



**Economic Commission
for Africa**



African Union

African Plenary on National Strategies for Poverty Reduction
and Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals

March 26-28, 2006
Cairo, Egypt

Information for Participants



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Dear participants,

Welcome to the “African Plenary on Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and the Implementation of the MDGs”, which will be held from 26 to 28 March 2006 at the Conrad Cairo hotel, 1191 Corniche El Nile, 11221 Cairo, Egypt (Tel. 20 2 580 8000, Fax 20 2 580 8080 – Email: cairoinfo@conradhotels.com, www.ConradHotels.com). Below is pertinent general information on logistics and related arrangements that you will need to facilitate your travel plans. If you have any questions or if there is any way that we can be of assistance, do not hesitate to contact the secretariat of the African Plenary on PRSs, P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Tel: 251 115 511165 or 251 115 445622 or 251 115 445702; Fax: 251 115 512233, E-mail: mhailu@uneca.org (Ms. Melrkist Hailu) and lagossou@uneca.org (Mr. Laurant Agossou) with copy to atodaro@uneca.org (Mr. Ali Todaro).

1. GENERAL

The above-mentioned conference will be held in Cairo from 26 to 28 March 2006 at the Conrad Cairo hotel. The inaugural session is scheduled to begin in the morning at 09:00 hours on Sunday, 26 March 2006 in the plenary hall (Conrad Ballroom) on the lobby level (ground floor) of the Conrad hotel conference and meeting facilities. All meeting sessions will also be held in the Conrad Ballroom.

2. CREDENTIALS

Delegates are kindly requested to bring their official credentials, duly signed by the appropriate authorities of their governments/agencies/organizations, and hand them to the UN officers at the time of registration in the foyer in front of the Conrad Ballroom. Nevertheless, the official notification should be sent to the Executive Secretary of ECA indicating membership of your delegation.

3. REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION BADGES

Participants are required to register and obtain identification badges prior to the opening of the conference. For this purpose, a registration counter will be set

up in the foyer of the Conrad Ballroom from Friday, 24 March 2006 onwards. For participants arriving late, registration can be done at the front desk.

For identification and security reasons, all participants are requested to wear their badges at all times during the conference and at official social functions, if any.

4. DOCUMENTS

Selected documents for the Conference will be dispatched to participants prior to registration. Participants will get copies of the working documents for the conference at the time of registration. Documents that participants wish to circulate should be handed to the secretariat. Participants are also advised to consult with the secretariat (Secretary to the Commission) on any matter pertaining to the issuance or distribution of documents at the Conference session.

5. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Arrangements have been made by ECA and the host country to book accommodation for all participants at their expense at the Conrad Cairo hotel. The standard single room rate of US\$99 is valid for the period of the conference. An executive single/double room costs US\$129. It is, therefore, imperative for participants to book a room through the PRS Plenary secretariat so as to obtain the agreed conference rate. The room rates quoted above are valid for the period of the conference. Hotel management may adjust the rates for stay outside the period specified. Please confirm conference rates and other details when checking in.

Room rates include bed and breakfast and are subject to service charges and taxes. Participants will be responsible for covering their accommodation costs and any other additional expenses.

6. RECEPTION ON ARRIVAL

Provided that **advance notice is given**, participants will be met on arrival at Cairo International Airport and will be assisted with the formalities regarding immigration and customs, etc. **Consequently, expected date and time of arrival in Cairo with flight details should be notified as soon as possible to the addresses specified by the secretariat. Any subsequent changes should also be similarly notified.**

The above information is in addition to the official notification by governments,

organizations etc. to the Executive Secretary of ECA, Addis Ababa, concerning the composition of delegations.

Advance information should be provided on security personnel accompanying dignitaries including firearms (make, serial number, etc.). In the event of dignitaries using special aircraft prior notice is required by the ECA secretariat and the host government for necessary clearance and logistical arrangements.

7. IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

Visas are required for all visitors/delegates traveling to the Arab Republic of Egypt. Visitors from countries that have Egyptian diplomatic missions are required to secure their visas from those missions before departure. These include holders of diplomatic and service passports as well as United Nations Laissez-Passer.

If your country does not have an Egyptian diplomatic mission, the secretariat of the African Plenary will assist you in obtaining a visa upon arrival, provided you send the following particulars ten days in advance of the meeting:

1. Full Name
2. Nationality
3. Passport details (number, date and place of issue and expiry)
4. Flight details (arrival and departure)

In this case it is important that you take with you the letter of invitation and present it to the Immigration Authority at the airport for securing your visa.

Please note that an Egyptian visa costs between US\$ 16 and US\$ 63 per person depending on your nationality. Holders of diplomatic and service passports as well as United Nations Laissez-Passer will receive visas free of charge.

The airport tax is applicable on departure from the Cairo International Airport.

8. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Visitors to Egypt are required to have a valid health certificate for yellow fever.

9. AIRLINES RESERVATIONS

A good number of international airlines operate regular services to and from Cairo. It is, therefore, strongly recommended that participants secure their return/onward air passage prior to their departure for Cairo.

10. TRANSPORT

Shuttle bus transportation on arrival and departure would be provided. Bus transport will be provided to all delegates during scheduled times only and to and from the Conrad hotel and the Cairo International Airport on arrival and departure only. No transport is available during lunch breaks etc.

If you require transportation in Cairo outside the conference hours, you are kindly requested to make your own arrangements.

11. CATERING

Catering facilities for refreshments and meals are readily available in Conrad hotel at a cost. Tea/coffee breaks are provided to all participants as per the programme. Eventual official functions related to the conference will be communicated to all participants in due course.

Basic Facts on Egypt

Official Name: Arab Republic of Egypt

GEOGRAPHY

Area: 1,001,450 sq. km. (386,000 sq. mi.)

Cities: Capital--Cairo (pop. estimated at 6 million).

Other cities: Alexandria (6 million), Aswan, Asyut, Port Said, Suez, Ismailia.

Terrain: Desert, except Nile valley and delta.

Climate: Dry, hot summers; moderate winters. Cairo in March will have a minimum of 11.2 °C and a maximum of 23.7 °C.

PEOPLE

Nationality: Egyptian

Population: 77,505,756 (July 2005 est.), with annual growth rate of 1.78% Ethnic groups: Egyptian, Bedouin Arab, Nubian.

Religions: Muslim 94%, Coptic Christian and other 6%.

Languages: Arabic (official), English, French.

Education: Years compulsory--ages 6-15. Literacy--total adult: 57%

Health: Infant mortality rate (2005 est.)--32.59 deaths/1,000 live births.

Life expectancy: 71(2005 est.)

GOVERNMENT

Type: Republic.

Independence: 1922.

Constitution: 1971.

Branches: Executive--president, prime minister, cabinet.
Administrative subdivisions: 26 governorates

ECONOMY

Currency: Egyptian pound = 100 piasters
(1 US Dollar = approximately 5.73 Egyptian Pounds)

GDP: \$91.7 billion (2005 est.)

Annual growth rate: 4.8% (2005 est.)

Per capita GDP: \$4,282 (2005 est.)

Natural resources: Petroleum and natural gas, iron ore, phosphates, manganese, limestone, gypsum, talc, asbestos, lead, zinc.

Agriculture: **Products**--cotton, rice, onions, beans, citrus fruits, wheat, corn, barley, sugar.

Industry: **Types**--food processing, textiles, chemicals, petrochemicals, construction, light manufacturing, iron and steel products, aluminium, cement, military equipment.

Trade (FY 2004): Exports--\$10.5 billion: petroleum, clothing and textiles, cotton, fruits and vegetables, manufactured goods.

Major markets: EU, U.S., Middle East, Japan.

Imports: \$18.3 billion: machinery and transport equipment, petroleum products, livestock, food and beverages, paper and wood products, and chemicals.

Major suppliers: EU, U.S., Japan.