

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Media Advisory

Venue: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Date: 11 December 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



#MjadalaAfrika

### MJADALA AFRIKA: AUC LEADERSHIP DEBATE 2024 EDITION

**WHAT:** The African Union Leadership Debate of the candidates vying for the position of the AUC Chairperson. The debate is organized ahead of the election of the next Chairperson of the AU Commission in 2025 during the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the AU, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**WHEN:** Friday, 13 December 2024

**TIME:** 16:00 to 18:00 (GMT).

**WHERE:** The debate will be broadcast live from the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It can be accessed on the following platforms:

- National public broadcast stations in Africa (also available on the DSTV bouquet)
- African Union's website <https://au.int/en/auc-leadership-elections>. The link will go live on 13<sup>th</sup> December at 16:30 GMT
- Floor language live stream on the African Union's website and all AU digital platforms <https://au.int/en/auc-leadership-elections-livestream> Those wishing to select a language will be directed back to the AU website.
- CNBC Africa YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@Cnbcafrica410>.
- MultiChoice Africa, DSTV Channel 197

**Languages:** The debate will be broadcast in the six official languages of the AU; English, French, Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish and KiSwahili

**The candidates:**

- H.E. Mahamoud Ali Youssouf, Foreign Affairs Minister, Djibouti.
- H.E. Raila Amolo Odinga, Former Prime Minister, Kenya.
- H.E. Richard J. Randriamandrato, Former Foreign Affairs Minister, Madagascar.

**Debate format**

The candidates will be asked questions by the moderators during the debate and they will also answer a few questions received from the public online.

**WHY:** The objective of the debate is to focus on policy issues and a solutions-oriented engagement on how each candidate intends to advance the realization of the aspirations and goals of Agenda 2063 and other Common African Positions, and demonstrate innovative ways to move the continent towards an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.

As per the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Chairperson and all other elected officials of the AUC including the Deputy Chairperson and the Commissioners, are elected for a period of four (04) term, renewable once. The mandate of the current AUC leadership comes to an end during the next summit of the AU in February 2025, when the election of the new team to lead the Commission for the next four years, will take place.

Prior to this election, the Mjadala Afrika debate is organized to give an opportunity to the candidates to present their vision, and strategies for the next four years, if elected. The debate will engage the African public and stakeholders in a vibrant discussion about the future of the continent and the role of the AU in addressing pressing issues in line with the Africa Agenda 2063.

#### **Background:**

**Mjadala Afrika**, the Africa's Leadership Debate, is a platform for candidates vying for the position of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), to address African citizens in a televised debate which is broadcast live as they present their visions and ideas on the implementation of Agenda 2063.

**"Mjadala"** is a Swahili term for debate. The debate provides candidates an opportunity to outline their vision of how they would lead the transformation of Africa through the implementation of the AU Mandate and Africa's Agenda 2063. It encourages dialogue and understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Chairperson of the Commission by allowing African citizens and other stakeholders to put forward questions to the candidates on issues they want them to address in relation to the development of the African continent. This debate is an essential opportunity for African citizens and leaders to gain insight into the candidates' policies and to make informed decisions as the continent navigates its future.

The **first Mjadala Afrika** debate was held in December 2016, as an outcome of the African Union Institutional Reforms that advance, among other key issues, accountability and citizens' engagement. 5 candidates participated.

#### **Media Contacts and facilitation of interviews:**

**Mrs. Esther Azaa Tankou** | Head, Media and Information Division | Information and Communication Directorate, African Union Commission and Communication Adviser, AU Permanent Observer Mission to the UN | Mobile: +1 (347) 812-7195 / WhatsApp: +251911361185 | E-mail: [yamboue@africa-union.org](mailto:yamboue@africa-union.org)

**Ms. Doreen Apollos** | Information and Communication Directorate; African Union Commission | E-mail: [ApollosD@africa-union.org](mailto:ApollosD@africa-union.org)

**Mr. Molalet Tsedeke** | Information and Communication Directorate; African Union Commission | E-mail: [molalett@africa-union.org](mailto:molalett@africa-union.org) | Tel: +251 11 518 2014/ +251 11 5182518 | Mobile/WhatsApp: +251-911-630-631

**More information:**

Information and Communication Directorate | African Union Commission, E-mail: [DIC@african-union.org](mailto:DIC@african-union.org) | Website: [www.au.int](http://www.au.int) | Addis Ababa | Ethiopia Follow Us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)