

## **Experts begin to discuss the issue of elections and management of diversity...prelude to third African Governance Report**

*ECA Press Release No. 36/2010*

Addis Ababa, 17 May 2010 (ECA) - Governance experts will today in Addis Ababa begin a two-day methodology workshop on "Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa, the theme of the third edition of the African Governance Report (AGR III), which is expected next year.

Led by the Governance and Public Administration Division (GPAD) of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the objective of the workshop is to review and finalize the structure of the report and the methodology to be used in conducting the study.

Elections and the management of diversity are some of the most pressing and controversial governance issues on the African continent. Findings in previous AGRs as well as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) country review reports have prominently highlighted these concerns and the need to address them.

AGR III, which is scheduled for release in 2011, seeks to address the key challenges in this regard and make appropriate policy recommendations on how elections can be used as instruments for managing diversity, while also retaining the democratic ideals of credibility, transparency and fairness.

The workshop marks the start of a landmark partnership between ECA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in facilitating the AGR process including producing national country reports. The partnership is in the spirit of delivering as one-UN, and is expected to maximize the benefits of the AGR project.

Issued by:

ECA Information and Communication Service  
P.O. Box 3001  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia

Tel: 251 11 5445098

Fax: +251-11-551 03 65

E-mail: [ecainfo@uneca.org](mailto:ecainfo@uneca.org)

Web: [www.uneca.org](http://www.uneca.org)

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