# The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)-2014

# HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT

# Homegrown Solutions to African Problems & Innovative Practices in Humanitarian Action SIDE EVENT – CONCEPT NOTE

**Background and Rationale for the event**

The humanitarian landscape across Africa is changing with an in increasing demand for innovative tools and alternative financing models such as public-private partnerships (PPPs) to mobilize resources for humanitarian response. The penetration of mobile technology across the continent is increasingly changing how humanitarians do business – transforming information sharing, early warning messaging and fundraising. A study by the African Grantmakers Network shows that the African Private Sector has become an important stakeholder in humanitarian action and development. High networth individuals, African companies and communities invest millions yearly in philanthropic initiatives. Recent examples of domestic resource mobilization are the launch of the Africa Solidarity Initiative (ASI), which is an AU-led process for mobilizing support from within the continent for countries emerging from conflict and the Africa Risk Capacity a specialized agency of the African Union designated to assist Member States to resists and recover from natural disasters.

Moreover, the Solemn Declaration of the 50th Anniversary of the African Union has set ‘Silencing the Guns by 2020’ as a milestone for achieving a conflict frees Africa. In the same time, the year 2014 has been declared ‘Year of Agriculture and food Security’ marking the celebration of 10 years of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development programme (CAAD). In this vein, many actor-oriented initiatives, especially those of women are accounted for on the continent. They can be scaled up to realize the aspirations of African people for peace and security.

The Side Event *Homegrown Solutions to African Problems & Innovative Humanitarian Action* presents an opportunity to explore Africa-owned approaches and practices at the intersection of technology, partnership building and humanitarian action, as well as actor perspectives, especially women, on the complex nexus between silencing guns, ending conflict and building lasting peace in Africa.

**Objectives**

(1) Demonstrating the potential of ICT-based tools for improving coordination in humanitarian information management

(2) Showcasing innovative models in private of private-public partnerships in humanitarian financing

(3)Showcasing innovative practices of the CAADP in enhancing food security and community resilience in Africa.

(4) Celebrating community-based experiences in women’s contribution to the promotion of peace and resolution of conflicts in Africa.

**Chair: TBC**

**Moderator: Jeanine Cooper, HoO (OCHA-AULO)**

**Panelists:**

* Presentation on the contribution of women to the promotion of Peace and Conflict Resolution in Africa (Ms. Bineta Diop, Special Envoy of the AUC Chairperson on Women, Peace and Security)
* Presentation on the Kenyan Red Cross (KRC) ‘s private-sector based financing model (Dr. Abbas Gullet, Vice –President of the IFRC and Secretary General of the KRC)
* Presentation of successful and innovative practices of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)( Representative of AU/NEPAD)- Boaz Kaizire, AUC
* Presentation of the IGAD Resilience Tool (Tesfaye Beshah (PhD),
Regional Coordinator, Knowledge and Information Management, IGAD)