

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Press Release No: _____

Date: 25 October 2021

Venue: Niamey, Niger

MEDIA ADVISORY

The 3rd African Girls' Summit

INVITATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

What: The 3rd African Girls' Summit

Theme: *"Culture, Human Rights and Accountability – Accelerating the End to Harmful Practices"*

The event will take the following format:

- a) A high-level opening ceremony;
- b) An interactive panel (with Young Girls, Experts, Leaders and Other stakeholder representatives- CSOs, Representatives of Regional and International Organisations);
- c) Break-out/ Parallel Sessions;
- d) Plenary Sessions to dialogue on emerging issues from the breakout/ panel sessions; and,
- e) A high-level closing ceremony.

When: 16th – 18th November 2021

Time: From 9.00 am

Where: Niamey, Niger

Who: The African Union Commission (AUC) Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs & Social Development (HHS)

Why: The African Girls' Summit is a premier platform that convenes stakeholders across Africa on girls' rights and wellbeing. The 1st Girls Summit was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Zambia in 2015, with the second hosted by Ghana in 2018. The 3rd African Girls' Summit will be held November 2021, under the auspices of the Government of the Republic of Niger. The Summit seeks to draw attention to the social, legal and institutional issues around Culture, Human Rights and Accountability, as they intersect with the elimination of harmful practices, and look to take stock of progress since its first iteration in 2015.

Objectives:

The goal of the 3rd African Girls Summit is to provide a platform for sharing good practices, evidence and data to shift and galvanise action towards the elimination of harmful practices in Africa.

The objectives will include the following;

1. Convene a platform to share progress, challenges and mobilize concerted action to accelerate elimination of harmful practices in Africa to achieve the aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063, AU Agenda 2040 and the global sustainable development goals;

2. Take stock and follow-up on recommendations of the 2nd Girls Summit to link them up with the outcome of the 3rd Girls Summit;
3. Solicit recommendations, with key milestones and evidence, to inform the 3rd African Girls' Summit Outcome and Roadmap on Girls Empowerment, as well as African Union decisions and actions on ending child marriage and female genital mutilation;
4. Contribute to strengthening efforts towards achieving Aspiration 6, priority 6.1.2 of Agenda 2063 on "Violence and discrimination against women and girls" and calls for the eradication of "...all forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls, especially child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation".

Expected Outcomes:

Expected outcomes from the Summit will include:

1. Strengthened outlook for action to accelerate elimination of harmful practices in Africa and a consensus, progressive and far reaching outcome, providing policy recommendations and key milestones attained;
2. Stocktaking on the 1st and 2nd African Girls' Summit (AGS) conducted, and agreed on clear actions and recommendations towards accelerating elimination of harmful practices in Africa;
3. African Girls' Summit informs stronger and sustained actions, where the 3rd African Girls' Summit Outcome Document and Girls Empowerment Roadmap is adopted, and recommendations for AU Decisions with clear evidence, data and milestones on ending harmful practices - including child marriage and female genital mutilation, are solicited;
4. Implementation of Aspiration 6, priority 6.1.2 of Africa's Transformative Agenda 2063 on the elimination violence and discrimination against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and child marriage, is strengthened through mainstreaming of Culture, Human Rights and Accountability.

Media representatives are invited to attend and cover the 3rd African Girls' Summit

For further information, please contact:

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