



THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP
LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Kampala to host Pan-African Conference on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information

The Ugandan capital Kampala is to host a Pan-African Conference on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information on March 25-26, to take stock of the state of freedom of expression and access to information in Africa and the achievements made in implementing the relevant African Union instruments.

The conference will bring together 50 participants from the African Union, the United Nations, the European Union, inter-governmental organisations, and representatives from the freedom of expression advocacy community in Africa, in addition to African journalists' organisations, human rights defenders, trade union leaders and women's rights activists.

The delegates will evaluate the applicability of the various mechanisms and instruments currently offered by the African Union and regional economic communities to identify their current strengths and weaknesses and to find possible measures to strengthen them. The conference will stress the need for continued and increased efforts by all stakeholders to ensure the protection and enjoyment of fundamental rights of freedom of expression and freedom of information. Safety of journalists and tackling the problem of impunity of crimes committed against journalists will be strongly deliberated.

The conference is being organised 25 years after Windhoek Declaration on Free Press, which spearheaded development and protection of free press on the continent. In this regard the state of media freedom of the continent will be examined and impediments facing the media will be extensively discussed.

The conference is expected to result in the adoption of a Declaration on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa and an Action Plan on implementing African Union instruments on freedom of expression and access to information.

For more information:

Gilbert Sendugwa
Executive Director, Africa Freedom of Information Centre &
Member Civil Society Steering Committee on Human Rights and Democratic Governance
Plot 436/437 Mawanda Road
Suite A4 , Corner House
P.O Box 35643, Kampala
Tel: 256 414 533554 Fax 256 414 533554
Email: gilbert@africafoicentre.org