
PRESS RELEASE

AFRICA DAY IN VIENNA

On the 25th of May 1963 about 33 African leaders of the then independent African nations came together in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and made history. They charted a course for the total decolonisation of Africa and founded the Organisation of African Unity, the precursor of the **African Union**. The 25th of May has henceforth being commemorated as **Africa Day**.

This year, the theme for the celebration of Africa Day is **“Strengthening Africa’s place in the world through strategic, balanced and responsible partnership.”** To that end, African Ambassadors, the Federal Austria Ministry of European and International Affairs, the Austria Development Agency and the Diplomatic Academy Student Initiative have in partnership organized the commemoration of Africa Day. Hence on the 6th of June 2007 at the Diplomatic Academy, Minister Ursula Plassnik will address 300 diplomats, academics, NGO’s and the public on the new partnership between Africa and Austria.

The Conference has drawn participants from Addis Ababa - Ethiopia, Nairobi -Kenya and the European Commission in Brussels. African Ambassadors have also traveled from Berlin and Geneva to attend the Conference.

The Conference which is expected to be lively, will discuss issues ranging from energy shortage in Africa, agriculture and the impact of agriculture subsidies on African farmers, the participation or lack of it, of women in all spheres of decision-making, health and education, science and technology, trade and the impact of migration on African economies.

To end the event, African Embassies will showcase African cuisine at a reception in honour of Africa Day!!

Vienna, Austria
5 June 2007