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**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN
UNION ON THE SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AU LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

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AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

1. INTRODUCTION

In conformity of Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission of the former OAU, the Chairperson hereby submits the report of the Second Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission which was held in Cotonou, Benin from 19 – 24 April, 2004 for the consideration of the Executive Council and onward transmission to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

The Second Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission was organized in two Sessions, namely, an Experts' Session and a Ministerial Session. Among others, the meeting considered: the status of implementation of the recommendations of the First Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission; Updating of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation; Report of the African Members of the ILO Governing Body; the Draft Plan of Action on Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children; Draft Plan of Action on the Family in Africa to constitute Africa's contribution to the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family; the Draft Strategic Framework for a Policy on Migration in Africa; and the Activity Reports of the AU Specialized Agencies and Inter-African Organizations. The Ministers also adopted a Resolution in support of the Palestinian People.

Two side events were organized during the sessions, namely, an AU/ILO Seminar on the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Socio-Economic Development in Africa which was organized for awareness raising, education, information and communication on this killer disease; and the launching by UNICEF of a publication on the outcome of a study conducted by the Innocenti Research Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children in Africa.

A Special Session of some AU Heads of State and Government, to address Employment and Poverty Alleviation was also held on 22 April, 2004. The Special Session which was organized by the President of Benin was held in anticipation of and preparation for convening the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation scheduled to be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 3 to 9 September 2004.

The Special Session was graced by the Heads of State of Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Togo and the Prime Minister of Niger. The Vice-President of the African Union and the ILO Director General were also present.

As recommended by the Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs Commission in Cotonou, a one-day ministerial session of the Commission was held in Geneva on 9 June, 2004, along-side the 92nd International Labour Conference. During that session, the Ministers considered and adopted inputs received from Member States to enrich the Draft Strategic Framework for a Policy on Migration in Africa. The Ministers also considered matters of interest to Africa in the Agenda of the 92nd International Labour Conference. On 8 July, 2004 the Bureau of the Second Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission met to agree on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the second session.

The conclusions, recommendations and proposals of the Second Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission are hereby submitted to the Executive Council for consideration and onward transmission to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

DRAFT REPORT OF THE MINISTERS MEETING

I. INTRODUCTION

The Ministers Meeting of the Second Ordinary Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission of the African Union was held at the Palais des Congrès, Cotonou, Benin on 23 April, 2004. The Rules of Procedure of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission were still applicable and were utilized for the Meeting.

a) Special Session of some AU Heads of State and Government

2. The Ministers Meeting was preceded by a Special Session of some AU Heads of State and Government, to address Employment and Poverty Alleviation on 22 April, 2004. It was hosted by H.E. Mr. Mathew Kérékou, President of the Republic of Benin and was organized in anticipation of and preparation for convening the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation scheduled to be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in September 2004. The Special Session was graced and addressed by the following Heads of State and Government as well as the Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission and the Director General of the ILO, Amb. Juan Somavia: H.E. Mr. Mathieu Kérékou, President of the Republic of Benin as host; H.E. Mr. Hama Amadou, Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger, representing the Chairperson of UMOA; H.E. Mr. Blaise Compaore, President of Burkina Faso, host of the Extraordinary Summit; H.E. Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chairperson of NEPAD Heads of State Steering Committee; H.E. Mr. Gnassingbe Eyadema, President of the Republic of Togo, Dean of Heads of State; H.E. Mr. John Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana, Current Chairperson of ECOWAS; H.E. Mr. Joaquim Chissano, President of the Republic of Mozambique and Current Chairman of the African Union. H.E. Mr. Patrick Mazimhaka, the AU Deputy Chairperson represented the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. The addresses focused on the causes of poverty, interventions taken by respective Member States and international partners to combat it and recommendations on the way forward. The Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission gave a brief on preliminary preparations for convening the Extraordinary Summit. At the end of the Special Session a Communiqué, which is annexed to the report, was released.

b) Launching of the Innocenti Insight: Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children in Africa

3. At the end of the Ministerial Meeting, the delegates were invited by UNICEF and Innocenti Research Centre to a ceremony to launch a publication on the outcome of a study on Trafficking in Human Beings especially Women and Children in Africa. The study covers 53 African countries and provides an analysis of patterns, the complex and interrelated root causes and existing national and regional normative frameworks and policy responses to trafficking. African countries are progressively acknowledging the crime which is carried out in every country and affects children more than women and occurs among African countries themselves and from African countries to Europe and the Middle East. The ceremony started with a short film on trafficking and was addressed by: the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Administrative Region of Benin; the Director of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre based in Italy; the UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa; the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs and the Benin Minister for Family, Social Protection and Solidarity. The ceremony was enriched by drama and music presentations. A Media Release on the launch is annexed.

II. ATTENDANCE

4. The Ministers Meeting was attended by delegations from the following 43 Member States, 26 at Ministerial level: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

5. The following United Nations, Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations and Cooperating Partners were also represented, ACARTSOD, the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI), ARLAC, CEN-SAD, CIDUSPAD, Diaspora (Cultural Embassy of the Diaspora and of the JAH People), ECOWAS, ECPAT International, IAR, ICFTU-AFRO, ICRC, ILO, IOM, SCSA, OATUU, ODSTA, OFPA, Palestine, PEC, PYU, UGTT, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WAGGGS/AMGE, WHO, and WSM.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

6. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by H.E. Mr. Showkutally Soodhun, Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment of the Republic of Mauritius, Chairman of the First Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission. After welcoming the delegates, the Chairman of the opening ceremony called on the following to address the Session: the Representative of the Workers; the Representative of the Employers; Representative of the UNFPA; the Director General of the ILO; the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union; the guest of honour, H.E. Mr. Bruno Amoussou, Minister of State for Planning, Prospective and Development of Benin. A reply was then delivered by the Minister of State of Labour of Mozambique.

ITEM 2: REPORT OF THE OUT-GOING CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE AU LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

7. In his report, H.E. Mr. Showkutally Soodhun, Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment of Mauritius briefed the Session on the achievements realized during his mandate as Chairman of the First Session of the First AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission. He recalled the various recommendations which had been made for the formulation of a Social Policy Framework, the Plan of Action on the Family in Africa, the Strategic Framework for Migration in Africa, and finalizing the Rules of Procedure of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission.

8. Among the meetings held, the out-going Chairman referred to the meeting of the Bureau of the First Labour and Social Affairs Commission as well as the plenary session held in Geneva along side the International Labour Conference (ILC) in June 2003 to discuss outstanding issues. He recalled that two Tripartite Committees had been established: one to supervise the formulation of the Draft Social Policy Framework and the other one to consider the Rules of Procedure of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission. He informed the meeting that the Tripartite Committee on the Social Policy Framework met in Ouagadougou in November 2003 to consider the conceptual framework of the document and that the Draft Social Policy Framework was ready and would be circulated to the Commission at a later stage. With the regard to the Tripartite Committee on the Rules of Procedure, he informed the session

that the Committee had not met because the Working Group on AU Specialized Technical Committees had not completed its work. He recalled that Member States had been requested to submit their in-puts on the Rules of Procedure and only five Member States had forwarded their comments to the AU Commission.

10. The out-going Chairman reported that he held a meeting with the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs in December 2003 to assess progress achieved in implementing the recommendations and it was agreed that the implementation process should be accelerated. It was noted that the recommendations of the First Session had been communicated to Member States for implementation. The Draft Plan of Action on Family in Africa had been drafted in collaboration with UNICEF and UNFPA and an Expert Group Meeting held in Addis Ababa from 8 to 9 March, 2004 to consider it. Similarly, the Draft Strategic Framework Policy on Migration had been elaborated with the support of IOM and IMP and considered at an Experts Group Meeting held at the end of March 2004. Furthermore, follow-up actions were undertaken regarding the All Africa Games held in Abuja, Nigeria in September 2004. The Draft Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation had also been forwarded to Member States for in-puts, although only three countries responded.

11. On employment and poverty alleviation, the Chairman highlighted that, after consultations with his colleagues, three priority areas had been identified and proposed for consideration by the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, namely:

- Development of Cooperatives
- Extension of micro-credit schemes especially for women
- Setting up of a social insurance project.

He also informed the Commission that a Steering Committee had been put in place to prepare for the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation to be held in September 2004 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

12. Finally, the out-going Chairman briefed the session that while in Geneva, he had a meeting with the ILO Director General and the latter reiterated his commitment and support to Africa. He thanked the AU Commission for its collaboration and for providing him with regular progress reports. He noted that his mandate was characterized by building friendship, creating bonds of solidarity and sharing experiences and good practices. He called on the new Bureau to strengthen the

capacity of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission to enable it address the critical issues of the continent and formulate appropriate strategies for improving the lives of the African people. He also called on the participants to pray for peace, in particular, for the people of Palestine.

ITEM 3: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

a) Election of the Bureau

13. The Experts' Meeting elected the following Bureau to preside over its deliberations:

- a) Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Arouna Aboubacar, Benin
(Government)
- b) 1st Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Shantur, Sudan
(Government)
- c) 2nd Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Djelloul Sahari, Algeria (Employers)
- d) 3rd Vice-Chairperson: Ms. Ellena Ferro, Mozambique
(Workers)
- e) Rapporteur: Mr. Evariste Ondongo, Congo
(Government)

b) Adoption of the Agenda

14. After adding the item on "Resolution on Support of Palestinian Workers" proposed by Senegal, the Agenda was adopted as amended.

c) Organization of Work

15. The following working hours were adopted:

- Morning: 9:00 to 13:00 hours
- Afternoon: 14:30 to 18:00 hours

IV. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXPERTS' MEETING

16. The Report of the Experts' Meeting was presented by the Rapporteur and then considered item by item and amended as follows:

Agenda Item 3: Report of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on:

- a) The Activities of the Social Affairs Department – LSC/EXP/2a(II)
- b) **The Status of Implementation of the Recommendations of the 1st AU Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission – LSC/EXP/2b(II)**

17. The two items were considered simultaneously and adopted after amendments were made as follows:

- The last sentence of paragraph 10 to read: “Furthermore, the Commission agreed to.....Social Partners Forum **and to the Summit itself**”
- Paragraph 11(b) to delete:”**and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) operating in the employment and poverty alleviation fields**”

18. The following recommendations were adopted:

- a) **Member States were called upon to sign and ratify the various texts and instruments that had been adopted, and to establish the requisite structures and organs for the operationalization, follow-up on and evaluation of these instruments;**
- b) **Key players of the Social Partners Forum should be Employers and Workers Organisations;**
- c) **the title of the Forum is “Forum of Social Partners”**

Agenda Item 4: Concise Briefing by the NEPAD Representative on Labour and Social Issues within the Context of the NEPAD Programmes - LSC/EXP/3(II)

19. The item was noted without amendment. The following recommendations were made. **There was need to:**

- a) **involve social partners (Employers and Trade Unions) in the Steering Committee of NEPAD;**
- b) **integrate NEPAD's programme and enhance its relationship with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);**
- c) **popularize NEPAD in Africa;**
- d) **implement NEPAD's programme and strategy for effective follow-up and evaluation;**
- e) **resolve the debt problem to assist NEPAD in attaining its core objectives;**
- f) **mobilize resources;**
- g) **implement infrastructural projects;**
- h) **integrate NEPAD into the African Union.**

Agenda Item 5: Presentation of the Executive Summary of the Draft Social Policy Framework for Africa – LSC/EXP/4(II)

20. The item was adopted with the following recommendations:

- a) **the document should be distributed as soon as possible to Member States which should study it and submit their contributions before the end of May 2004;**
- b) **the document should then be considered and finalized by the Tripartite Committee constituted to supervise the work of drafting the SPF;**
- c) **the issues raised during the Session should be taken on board when finalizing the document;**
- d) **the SPF should be human-centered, and aimed at meeting the basic needs of the people;**
- e) **the Policy Framework should bring together the various fragmented social policies, and critically address poverty.**

Agenda Item 6: Updating of the Draft Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation – LSC/EXP/5(II)

21. Two new recommendations were proposed for incorporation, that:
- a) Africa's debt should be cancelled unconditionally and the resources freed from debt servicing should be used to create wealth-generating programmes and decent work;
 - b) Decent jobs should also be created by: enhancing the human resource capacity, in particular, in education and training; and developing agricultural and rural sectors for food self-sufficiency and food security.
22. After amendments the item was adopted with the following recommendations:
- a) **legislation should be enacted to control corruption and embezzlement of funds;**
 - b) **need to create wealth for socio-economic development;**
 - c) **the inclusion of issues related to capacity building and labour mobility, vocational training, importance of the informal sector, the rural sector and types of productive employment;**
 - d) **the need for Member States to share statistical data and experience in poverty alleviation;**
 - e) **the linkage between employment and social security, South-South Cooperation and international standards in employment-related issues should also be included;**
 - f) **there was need to highlight transfer of technology to Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (SME) and their funding;**
 - g) **a follow-up and monitoring mechanism should be elaborated;**
 - h) **the need to take on board the Decade Plan of Action to alleviate poverty through promotion of cooperative entrepreneurship, as adopted by the Pan-African Cooperative Conference in Yaoundé in July 2000;**
 - i) **Africa's debt should be cancelled unconditionally and the resources freed from debt servicing should be used to create wealth-generating programmes and decent work;**

- j) **Decent jobs should also be created by: enhancing the human resource capacity, in particular, in education and training; and developing agricultural and rural sectors for food self-sufficiency and food security.**

Agenda Item 7: Priority Areas Proposed by the Chairperson of the 1st Session of the LSC for the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation

23. Another sentence was added to paragraph 24 to read as follows: **“It was agreed that the Bureau should consider the proposed items with a view to including them in the Agenda of the Extraordinary Summit.”** These items are:

- **Development of Cooperatives**
- **Extension of micro-credit schemes especially for women**
- **Setting up of a social insurance project**

24. The item was adopted as amended.

Agenda Item 8: Report on the Activities of the African Members of the ILO Governing Body - LSC/EXP/6(II) and LSC/EXP/6(II) Add.

25. The last sentence of paragraph 26 was amended to read: “.....at which members of the Governing Body **for 2005-2008 Sessions** would be appointed”.

26. The item was adopted as amended. It was recommended that:

- a) **The African Group should strive to be united and always take into account its Tripartite composition;**
- b) **Succession plans should be put in place ahead of retirement of eminent persons;**
- c) **The AU Commission to present a Report on the rotation of posts in the ILO Governing Body between the sub-regions and those occupied alternately by Africa and Latin America.**

Agenda Item 9: Report of the Regional Director Responsible for ILO Activities in Africa - LSC/EXP/7 (II)

27. The item was adopted without amendment. The following recommendations were made:

- a) **ILO should review the structure of future reports taking sub-regional initiatives into consideration;**
- b) **to more effectively promote social dialogue, governments should comply with their obligations to sponsor tripartite delegations to participate in ILO and AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission meetings;**
- c) **Africa has a fair share of top level ILO management positions, and a succession plan for those retiring soon should be established;**
- d) **ILO vacant posts within the Region should be filled;**
- e) **owing to the importance of the Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization, the Region should assume leadership in the operationalization of the recommendations made in the report;**
- f) **ILO should strengthen its social protection activities in Africa;**
- g) **ILO should intensify capacity-building activities, for, inter-alia, integrating workers' and employers' groups into NEPAD.**

Agenda Item 10 (a): Draft Plan of Action on Trafficking in Human Beings Especially Women and Children - LSC/EXP/8(II)

28. The Representative of UNICEF highlighted the challenges posed by trafficking of human beings and stated that it was working in collaboration with the ILO to combat this scourge. She assured the meeting that UNICEF was ready to assist Member States in their endeavours to fight trafficking of women and children on the continent.

29. The item was adopted with the following recommendations:

- a) **legislation should be enacted in Member States to combat trafficking in human beings;**
- b) **observatories should be established at national level to follow-up, evaluate and monitor implementation of legislations as well as the Plan of Action on Trafficking in Human Beings;**
- c) **a network of specialized journalists should be established to sensitize public opinion to the protection of children against sexual violence and to child trafficking;**
- d) **time should be given to Member States to send their inputs to the African Union Commission.**

Agenda Item 10 (b): Draft Plan of Action on the Family in Africa to constitute Africa's contribution to the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF) – LSC/EXP/9(II)

30. The last bullet of the paragraph 37 was amended to read:” concerns about the **definition of the** family in the African context were raised”.

31. The item was adopted as amended. The following recommendations were made and Member States invited to the launch of the Plan of Action by Benin in Cotonou in July 2004:

- a) **Member States should utilize the Plan of Action in developing programmes and policies on the family;**
- b) **There was need for countries to amend their relevant legislation and adapt the Plan of Action to their national needs on the family**

Agenda Item 10 (c): Draft Strategic Framework for a Policy on Migration in Africa – LSC/EXP/10(II)

32. The following amendments were made:

- a) In Paragraph 43 the appellation of UNFPA was corrected as follows:
” the United Nations Population **Fund** (UNFPA)”;
- b) The last sentence of paragraph 47 was amended to read:” The Draft Starategic.....be submitted to the **Members of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission** for

consideration **alongside** the International Labour Conference **in Geneva in June 2004.**

33. The following recommendations were made:

- a) **More time should be given to Member States to submit their inputs which should reach the AU Commission by 20 May 2004;**
- b) **The Draft Strategic Framework should be submitted to the Members of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission for consideration alongside the International Labour Conference in Geneva in June 2004.**

Agenda Item 11: Briefing on Activity Reports of AU Specialized Agencies and Inter-African Organizations – LSC/EXP/11(II)

- a) **The Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) – LSC/EXP/11a(II)**

34. The Commission took note of the report.

- b) **The Pan-African Employers Confederation (PEC) – LSC/EXP/11b(II)**

35. The Commission took note of the report.

- c) **The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions–Africa Regional Organization (ICFTU-AFRO) – LSC/EXP/11c(II)**

36. The Commission took note of the report.

- d) **The Pan-African Productivity Association (PAPA) – LSC/EXP/11d(II)**

37. The Commission noted that no presentation had been made as no PAPA representative was present.

e) The African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI) – LSC/EXP/11e(II)

38. The Commission took note of the report with the following recommendations:

- i) Member States, which have not yet done so, should take the necessary measures to ratify the ARI Agreement;**
- ii) Member States which are party to the ARI Agreement should pay up their contributions**

f) The Pan-African Youth Union (PYU) – LSC/EXP/11f(II)

39. The Commission took note of the report with the following recommendations:

- i) urged member countries to honour their obligation to the PYU by paying their statutory membership fees to enable the Union to effectively carry out its activities in favour of youth;**
- ii) requested and urged the AU Commission to mainstream the youth chapter in its activities and vision by providing the PYU with financial support;**
- iii) urged the ILO to also mainstream African youth activities in its programme of action and work closely with the African youth through the PYU to tackle chronic youth problems, namely; HIV/AIDS, employment creation and poverty alleviation.**

g) The Supreme Council for Sports in Africa (SCSA)- LSC/EXP/11g(II)

40. The Commission took note of the report with the following recommendations:

- i) Member States should settle their contributions and assist the Specialized Agencies of the African Union in discharging their mandate;**
- ii) Member States, organizers of the All-Africa Games and other competitions should collaborate with the SCSA in the field of sports organization, and pay to it its due share of the receipts of sports competitions.**

- h) The African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD) – LSC/EXP/11h(II)**

41. The Commission took note of the report with the following recommendations:

- i) The AU Commission should get more actively involved in the activities of ACARTSOD in the areas of social development and capacity building. It should also pursue its already identified programme on Peace, Security and Conflict Management;**
- ii) Member States which have not yet done so, should accede to membership of ACARTSOD;**
- iii) ACARTSOD Member countries should pay up their assessed contributions;**
- iv) AU Commission should continue to provide moral and technical support to ACARTSOD in its efforts to address the social development issues on the continent.**

Agenda Item 12: Date and Venue of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission

42. The matter was deferred to the Ministerial meeting.

Agenda Item 13: Any Other Business

43. The issues reported on were noted. The following recommendations were made:

- a) the AU Commission was strongly urged to transmit working documents to Member States early;**
- b) Member States were also urged to improve the dissemination and sharing of documents and information.**

ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE 15TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE AFRICAN REHABILITATION INSTITUTE (ARI)

44. The Report was presented by the Executive Director of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI) on behalf of the Chairperson of the 15th ARI

Governing Board, H.E. Mrs. Awa Gueye Kebe, Minister of Family, Social Development and National Solidarity of the Republic of Senegal.

45. The Executive Director explained that, apart from Administrative and Financial matters, the Governing Board also discussed progress made in implementing the Plan of Action of the African Decade of Disabled Persons. He mentioned that the items on: the Condition of Service of the ARI Staff; the Amendments to the ARI General Agreement; and the Draft Rules of Procedure on the Election of the ARI Directorate were deferred to the next Governing Board Meeting. He underlined that the Governing Board adopted the same programme budget for the Institute as the previous year. The Executive Director then highlighted the financial problems being encountered by the Institute due to lack of payment of contributions by the Member States. He informed the Commission that the Governing Board had discussed the issue of arrears and decided that more efforts should be deployed to urge Member States to pay their contributions and that sanctions would be used as a last resort. The Governing Board adopted a resolution to that effect calling on Member States which have not yet done so to ratify the ARI Agreement and those which are already members of ARI to pay their contributions.

46. The Commission took note of the report with the following recommendations:

- a) **Member States which have not yet done so should ratify the ARI Agreement;**
- b) **Member States which are party to ARI should pay up their contributions as well as arrears.**

ITEM 6: REPORT OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES (RECS)

47. No report was available for presentation under this item. However, the Representative of the AU Commission informed the session that a meeting with the RECs was scheduled to take place at the AU Commission in May 2004. She highlighted that although the focus of the RECs was originally and still concentrated on economic integration, the Social Affairs Department was committed to working in close collaboration with the RECs aiming towards integrating social issues in their programmes and having social affairs desks established at the level of each REC. This would be done at all levels in the planning and implementing of the African Union Commission programmes.

ITEM 7: DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION

48. Since there was no offer from any Member State to host the Third Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission, it was agreed that the Session be held in Addis Ababa in April 2005. Member States were reminded of obligations for hosting the meeting outside the AU Headquarters. It was also agreed that any Member State willing to host the Third Session should communicate the offer to the AU Commission latest by the end of July 2004 to ensure early preparation for the meeting.

ITEM 8: ITEMS PROPOSED BY MEMBER STATES: RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN WORKERS

49. Considering the Draft Resolution on Palestine which was presented by Senegal, it was stressed that the resolution should not be limited only to Palestine workers but should include all Palestinians. The annexed resolution was amended as follows:

- a) At the end of Operative paragraph 11 the following was added: **“and calls for their immediate release”.**
- b) a new paragraph was added: **“Further calls upon the ILO Governing Body to set up a Special Committee of the International Labour Conference to consider the Report of the Director General on the Situation of the Palestinian Workers in the occupied Arab territories.”**

50. The Minister from Palestine briefed the meeting on the devastating situation in Palestine and the sufferings of her people. She thanked the Labour and Social Affairs Commission for supporting the people of Palestine and expressed the hope that peace would be restored in her country soon.

51. The resolution on Palestine was adopted as amended.

ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**i) Term of Mandate of the ILO Director General**

52. Under this item the renewal of the term of mandate of the Director General of the ILO was raised. In addressing the issue, Participants commended the work being done in Africa by the ILO Director General and strongly supported the renewal of the term of his mandate. It was emphasized that the renewal of the term of mandate of the ILO Director General should not be limited.

53. The Labour and Social Affairs Commission supported the Director General of the ILO in his post and agreed that his term of mandate be renewed.

ii) Procedure of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission

54. The Minister of the Sudan expressed concern about the many challenges facing the African continent and stressed the need to work towards Africa's renaissance. He noted that follow-up on the recommendations of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission was very poor. There was no feedback on the implementation process and Member States were not working in partnership with other sectoral Ministries. He emphasized the need for Member States to follow the example of the South African Government and build up their capacities to work in partnership with other Ministries for effective implementation and follow-up of recommendations. He also called on the AU Commission to forward documents for the meeting on time to Member States to enable them make informed contributions. He requested the Chairman of the Session to clarify the rules of procedure as concerns the right to address the Ministerial Meeting.

55. The Session took note of these pertinent concerns.

iii) Summary on Seminar on the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Socio-Economic Development in Africa

56. Concerns were raised regarding the adoption of the report of the above Seminar. It was explained that the report was circulated for information only as the issue of HIV/AIDS had not been on the Agenda of the Experts' Meeting and that the objective of the Seminar had been to raise awareness on the impact of HIV/AIDS on socio-economic

development. It was also pointed out that the issues of HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children were missing in the summary.

ITEM 10: CLOSING CEREMONY

a) Vote of Thanks by Algeria

57. The Head of the Algeria delegation read a vote of thanks on behalf of the participants. He thanked the Government of the Republic of Benin for hosting the meeting and for ensuring its success. He commended H.E Mr. Mathieu Kérékou, President of Benin for organizing a special session on Employment and Poverty Alleviation with some Heads of State during the Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission. He noted that this provided confidence and encouragement to the Commission. He thanked the African Union Commission for the work done and the high quality of the reports presented. Finally, he thanked the Interpreters, the hostesses and other support and technical staff for contributing towards the success of the meeting.

b) Remarks by the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs

58. The AU Commissioner for Social Affairs thanked the Chairman and the Bureau of the Second Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission. She stated that Africa had entered the 21st Century with a vision and a mission geared towards ensuring its sustainable development and improving the living standards of its people by addressing development challenges in an integrated and holistic manner. She underlined that the African Union Commission had a clear mandate and that the AU Organs would endeavour to keep pace with the changes as well as the socio-economic developments on the continent. She explained that the Social Affairs Department programmes were broad, human centered and aimed at improving the well-being of all the African people. She added that in implementing these programmes the Department had to work with diverse stakeholders. She informed the meeting that the AU Commission had already embarked on preparing its work programme for the period 2004-2007 and would ensure that it was efficiently implemented. She stated that she felt honoured and privileged to participate in the session and assured the participants of the African Union's commitment to work for Africa and its people.

c) Remarks by the Chairman of the Session, Honourable Minister of Civil Service, Labour and Administrative Reform of Benin

59. In his closing remarks, the Chairman thanked all participants for their active participations and valuable contributions in the meeting and for honouring Benin by their presence. He also thanked everyone for ensuring the success of the meeting and in particular the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the ILO Director General for their support. He commended the recommendations taken by the meeting which he said would go a long way in improving the well-being of the African people, alleviating poverty and ensuring jobs for the family. The Honourable Minister also lauded the Heads of State who had participated in the Special Session in preparation for the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation. He underscored that job creation should be the main strategy for Africa's development. He called on development partners to work in concert with Member States to eradicate poverty on the continent. He noted that the conclusions of the second session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission would contribute immensely in the Extraordinary Summit in Ouagadougou. After thanking President Mathieu Kérékou for his support, the Minister wished the delegates a safe journey back home. He then declared the Ministerial Meeting of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission closed.

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MINISTERIAL SESSION OF
THE LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND - 9 JUNE, 2004**

As decided by the Second Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission held in Cotonou, Benin from 19 – 24 April, 2004, a Special Ministerial Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission took place alongside the International Labour Conference (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland on 9 June, 2004.

2. The Session considered the following Agenda:
 - a) Consideration of the Report of the Second Ministerial Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission
 - b) Consideration of the comments from South Africa on the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa
 - c) Adoption of the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa
 - d) Venue of the next Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission
 - e) Any other business:
 - i) Brief by the Hon. Minister of the Sudan
 - ii) Up-date on the preparation for the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa by AU Commissioner for Social Affairs.

Opening

3. After welcoming remarks by the Chairperson of the Second Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission, H.E. Mr. Arouna Aboubacar, the Minister of Civil Service, Labour and Administrative Reform of the Republic of Benin and the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, Adv. Bience Gawanas, the following items were considered:

**Item I: Consideration of the Draft Report of the
Second Ministerial Session of the AU Labour
and Social Affairs Commission**

4. The Representative of the Congo, Rapporteur of the Second Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission presented

the Report. He explained that the recommendations contained under various items had already been adopted by the Second Session held in Cotonou. The Report had been completed to include the opening ceremony and items which were considered by the Ministers meeting as well as the closing ceremony.

5. The Draft Report was adopted without amendments.

Item 2: Consideration of the comments from South Africa on the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa

6. The Representative of the African Union recalled the decision taken by the Cotonou Labour and Social Affairs Commission on the matter, namely, to allow more time to Member States to submit their inputs on the document to the AU Commission by 20 May, 2004. She informed the meeting that only South Africa has submitted some comments.

7. The Representative of the Employers of South Africa confirmed that indeed some comments were forwarded to the AU Commission but these had not been discussed with other stakeholders at the national level. He stated that in view of the importance of the document, consultations should be carried out at national level to enrich the document before its adoption. He therefore proposed that more time be given for consultations to be made at national level and that the document be presented to the next session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission.

8. Other delegations concurred with the proposal and after a brief exchange of views, it was agreed that:

- a) Inputs on the document should reach the AU Commission before 30 November, 2004;
- b) The adoption of the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa be deferred to the next session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission

Item 3: Adoption of the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa

9. It was agreed that, after including all the inputs in the document, the final draft would be presented to the Third Session

of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission for adoption in April 2005.

Item 4: Venue of the next Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission

10. The Chairperson recalled that in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission, if no offer is received from any Member State, the meeting is held at the AU Commission. He also referred to the decision taken by the Cotonou Session which requested any Member State willing to host the third session should communicate the offer to the AU Commission latest by July 2004.

11. After a short consultation, the Representative of South Africa informed the meeting that he would consider the possibility of hosting the next Session and confirm at a later date. The offer was unanimously welcomed by the meeting.

Item 5: Any other Business

12. Two issues were considered under this item.

i) Brief by the Honourable Minister of the Sudan

13. The Honourable Minister of Labour of the Sudan briefed the meeting on the peace process in his country. He stated that a peace agreement had been signed between the Government and the SPLM together with six Protocols on various issues, including, security, power sharing, wealth sharing and ceasefire. He noted that this was a very important event and a welcome development as peace in the Sudan also meant peace in the Horn of Africa. He highlighted that his Government would spare no efforts to sustain the peace agreement and would embark on reconstruction work especially in the South. Finally, he thanked all those who had helped the Sudan in the peace process and in particular, the IGAD Secretariat and Kenya.

14. The Chairperson thanked the Minister and assured him of Africa's support to ensure peace in the Sudan.

ii) **Up-date on the preparation for the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa**

15. The AU Commissioner for Social Affairs informed the meeting that the AU Commission was working very closely with the Burkina Faso Government to prepare for the Summit. She stated that the Extraordinary Summit would be an interactive session. She briefed the meeting that while the Burkina Faso has established a National Organising Committee, the AU Commission has also set up a Steering Committee as well as a Technical Task Force Committee to guide the preparation process. The Steering Committee is composed of: the AU Commission, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Mozambique and South Africa. The AU Commission was also preparing the various documents for the Summit and was requesting for inputs from the various AU Department, the NEPAD as well as other partners and stakeholders. She informed the meeting that note verbales had been sent to Member States requesting them to establish Sectoral Committees where they do not exist, in preparation for the Summit. She also stated that Follow-up Mechanisms would be established at national, regional and continental levels and welcomed any proposals to that effect. She added that the AU Commission would continue to work closely with all its partners, in particular, the ILO and other Agencies to ensure the success of the Summit. The Commissioner finally informed the meeting that all information on the Summit would be put on the AU Website.

16. The Minister of Burkina Faso also briefed the meeting on the on-going preparations at the national level. He said that preparations for the Summit were at an advanced stage. The Burkina Faso and the AU Commission has signed the Host Agreement defining the responsibilities of each party. He confirmed that the Summit would be an interactive session whereby three themes would be identified on which Heads of State would exchange views. The Minister also informed the meeting that, within the framework of the Extraordinary Summit, a meeting of Ministers of Finance would be held in collaboration with the World Bank in Ouagadougou on 3 and 4 August, 2004. Invitations for the meeting had already been sent by the World Bank.

17. The Representative of Employers expressed the wish of the Employers to participate actively in the Social Partners Forum which would precede the Extraordinary Summit. He informed the

meeting that social partners met in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 May, 2004 in preparation of the Forum. During the meeting the social partners agreed that: the theme of the Forum would be the same as that of the Extraordinary Summit; apart from the social partners the Forum would be attended by some selected representatives of the Civil Society Organisations; follow-up mechanisms should be put in place to follow-up on the outcome of the Summit.

18. The Representative of the Workers thanked the AU Commissioner and informed her that the Workers Group was working closely with the Employers to prepare for the Forum. With regard to the themes, he proposed that one of them should be on debt cancellation. He requested that the social partners be invited to the Ministers of Finance Meeting in August 2004.

19. Concluding the meeting, the Chairperson welcomed the convening of the Ministers of Finance meeting. He also recalled that in Cotonou, it was agreed that only social partners would participate in the Forum. However, he noted that a new development has taken place to invite some NGOs. He thanked the Ministers, other delegates and the AU Commission for their participation in the Meeting.

MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE AU LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

20. The Bureau of the Second Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSC) met twice during the International Labour Conference. The main objective was to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Session.

21. The following issues were considered:

- i) Strategies to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the LSC. It was agreed that the AU Commission would prepare the document on the recommendations which would be discussed during the next meeting of the Bureau;
- ii) The role of the Bureau in the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation to be held in

Burkina Faso in September 2004. Explanations were provided on the elaboration of the Social Policy Framework (SPF) and on-going preparations for the Extraordinary Summit. It was agreed that: a copy of the SPF would be forwarded to the Bureau Members; the SPF would be broadened to address all social sectors; Members of the Bureau would prepare themselves for the Summit; and represent the LSC at the Summit and follow-up on its outcome;

- iii) The Agenda of the Special Ministerial Session was discussed and agreed upon.

22. The Bureau is committed to playing its role effectively during its term in office and plans to hold another meeting before the end of 2004.

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MINISTERIAL SESSION OF
THE LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND - 9 JUNE, 2004**

As decided by the Second Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission held in Cotonou, Benin from 19 – 24 April, 2004, a Special Ministerial Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission took place alongside the International Labour Conference (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland on 9 June, 2004.

2. The Session considered the following Agenda:

- f) Consideration of the Report of the Second Ministerial Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission
- g) Consideration of the comments from South Africa on the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa
- h) Adoption of the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa
- i) Venue of the next Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission
- j) Any other business:
 - iii) Brief by the Hon. Minister of the Sudan
 - iv) Up-date on the preparation for the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa by AU Commissioner for Social Affairs.

Opening

3. After welcoming remarks by the Chairperson of the Second Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission, H.E. Mr. Arouna Aboubacar, the Minister of Civil Service, Labour and Administrative Reform of the Republic of Benin and the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, Adv. Bience Gawanas, the following items were considered:

Item I: Consideration of the Draft Report of the Second Ministerial Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission

4. The Representative of the Congo, Rapporteur of the Second Session of the Labour and Social

Affairs Commission presented the Report. He explained that the recommendations contained under various items had already been adopted by the Second Session held in Cotonou. The Report had been completed to include the opening ceremony and items which were considered by the Ministers meeting as well as the closing ceremony.

5. The Draft Report was adopted without amendments.

Item 2: Consideration of the comments from South Africa on the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa

6. The Representative of the African Union recalled the decision taken by the Cotonou Labour and Social Affairs Commission on the matter, namely, to allow more time to Member States to submit their inputs on the document to the AU Commission by 20 May, 2004. She informed the meeting that only South Africa has submitted some comments.

7. The Representative of the Employers of South Africa confirmed that indeed some comments were forwarded to the AU Commission but these had not been discussed with other stakeholders at the national level. He stated that in view of the importance of the document, consultations should be carried out at national level to enrich the document before its adoption. He therefore proposed that more time be given for consultations to be made at national level and that the document be presented to the next session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission.

8. Other delegations concurred with the proposal and after a brief exchange of views, it was agreed that:

- c) Inputs on the document should reach the AU Commission before 30 November, 2004;**
- d) The adoption of the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa be deferred to the next session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission**

Item 3: Adoption of the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa

9. It was agreed that, after including all the inputs in the document, the final draft would be presented to the Third Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission for adoption in April 2005.

Item 4: Venue of the next Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission

10. The Chairperson recalled that in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission, if no offer is received from any Member State, the meeting is held at the AU Commission. He also referred to the decision taken by the Cotonou Session which requested any Member State willing to host the third session should communicate the offer to the AU Commission latest by July 2004.

11. After a short consultation, the Representative of South Africa informed the meeting that he would consider the possibility of hosting the next Session and confirm at a later date. The offer was unanimously welcomed by the meeting.

Item 5: Any other Business

12. Two issues were considered under this item.

ii) Brief by the Honourable Minister of the Sudan

13. The Honourable Minister of Labour of the Sudan briefed the meeting on the peace process in his country. He stated that a peace agreement had been signed between the Government and the SPLM together with six Protocols on various issues, including, security, power sharing, wealth sharing and ceasefire. He noted that this was a very important event and a welcome development as peace in the Sudan also meant peace in the Horn of Africa. He highlighted that his Government would spare no efforts to sustain the peace agreement and would embark on reconstruction work especially in the South. Finally, he thanked all those who had helped the Sudan in the peace process and in particular, the IGAD Secretariat and Kenya.

14. The Chairperson thanked the Minister and assured him of Africa's support to ensure peace in the Sudan.

ii) Up-date on the preparation for the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa

15. The AU Commissioner for Social Affairs informed the meeting that the AU Commission was working very closely with the Burkina Faso Government to prepare for the Summit. She stated that the Extraordinary Summit would be an interactive session. She briefed the meeting that while the Burkina Faso has established a National Organising Committee, the AU Commission has also set up a Steering Committee as well as a Technical Task Force Committee to guide the preparation process. The Steering Committee is composed of: the AU Commission, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Mozambique and South Africa. The AU Commission was also preparing the various documents for the Summit and was requesting for inputs from the various AU Department, the NEPAD as well as other partners and stakeholders. She informed the meeting that note verbales had been sent to Member States requesting them to establish Sectoral Committees where they do not exist, in preparation for the Summit. She also stated that Follow-up Mechanisms would be established at national, regional and continental levels and welcomed any proposals to that effect. She added that the AU Commission would continue to work closely with all its partners, in particular, the ILO and other Agencies to ensure the success of the Summit. The Commissioner finally informed the meeting that all information on the Summit would be put on the AU Website.

16. The Minister of Burkina Faso also briefed the meeting on the on-going preparations at the national level. He said that preparations for the Summit were at an advanced stage. The Burkina Faso and the AU Commission has signed the Host Agreement defining the responsibilities of each party. He confirmed that the Summit would be an interactive session whereby three themes would be identified on which Heads of State would exchange views. The Minister also informed the meeting that, within the framework of the Extraordinary Summit, a meeting of Ministers of Finance would be held in collaboration with the World Bank in

Ouagadougou on 3 and 4 August, 2004. Invitations for the meeting had already been sent by the World Bank.

17. The Representative of Employers expressed the wish of the Employers to participate actively in the Social Partners Forum which would precede the Extraordinary Summit. He informed the meeting that social partners met in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 May, 2004 in preparation of the Forum. During the meeting the social partners agreed that: the theme of the Forum would be the same as that of the Extraordinary Summit; apart from the social partners the Forum would be attended by some selected representatives of the Civil Society Organisations; follow-up mechanisms should be put in place to follow-up on the outcome of the Summit.

18. The Representative of the Workers thanked the AU Commissioner and informed her that the Workers Group was working closely with the Employers to prepare for the Forum. With regard to the themes, he proposed that one of them should be on debt cancellation. He requested that the social partners be invited to the Ministers of Finance Meeting in August 2004.

19. Concluding the meeting, the Chairperson welcomed the convening of the Ministers of Finance meeting. He also recalled that in Cotonou, it was agreed that only social partners would participate in the Forum. However, he noted that a new development has taken place to invite some NGOs. He thanked the Ministers, other delegates and the AU Commission for their participation in the Meeting.

MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE AU LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

20. The Bureau of the Second Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSC) met twice during the International Labour Conference. The main objective was to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Session.

21. The following issues were considered:

- iv) **Strategies to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the LSC. It was agreed that the AU Commission would prepare the document on the recommendations which would be discussed during the next meeting of the Bureau;**
- v) **The role of the Bureau in the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation to be held in Burkina Faso in September 2004. Explanations were provided on the elaboration of the Social Policy Framework (SPF) and on-going preparations for the Extraordinary Summit. It was agreed that: a copy of the SPF would be forwarded to the Bureau Members; the SPF would be broadened to address all social sectors; Members of the Bureau would prepare themselves for the Summit; and represent the LSC at the Summit and follow-up on its outcome;**
- vi) **The Agenda of the Special Ministerial Session was discussed and agreed upon.**

22. The Bureau is committed to playing its role effectively during its term in office and plans to hold another meeting before the end of 2004.

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ANNEXE

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MINISTERIAL SESSION OF
THE LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND - 9 JUNE, 204**

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2. The Session considered the following Agenda:
- k) Consideration of the Report of the Second Ministerial Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission
 - l) Consideration of the comments from South Africa on the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa
 - m) Adoption of the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa
 - n) Venue of the next Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission
 - o) Any other business:
 - v) Brief by the Hon. Minister of the Sudan
 - vi) Up-date on the preparation for the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa by AU Commissioner for Social Affairs.

Opening

3. After welcoming remarks by the Chairperson of the Second Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission, H.E. Mr. Arouna Aboubacar, the Minister of Civil Service, Labour and

Administrative Reform of the Republic of Benin and the AU
Commissioner for Social Affairs, Adv. Bience Gawanas, the following
items were considered:

Item I: Consideration of the Draft Report of the Second
Ministerial Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs
Commission

4. The Representative of the Congo, Rapporteur of the Second Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission presented the Report. He explained that the recommendations contained under various items had already been adopted by the Second Session held in Cotonou. The Report had been completed to include the opening ceremony and items which were considered by the Ministers meeting as well as the closing ceremony.

5. The Draft Report was adopted without amendments.

Item 2: Consideration of the comments from South Africa
on the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa

6. The Representative of the African Union recalled the decision taken by the Cotonou Labour and Social Affairs Commission on the matter, namely, to allow more time to Member States to submit their inputs on the document to the AU Commission by 20 May, 2004. She informed the meeting that only South Africa has submitted some comments.

7. The Representative of the Employers of South Africa confirmed that indeed some comments were forwarded to the AU Commission but these had not been discussed with other stakeholders at the national level. He stated that in view of the importance of the document, consultations should be carried out at national level to enrich the document before its adoption. He therefore proposed that more time be given for consultations to be made at national level and that the document be presented to the next session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission.

8. Other delegations concurred with the proposal and after a brief exchange of views, it was agreed that:

- e) **Inputs on the document should reach the AU Commission before 30 November, 2004;**
- f) **The adoption of the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa be deferred to the next session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission**

Item 3: Adoption of the Draft Strategic Framework on Migration for Africa

9. It was agreed that, after including all the inputs in the document, the final draft would be presented to the Third Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission for adoption in April 2005.

Item 4: Venue of the next Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission

10. The Chairperson recalled that in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission, if no offer is received from any Member State, the meeting is held at the AU Commission. He also referred to the decision taken by the Cotonou Session which requested any Member State willing to host the third session should communicate the offer to the AU Commission latest by July 2004.

11. After a short consultation, the Representative of South Africa informed the meeting that he would consider the possibility of hosting the next Session and confirm at a later date. The offer was unanimously welcomed by the meeting.

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12. Two issues were considered under this item.

- iii) Brief by the Honourable Minister of the Sudan

13. The Honourable Minister of Labour of the Sudan briefed the meeting on the peace process in his country. He stated that a peace agreement had been signed between the Government and the SPLM together with six Protocols on various issues, including, security, power sharing, wealth sharing and ceasefire. He noted that this was a very important event and a welcome development as peace in the Sudan also meant peace in the Horn of Africa. He highlighted that his Government would spare no efforts to sustain the

peace agreement and would embark on reconstruction work especially in the South. Finally, he thanked all those who had helped the Sudan in the peace process and in particular, the IGAD Secretariat and Kenya.

14. The Chairperson thanked the Minister and assured him of Africa's support to ensure peace in the Sudan.

- ii) Up-date on the preparation for the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa

15. The AU Commissioner for Social Affairs informed the meeting that the AU Commission was working very closely with the Burkina Faso Government to prepare for the Summit. She stated that the Extraordinary Summit would be an interactive session. She briefed the meeting that while the Burkina Faso has established a National Organising Committee, the AU Commission has also set up a Steering Committee as well as a Technical Task Force Committee to guide the preparation process. The Steering Committee is composed of: the AU Commission, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Mozambique and South Africa. The AU Commission was also preparing the various documents for the Summit and was requesting for inputs from the various AU Department, the NEPAD as well as other partners and stakeholders. She informed the meeting that note verbales had been sent to Member States requesting them to establish Sectoral Committees where they do not exist, in preparation for the Summit. She also stated that Follow-up Mechanisms would be established at national, regional and continental levels and welcomed any proposals to that effect. She added that the AU Commission would continue to work closely with all its partners, in particular, the ILO and other Agencies to ensure the success of the Summit. The Commissioner finally informed the meeting that all information on the Summit would be put on the AU Website.

16. The Minister of Burkina Faso also briefed the meeting on the on-going preparations at the national level. He said that preparations for the Summit were at an advanced stage. The Burkina Faso and the AU Commission has signed the Host Agreement defining the responsibilities of each party. He confirmed that the Summit would be an interactive session whereby three themes would be identified on which Heads of State would exchange views. The Minister also

informed the meeting that, within the framework of the Extraordinary Summit, a meeting of Ministers of Finance would be held in collaboration with the World Bank in Ouagadougou on 3 and 4 August, 2004. Invitations for the meeting had already been sent by the World Bank.

17. The Representative of Employers expressed the wish of the Employers to participate actively in the Social Partners Forum which would precede the Extraordinary Summit. He informed the meeting that social partners met in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 May, 2004 in preparation of the Forum. During the meeting the social partners agreed that: the theme of the Forum would be the same as that of the Extraordinary Summit; apart from the social partners the Forum would be attended by some selected representatives of the Civil Society Organisations; follow-up mechanisms should be put in place to follow-up on the outcome of the Summit.

18. The Representative of the Workers thanked the AU Commissioner and informed her that the Workers Group was working closely with the Employers to prepare for the Forum. With regard to the themes, he proposed that one of them should be on debt cancellation. He requested that the social partners be invited to the Ministers of Finance Meeting in August 2004.

19. Concluding the meeting, the Chairperson welcomed the convening of the Ministers of Finance meeting. He also recalled that in Cotonou, it was agreed that only social partners would participate in the Forum. However, he noted that a new development has taken place to invite some NGOs. He thanked the Ministers, other delegates and the AU Commission for their participation in the Meeting.

MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE AU LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

20. The Bureau of the Second Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSC) met twice during the International Labour Conference. The main objective was to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Session.

21. The following issues were considered:

- vii) Strategies to follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the LSC. It was agreed that the AU Commission would prepare**

the document on the recommendations which would be discussed during the next meeting of the Bureau;

- viii) The role of the Bureau in the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation to be held in Burkina Faso in September 2004. Explanations were provided on the elaboration of the Social Policy Framework (SPF) and on-going preparations for the Extraordinary Summit. It was agreed that: a copy of the SPF would be forwarded to the Bureau Members; the SPF would be broadened to address all social sectors; Members of the Bureau would prepare themselves for the Summit; and represent the LSC at the Summit and follow-up on its outcome;**

- ix) The Agenda of the Special Ministerial Session was discussed and agreed upon.**

22. The Bureau is committed to playing its role effectively during its term in office and plans to hold another meeting before the end of 2004.

2004

Report of the Chairperson of the African Union on the second ordinary session of the AU labour and social affairs commission

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