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**For immediate release:**

## **“Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on The African Continent”**

The month of May is recognized as Africa month - a time when the continent of Africa commemorates the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). On this day, 25 May, in 1963, Africa made history with the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU - now known as the African Union (AU)). The Day is intended to celebrate and recognise African unity and provides an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of the peoples and governments of Africa over 55 years ago to decolonize the continent and pave way for a greater economical emancipation for Africa, while reflecting on the common challenges that the Africans face all over the world.

This year’s Africa month theme: *“Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on The African Continent”* underpinned by the Covid- 19 global pandemic and its consequences coupled by social ills such as racism, xenophobia, racial discrimination, injustices, hate speech and crimes including related intolerances. This calls for more coordinated efforts in the fight against these social ills to mitigate food security challenges, increase the appreciation and demand for arts and culture goods and services that stimulate competitive markets for trade, fair labour practices and equality amongst African countries and their population.

This year, in celebrating and observing the Africa Day, the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA) in partnership with Action Support Center (ASC), Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR), City of Johannesburg – Migration Unit and stakeholders, will be hosting a commemoration event in Alexandra seeking to re-affirm our long term commitment to end social ills in all its forms, enhance social inclusion and promote active citizenry through art and different activities and dialogues by engaging vigorously with both South Africans and non-nationals, community leaders, traditional leaders, Faith based organisations and Government Departments. These activities will provide a platform and act as a learning process that builds up the required knowledge, values, and proficiency of dealing with issues in a manner that is progressive to all that are affected.

In celebrating this year’s Africa Day, the objective is to develop an acceptable human rights culture, the Ubuntu culture, the culture of peace and tolerance. This type of engagements will enable communities to examine their experiences from the Ubuntu point of view, thus enabling them to integrate these concepts into their values and decision-making. According to Amnesty International, Ubuntu and human rights education is a way to empower people so that they can create skills and behavior that would promote dignity and equality within the community, society, and all over the world. On this Africa day, therefore, the philosophy of Ubuntu – is critical for strengthening African solidarity at a time when it is more significant than ever before.

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