



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa



# INAUGURATION OF AFRICA HALL

21-24 October 2024

## Concept note



### I. Background

In 1963, the Charter of the Organization of African Unity was signed in Africa Hall, which was one of the most significant achievements of unity for Africa during the postcolonial period. It is because of that achievement that the African Union exists today. It is important to recognize the role of Ethiopia in fostering that achievement through the generous donation of the Emperor of Ethiopia at that time, Haile Selassie. Africa Hall is one of the most prominent examples of African heritage and a symbol of African culture, history and aspirations for peace and unity on the continent. It is a representation of where the continent has come from, where it is now and where it is headed.

Africa Hall has recently undergone extensive renovations to meet modern international standards while preserving its historical

significance. The reopening of Africa Hall is not just a celebration of a physical structure, but a reaffirmation of the building's role in pan-African and global diplomacy and an opportunity for Ethiopia and Africa to tap into the global creative industry. Thus, in addition to being a state-of-the-art conference site in Addis Ababa, Africa Hall will be a significant tourism destination, presenting the rich history of the pan-African movement in a permanent exhibition featuring professionally curated cultural, historical and natural heritage sites. Visitors will be able to take advantage of the showcase of great and notable works of artists from across the continent and learn more about the history of Africa, the achievements of the United Nations family and the role of Ethiopia in the modern history and culture of Africa.





## II. Objective

The festive reopening of Africa Hall on 21 October 2024 will be a monumental occasion to celebrate the extensive renovations that have rejuvenated the historic building. In addition to serving as a commemoration,

the event will also function as a platform to promote the continued role of Africa Hall a place for fostering diplomatic and cultural dialogues as part of efforts to strengthen the unity and collective objectives of Africa.

## III. Event overview

The inauguration will be opened by senior officials from the Government of Ethiopia, the United Nations and the African Union Commission. Heads of international organizations, members of the diplomatic community and representatives of the private sector, civil society organizations, academia, the media and others will also participate.

The inauguration programme will feature a series of high-level events, to be held from 21 to 24 October 2024, including the unveiling of a new visitor centre, public lectures, art exhibitions, literary performances, media activities, creative engagement with the community in Addis Ababa and the celebration of United Nations Day.

Please visit the dedicated website on [www.uneca.org](http://www.uneca.org) for more information on the programme.

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