



Reference: **DSA/CDC/42/ 726.20**
Date: **30 September 2020**

To Honourable Ministers in charge of

- Health
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Transport / Civil Aviation

All African Union Member States

Subject: Invitation to the Virtual Joint Meeting of African Ministers of Health, ICT and Civil Aviation on the rollout of the Africa Against COVID-19 “Saving lives, economies and livelihoods” campaign: 5th October 2020 – 1:00pm to 3:00pm (EAT); 10:00am to 12:00pm (GMT)

Honourable Minister,

As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa continues to progress in the absence of an effective pharmaceutical intervention. Cognizant of the harm that the pandemic is exerting on the social, economic and development of the continent, the African Union Commission through the Africa CDC launched the Africa against COVID-19 campaign: “Saving lives, economies and livelihoods”. This campaign has three main objectives: (1) minimize the spread of infections within and across the borders by creating a public health safe corridor for safe travel; (2) minimize the impacts of COVID-19 on Economies and Livelihoods; and (3) ensure safe re-opening of schools.

To support the implementation of the first objective above, the Africa CDC is working in collaboration with other stakeholders such as the World Health Organization (WHO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the private sector to ensure there is harmony, standardization, and coordination of entry and exit requirements among the African Union Member States. This effort will be supported by the application of technology and digital tools. In this regards, two partners, ECONET and Panabios, will collaborate with the Africa CDC to launch and rollout a continental electronic platform to assist on the creation of the public health safe corridor for travel.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you, Honourable Minister, to this virtual meeting with the following objectives:

- Harmonizing the pre-entry and exit requirements including COVID-19 testing and certification for land, sea and air border crossings across Africa;
- Mutual recognition and cross-border information exchange for enhanced surveillance;
- Introducing the Africa CDC continental electronic platform to assist the creation of the public health safe corridors for travel.

The meeting will be held on the 05th October 2020 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm East African Time. A concept note for the meeting is attached for your reference. The connection details are as follows:

Topic: Joint Meeting of African Ministers of Health, ICT and Civil Aviation on the rollout of the Africa against COVID-19 “*Saving lives, economies and livelihoods*” campaign

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97321838743?pwd=VHIDR0REdW9zM2w2aUVrbmFaMUxyQT09>

Meeting ID: **973 2183 8743**

Passcode: **888839**

Please contact Dr. Mahlet Kifle Habtemariam: MahletKifle@africa-union.org or Dr. Justin Maeda: JustinM@africa-union.org and Dr. Raissa Ada Allogo: AdaAllogoR@africa-union.org for any other inquiries.

We look forward to your attendance.

Yours Sincerely,



Mrs Amira Elfadil
Commissioner for Social Affairs



Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid
Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy