

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

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**Conseil Economique, Social et Culturel
(ECOSOCC)**

Cabinet du Président

**Economic, Social and Cultural Council
(ECOSOCC)**

Office of the Presiding Officer

Yaoundé, 26th September 2011

Distinguished Councilors,

***Subject:* DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT**

I have just heard the announcement of the demise of Prof. Wangari MAATHAI, Nobel Prize Laureate and First Presiding Officer of the AU- ECOSOCC. After a long standing and courageous battle against cancer, she passed away in New York on September 25, 2011.

Those of us who had the privilege of working with her, will remember her militant attitude and her total engagement on the side of Civil Society in the furtherance of many causes.

The pioneer role she played in starting off ECOSOCC has brought us where we are today. Her uncompromising stand in trying to ensure that ECOSOCC was an independent and Civil Society voice within the African Union might have not found favour with some but remains the invaluable legacy she leaves us with, to ponder and nurture.

In this moment of great sadness for her family, the Green Belt Movement, Kenya, Africa and ECOSOCC, we offer our prayers and our deepest sympathy. The footprints she has left on our continent will bear everlasting witness to posterity that a Great Lady, A true Pan African and a lover of nature walked this earth.

May her Soul Rest in Perfect Peace!

Akere T. Muna

Presiding Officer, ECOSOCC
For and on Behalf of ECOSOCC

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