African regional conferences on ICPD beyond 2014.² Given the important strides made towards the development of the AADPD-OG and M&E Framework, and the need to ensure a coordinated input of Africa into the 25th anniversary and review of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA), it is important that a comprehensive review of the AADPD is conducted within all AU Member States and at the continental level.

The African Population Experts Committee (APEC), as the technical arm of the STC on Health, Population and Drug Control, is well placed to support this important review and to advise the AU Ministers in Charge of Population, as a working group of the STC-HPDC, to pronounce themselves on the outcomes of the review process on behalf of Africa.

¹ AU Executive Council Decision on the Regional Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 30th September – 4October 2013 – EX.CL/Dec.799(XXIV)

² Recommendation 87 of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development beyond 2014

3. Objectives

i. Experts session

- Facilitate an in-depth review of the implementation of AADPD, based on its approved Operational Guide and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework;
- Identify gaps, lessons learned and emerging issues identified during the course of implementation of AADPD;

ii. Ministerial Session

- Discuss and agree on a Common African Position on population issues to guide future negotiations on the global fora;
- Agree on key messages and conclusions that would feed into the UN Secretary General's Report as well as key recommendations for the AU Heads of State Summit in January 2019.

4. Dates and Venue

The continental meeting will be held in Accra, Ghana, from 2-5 October, 2018. The experts (APEC) will convene from 2-3 October, whilst the Ministers in charge of Population convene from 4-5 October, 2018.

5. Working Language And Format Of Discussions

The meeting will be conducted in Arabic, English French and Portuguese with simultaneous interpretation. All background documents shall be available in the 4 AU languages.

Presentations and discussions during all sessions will be in plenary. Working groups may be set up as deemed necessary by the Chair and Co-chairs of sessions.

6. Participants

The meeting shall be attended by all members of the African Population Experts Committee (APEC) and AU Ministers in charge of population, representatives from Regional Economic Communities in charge of population matters, relevant bodies of the African Union and key partners from UN Agencies and NGOs are also expected to participate.

Given the various stakeholders involved in the implementation of AADPD and in keeping with the practice of the ICPD beyond 2014 review, Member States are encouraged to include civil society representatives, including young people, on their delegations to the review.

Members of civil society and youth organizations are welcome to participate as observers in the experts' session.

AUC shall serve as the Secretariat of the meeting with the support of UNFPA and ECA.

7. Working Documents And Other Background Documents

- i. The Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development beyond 2014 (AADPD);
- ii. Africa Regional Report on the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development;
- iii. The Operational Guide and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of AADPD;
- iv. Executive Council Decision on the Outcome of the Africa Regional Conference on Population and Development, EX.CL/Dec.799(XXIV);
- v. Executive Council Decision on the Report of the STC-HPDC 2/MIN/RPT, EX.CL/Dec.970(XXXI)
- vi. Report of the STC-HPDC 2, STC-HPDC-2/MIN/RPT.
- vii. Draft Terms of Reference of APEC

All working and background documents will be available on the AU Website in English, French, Portuguese and Arabic.

8. Contacts

For more information related to this meeting, kindly contact Dr. Margaret Agama-Anyetei (agama-anyeteim@africa-union.org) with a copy to Ms. Hilina Wassihun (WassihunH@africa-union.org) and Ms. Ondela Manjezi (Manjezio@africa-union.org).