



PRESS RELEASE

Five-day BRIDGE Training for the Independent Electoral Commission of la Cote d'Ivoire begins in la Cote d'Ivoire

Abidjan, 10 November 2014: A five-day Building Resources for Democracy, Governance and Elections (**BRIDGE**) Training has begun in La Cote d'Ivoire for the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) on Voter Registration, External Voting and Electoral Technology. The objective of the training is to enhance the capacity of the staff of CEI as part of the preparations for elections in 2015.

In his opening remarks, **Dr. Mamadou Dia, Head of Democracy, Governance, Human Rights and Election Division, Department of Political Affairs, African Union Commission** reiterated African Union Commission's commitment to support the capacity of EMBs in Africa in general and la Cote d'Ivoire in particular. Dr. Dia stated that the Africa Union Commission is prepared to assist the CEI to enhance its capacity for scheduled elections in 2015 adding that the training forms part of a series of intervention in the electoral process in the country by the African Union Commission with the aim of promoting democratic stability in line with the African Charter on Democracy Elections and Governance.



On his part, the **First Vice-President of the CEI, Mr. Kone Sourou** thanked the African Union for the initiative to support the CEI to build its capacity at a time when it is preparing for a major election. He said that the training forms part of the efforts by the CEI to ensure peaceful, transparent and credible electoral process in la Cote d'Ivoire.