



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

## **Expert Group Meeting on Sovereign Credit Ratings**

**13-14 October 2022**

**CR6, UNCC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS**

# **UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

## **INFORMATION TO THE EXPERT GROUP MEETING PARTICIPANTS ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**



### **INTRODUCTION**

On behalf of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), we welcome you to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and take this opportunity to thank you for accepting the invitation to participate in the Expert Group Meeting on Sovereign Credit Ratings, which will be held from 13 to 14 October 2022. The venue of the meeting will be at Conference Room 6, in the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa (UNCC-AA). The purpose of the Expert Group Meeting is to discuss, amongst others, technical matters, practices, challenges and regulation on sovereign ratings in Africa.

Below is the pertinent general information on logistics and meeting arrangements that you will need to facilitate your travel plans.

### **PASSPORT AND VISAS**

Visas are required for all visitors/delegates traveling to Ethiopia, except for nationals of Djibouti and Kenya. For diplomatic/service passport holders, you may please refer to any bilateral agreement between Ethiopia and your country.

ECA Protocol will arrange with Ethiopian authorities for Conference Visa (CV) that can be obtained online for all participants attending meetings/seminars/workshops at ECA, Addis Ababa.

Self-sponsored participants should send ECA their itineraries and copy of their passports in order to get service at the airport and reservation of accommodation.

Please note that visa fee will not be reimbursed by ECA. For sponsored participants, the daily subsistence allowance and terminal expense paid by ECA will cover visa costs.

### **HEALTH REQUIREMENT**

Visitors to Ethiopia should be in possession of a valid health certificate for yellow fever and COVID-19, A recent negative COVID-19 PCR test may be required in lieu of the COVID-19 vaccination card.

The United Nations Health Care Center (UNHCC), situated on the ground floor of the UN Conference Centre provides 24 hours medical services against cash payment. The medical unit has a standby doctor and ambulance 24hrs a day.  
UNHCC Tel.: 011 551 10 53 (24hrs)

### **AIRLINE RESERVATIONS/TICKETING REQUIREMENTS**

If you are a sponsored guest, please verify with the meeting organizers well in advance about your travel tickets.

ECA sponsored participants are strongly advised not to purchase their own tickets for any reason. Please note that you will not be reimbursed should you proceed to purchase a self-ticket without prior express written authority from the meeting organizers.

A number of International Airlines operate to and from Addis Ababa. There are travel agencies on site at ECA to assist with re-confirmation of tickets and to provide participants with travel and tour related information. Travel Agencies at ECA are reachable at the following telephone numbers:

Safeway Travel Tel: +251 1 5445707      +251 1 5445307  
Airlink Tel:                    +251 11 544 4367      +251 1 54443365

### **HOTEL ACCOMMODATION**

For sponsored participants, ECA will make a reservation at the following hotel.

<p><b>Elilly Hotel</b> <b>Guinea Conakry St. next to UN-ECA</b> <b>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia</b> <b>Tel: +251 1 1 5587777</b> <b>+251 911 989059</b> <a href="mailto:reservation@elillyhotel.com">reservation@elillyhotel.com</a> <a href="http://www.elillyhotel.com">www.elillyhotel.com</a></p> <p><b>Single Standard Bedroom- USD70.00/night</b> <b>King Size Bedroom-                    USD80.00/night</b></p>
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At your request and preference, accommodation can be reserved for self-sponsored participants provided we receive your request by at least one week before your arrival. In addition to accommodation costs, **all participants** will be responsible for all additional expenses at the hotel i.e. telephone, Internet/fax, room service, mini-bar, laundry, and meals, etc. and must pay these directly to the hotel at checkout.

### **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

For sponsored participants, a daily subsistence allowance (DSA) will be provided during break, to cover the costs of accommodation and meals.

In addition, a terminal payment will also be paid along with the DSA in order to cover costs such as local airport transfer, visa payment and COVID-19 tests. Please bring your PASSPORT and BOARDING PASS at the time of DSA collection.

Please note that refreshments will be served during EGM breaks. ECA has a cafeteria where participants can have their meals at their own expense.

## **RECEPTION ON ARRIVAL**

Participants will be met on arrival at Bole International Airport and will be assisted with the formalities regarding immigration and customs etc. Date and time of arrival in Addis Ababa with flight details of self-sponsored participants should be sent to the Organizers as soon as possible. Any subsequent changes should also be similarly transmitted.

## **REGISTRATION**

Registration will take place at the reception desk of ECA, on 13 October, at 8:00 a.m. Please enter ECA compound through Gate 2 (the gate facing Elilly Hotel), and Organizers will meet you there to assist.

## **ICT SERVICES**

A Business Centre is available to participants in the UN Conference Centre with the following facilities: telephone, fax (international and local); photocopy, internet, email and computer use. These facilities are provided against cash payment. Participants are welcome to take advantage of these services.

## **IT AND MOBILE PHONE SERVICES**

Participants are encouraged to come to Addis Ababa with their dual band mobile handsets (900/1800 MHZ). Ethiopian Telecommunication Company offers SIM Cards with pre-charged airtime. The total package which costs \$US5.00 includes 300 mb for internet, and 120 minutes voice call.

ECA compound has free WIFI service during the workshop.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ETHIOPIA**

Ethiopia is as large as France and Spain combined and has an area of 1,112,000 square metres. Addis Ababa is situated at an altitude of 2,400 metres. Agriculture is the backbone of the national economy, and the principal exports from this sector include coffee, oil seeds, pulses, flowers, vegetables, sugar and animal feed. About 90% of the population earns its living from the land. There is also a thriving livestock sector, and exports include cattle and hides and skins.

The population of Ethiopia is estimated at 110 million and over 50% of the population is under 20 years of age. The average number of inhabitants per square kilometre is 59. Ethiopia is a multi-ethnic state with a great variety of spoken languages. There are eighty-three languages with 200 dialects, and the three main languages are Amharic, Tigrigna and Oromigna. English, French, Italian and Arabic are also spoken, mainly in Addis Ababa.

Additional information on Ethiopia and ECA can be found on the <http://www.uneca.org>, <https://www.ethiopia.gov.et> and <http://ethiopiaonline.net/>

## **CLIMATE**

Ethiopia has two main seasons; the dry season lasts from October through May, and the rainy season starts in late June and ends in September. Temperatures depend on season and altitude.

## **ELECTRIC SUPPLY**

Electric supply in Ethiopia is 220-240 volts, 50 cycles AC accessible via 13-amp, two-pin (Italian) socket.

## **TRANSPORT**

You will arrive at Bole International Airport, which is located just 5 kilometres from the centre of Addis Ababa. Your preferred hotel will provide courtesy transport that will pick you from the Airport. Please look for the board of “Elilly Hotel” in the arrival hall at Bole International Airport.

If you would like transportation in Addis Ababa outside of the meeting time, to take you to the city, you can book a taxi from the National Tourism Organization (NTO) by calling + 251-(0)-11- 515 18 22 or + 251-(0)-11-551 84 00, or consult reception desk of the hotel, for more information.

## **CURRENCY: Birr**

Ethiopian currency is denominated in « Birr » and « centimes ». The bank rate of exchange varies. The official exchange rate as at 10 September 2022 was US\$1.00 = Birr 52.55

There is a branch of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia in the ECA compound located at the ground floor of Congo Building. This Bank is open Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is an ATM machine located in the ECA compound to use visa/master cards and get money in the local currency.

Bank receipts for money changed at the airport must be kept securely as they may be asked for on departure.

## ***Guidelines on Personal Security and Safety of Participants***

Personal security is an individual responsibility. Using common sense and being alert can reduce risks. The aim of this Security Bulletin is to provide meeting participants, with the necessary personal security advice, making them aware of the existing

security rules and regulations that apply within the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) premises and in Addis Ababa.

The best way to be safe is to avoid trouble at all cost, rather than having to extricate yourself later. The United Nations Security and Safety service is always at the ready to serve all its clients. In this regard, the cooperation of all participants at this meeting would help us a great deal in ensuring the safety of your valuables and your personal security.

## **PERSONAL SECURITY**

Addis Ababa, unlike other developing state capitals has a record of few common crimes. The city is considered as one of the safest capitals in Africa. However, for your safety, please always maintain a high state of vigilance.

Petty theft, pickpockets and purse snatching are common crime when opportune. They can occur at any time of the day and night. Be alert and follow these simple rules:

- Keep to the main parts of Addis Ababa and don't be tempted to go to places that you are not sure of.
- Keep to the main roads and avoid short cuts down back alleys, etc.
- Do not display high valuable jewelry. It may lead to unnecessary attack.
- Never walk alone at night in the center of Addis Ababa even for a short distance. Always take a taxi. Yellow taxis with green stripes are advisable in this case.

## **RESTRICTIONS**

In accordance with United Nations practice, no firearms of any description will be allowed to the UN premises.

## **SMOKING**

Please be informed that the United Nations Conference Centre is a non-smoking area.

## **COVID-19 PROTOCOL**

It is mandatory to wear masks in the meeting room.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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