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**REPORT OF THE 4TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AU CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 26-30 MAY 2014**

**REPORT OF THE 4TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AU CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 26-30 MAY 2014**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fourth Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Social Development was held in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 26 to 30 May 2014. The Conference was convened pursuant to the implementation of Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec. 750 (XXII) of January 2013.
2. The Conference fell within the purview of Outcome 1, “Policies and Programmes to enhance health, quality education and employable skills underpinned by investment in science, research and innovation in place” and Output 1.4, “Social security and protection of vulnerable groups such as children and persons living with disabilities enhanced” of the AUC Strategic Plan 2013-2017. The Conference also advanced the principles of the AU Constitutive Act, namely, to promote sustainable development and raise the living standards of the African peoples within the framework of various instruments related to social development adopted by the African Union.
3. The main objectives of the Conference were the following:
 - i) To consider how to improve family well-being through the implementation of effective continental and national policies, strategies and programmes to strengthen the capacity of the African family to address the needs of all its members;
 - ii) To define an agenda that will set the foundations for scaling up and sustaining national integrated systems of social protection for children as part of the post-2015 development framework in Africa;
 - iii) To validate the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa.
4. The Conference was held at Experts and Ministerial levels and was attended by Ministers and Experts from AU Member States, as well as by Representatives from UN Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, and other International and Regional Organizations dealing with social development issues.
5. The main outcomes of the Conference were the following:
 - Social protection measures and systems that would be responsive to the rights of children, especially the most vulnerable;

- The Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons, an additional protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights;
 - Launch of the Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa.
- 6.** The Report of the Ministerial Meeting is being submitted for endorsement by the Executive Council.

EX.CL/874(XXII)
Annex 1

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING

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**FOURTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
26-30 MAY 2014**

CAMSD/MIN/Rpt.(IV)

THEME: "Strengthening the African Family for Inclusive Development in Africa"

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING

**REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING OF THE
FOURTH SESSION OF THE AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 26-30 MAY 2014**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministers' Meeting of the Fourth Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development (CAMSD4) was held at the New Conference Centre, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 29 to 30 May 2014. The theme of the Conference was "Strengthening the African Family for Inclusive Development in Africa".

ATTENDANCE

2. The Minister's Meeting was attended by delegates from the following AU Member States: Angola, Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central Africa, Chad, Congo, Cote d' Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, The Saharawi Republic, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following AU Organs, Regional Economic Communities, Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations and cooperating partners were represented: African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC); Africa Disability Alliance (ADA), AIDS Accountability International, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP), GIZ, Help Age International, International Organisation on Migration (IOM), Inter-Africa Committee United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA), Save the Children, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Agenda Item 1: OPENING CEREMONY/ CONTINENTAL LAUNCH OF THE AU CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN AFRICA

4. The Moderator of the Opening Ceremony and Continental Launch of the Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa, H.E. Ambassador Olawale Maiyegun, Director of Social Affairs of the AU Commission reminded delegates of the serious health and social consequences of early child marriage. In particular, it violates the right to education for the girl-child in Africa. He emphasised that for the campaign to have a lasting impact, social mobilization has to start at the grassroots level.

5. The Chairperson of the CAMSD4, Hon. Dr Maikiri Dandobi from Niger welcomed the delegates, mentioned the importance of the meeting to address social development

issues on the Continent and alluded to the need to address the plight of many girls caught up in child marriage, through the launch of the Continental Launch of the End Child Marriage Campaign in Africa.

6. The AU Goodwill Ambassador of the End Child Marriage Campaign, Ms Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, proceeded to read the Outcome document from the Town Hall meeting of 28 May 2014. She stated that she is convinced that Africa will be able to end child marriage and urged all stakeholders to join hands in doing so. She expressed her appreciation at being offered the role of AU Goodwill Ambassador and indicated her acceptance thereof.

7. In his statement, the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, Mr. Martin Mogwanja mentioned that it is right and relevant that CAMSD4 launched the End Child Marriage Campaign four out of every ten women aged between twenty and twenty-four years were married as children, affecting roughly 16 million African girls. Concretely, he confirmed UNICEF's support to the following activities of the AU campaign: a regional consultative and partners' meeting on child marriage with Regional Economic Commissions and their partners, the launch of the campaign in five countries initially, the publication of policy documents and social media materials for the campaign, the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system, and support to AU Member States on the development of costed plans for national action against child marriage.

8. The Regional Director, UNFPA, Dr Julitta Onabanjo in her statement bemoaned the fact that despite a number of initiatives and a growing social consciousness, progress thus far has not been far and fast enough to make a real impact. She affirmed UNFPA's commitment to participate in a multi-sectorial and broad based movement to end child marriage and highlighted five areas pivotal to ending the phenomenon, namely:

- Legal reform, policy and implementation;
- Creation of an enabling environment for social change;
- Enhancing support service systems;
- Multi-sectorial partnerships;
- Research and data-collection.

9. Ms Bineta Diop, the AU Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, conveyed the warm greetings from the AUC Chairperson who desired to be present during the launch but is unavailable due to exigency of service. She remarked that though many Member States have perfect laws to curb child marriage, full implementation thereof is regrettably lacking. She called upon all stakeholders to approach this scourge in a holistic manner inclusive of traditional- and religious leaders as well as parents. In addition, serious efforts are needed to protect women and children in areas of conflict. She gave assurances of the AUC Chairperson's full support as ending child marriage is one of the priorities of the African Union.

10. The AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Dr Mustapha Kaloko, in his opening statement, appreciated the theme of the Conference on strengthening of the African Family. He noted that if Africa is working towards achieving a more holistic approach to the continent's development, the role of the family cannot be underestimated. A proven strategy to strengthen the family is through the provision of social protection measure to the family as a unit, of which should cover vital healthcare and benefits for children, for family members working in the informal and rural sectors, the unemployed, older persons and persons with disabilities. Welcoming the Continental Launch of the Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa, the Commissioner stated that child marriage is a form of violence against the child, in particular the girl-child, as it is a leading cause of maternal mortality and morbidity for girls in Africa.

11. In his launching statement of the Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, H.E. Ato Demeke Mekonnen elaborated on the consequences of child marriage, including psychological trauma and isolation, reproductive health issues, teenage pregnancy and obstetric fistula, illiteracy and lack of education, sexual health implications and violence, abuse and forced sexual relations. The Deputy Prime Minister alluded to the vicious cycle of failure in education systems which reinforces child marriage, which again reinforces the gendered nature of poverty among women. H.E. Demeke concluded by declaring the Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa officially launched.

Agenda Item 2: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

A.) Election of the Bureau

12. The Ministers elected the Bureau for the Fourth AU Conference of Ministers of Social Development as follows:

Chairperson:	Niger (West Africa)
1 st Vice Chairperson:	Congo(Central Africa)
2 nd Vice Chairperson:	Zambia(Southern Africa)
3 rd Vice Chairperson:	Sudan(East Africa)
Rapporteur:	Mauritania (North Africa)

13. The Drafting Committee was composed of the Rapporteur for the Meeting, and staff members of the Department of Social Affairs, AU Commission.

B.) Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work

14. The Ministers' meeting adopted the agenda and programme of work consisting of 11 items.

Agenda Item 3: CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE AU COMMISSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE 3RD SESSION OF THE AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

15. The **Report of the AU Commission on the Implementation of the Decisions of the 2nd AU Conference of Ministers of Social Development**, presented by H.E. Mustapha Kaloko, AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, outlined actions undertaken with regard to the implementation of the Ministerial Decisions with regard to Social Policy and Social Protection, the AU Disability Architecture, including the dissolution of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI), the Plan of Action of the Family in Africa and the African Common Position in Preparation for the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014, and the Revised Call for Accelerated Action on the Plan of Action Towards Africa Fit for Children. The report concludes that the activities alluded to has the single purpose of helping vulnerable groups engage with society, to empower them towards in order to take up their rightful place in society.

16. The Ministers' meeting took note of the report with appreciation and requested that the Commission prepare a proposal for funding of the programmes in the Department of Social Affairs.

Agenda Item 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS' MEETING

CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AU PLAN OF ACTION ON THE FAMILY

17. Two reports were discussed under this agenda item, namely:

- a) Thematic Paper: ***"Strengthening the African Family for Inclusive Development in Africa"***
- b) Children and Social Protection Systems: Building the African Agenda

18. Upon considering the Thematic Paper: ***"Strengthening the African Family for Inclusive Development in Africa"***, the Ministers' meeting made the following decisions:

- i) **That Member States develop a progressive programme for scaling up and sustaining national integrated systems of social protection to benefit families as part of the post-2015 development framework in Africa;**
- ii) **That Member States raise awareness of the provisions of the AU Plan of Action on the Family to all stakeholders in their countries;**

- iii) That the **AU Commission**:
 - a) Develop conceptual clarity on “family” so as to be inclusive in defining family policy; a holistic definition of family should take into consideration social, economic and cultural developments, and the situation of single parents and child-headed households;
 - b) Request Member States to collect disaggregated data on most vulnerable families in Africa and address the challenge of identifying these families;
 - c) Analyse the effect of climate change on families, including the impact of it on housing structures;
 - d) Investigate innovative approaches to mitigate malnutrition and disease in families;
 - e) Study the impact of conflict on the family and the need to address consequences such as displacement and separation of family members;
 - f) Review good indigenous practices and kinship patterns in parenting with the view to promote positive parenting and disciplinary practices;
 - g) Facilitate the review of the 2004 AU Plan of Action on the Family, and develop an M&E Framework for the Plan of Action for submission to the Specialised Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment;
- iv) That the **AU Commission** consider specific activities to support Member States to meet their implementation obligations with regard to the Revised Plan of Action on the Family.

Children and Social Protection Systems: Building the African Agenda

19. The Ministers’ meeting made the following **decisions** regarding social protection policies, measures and systems that would be responsive to the rights of children, especially the most vulnerable:

A. Political Commitment

- a) Member States should promote and ensure political will, commitment and accountability to establish the priority and fiscal space to sustain social protection programmes;

- b) Ensure that social protection goals and targets are defined and embedded in national development plans and policies, in medium and long-term expenditure frameworks, and are protected by legal instruments;
- c) Adopt a human-rights based approach, in particular, children's rights, to social protection and the development of evidence-based social and economic policies and their implementation;
- d) Member States should fulfil their commitments and obligations to social protection as provided for in the various international and regional instruments such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Union Social Policy Framework and the Renewed Call for Accelerated Action on the Implementation of the Plan of Action Towards Africa Fit for Children; and
- e) Promote partnerships between the public and private sectors, civil society and development partners, to mobilise capacity and financing for delivery upscale of social protection services for children.

B. A Minimum Social Protection Package

- a) Member States should, within its social, economic and political context, define through an inclusive consultative process, a social protection floor which includes the provision of benefits within a system of comprehensive social protection for all, prioritising the needs and rights of children in poverty in their implementation;
- b) Ensure the provision of social protection measures for children who have been beneficiaries of social protection programmes after they turn 18, to prevent them from falling into extreme poverty;
- c) Ensure that social protection policies maximize the complementarity of a range of interventions, such as for income support, employment, livelihood, health care, education, child care, nutrition, birth registration and other basic services, and are systematically informed by equity considerations; and
- d) Develop implementation plans with concrete targets, time frames and performance indicators, and communicate them publicly, working towards universal coverage through the progressive expansion of social protection coverage and the roll out of the minimum social protection package.

C. Financing social protection for children

- a) Member states should adopt financing strategies that guarantee time-bound provision of social protection services to children progressively from domestic resources, taking into account, among others, child rights

instruments such as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; and Recommendation 202 of the International Labour Conference;

- b) Allocate in the national budget, resources for social protection for children and ensure that they are ring-fenced and protected in times of crises and budgetary austerity; and
- c) Develop and operationalize costed national plans for social protection based on the concepts of “minimum package” and national “social protection floor”, and identify sources of national financing over a multi-year horizon.

D. National institutional and implementation arrangements for social protection

- a) Member States should institutionalise a national inter-ministerial body or agency with a clear mandate and authority for coordination and for the formulation of policy, legislation, standards and guidelines, and dedicated national structures to ensure monitoring and evaluation (including an accessible appeal and review mechanism);
- b) Apply good delivery mechanisms and adopt new technologies e.g. electronic payment systems to improve efficiency of service provision;
- c) Develop plans for investment in the required capacity for efficient and effective social protection delivery, including necessary institutional arrangements, human resources and capacity strengthening at all levels;
- d) Continue to generate, utilize, share and communicate research information with policymakers and political leaders, in countries as well as around the continent, as evidence for emerging child-sensitive social protection programmes and systems in Africa;
- e) Promote the institutionalization of regular, reliable and robust policy and programme monitoring and evaluation systems that can inform the progress made by Member States in implementing social protection measures responsive to children.

E. The African Union Commission

- a) Become a more active role player in the social protection arena and prioritise social protection for children within the agenda of the African Union policy organs;

- b) Facilitate technical expertise and support to Member States, including mobilizing regular exchanges among countries and circulation of knowledge, expertise and best practices;
- c) Map strategies for the implementation of social protection approaches in Member States to inform, harmonise and strengthen their planning, policy and programme instruments, and disseminate those strategies as continental policy guideline;
- d) Develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that focuses on the development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes for children; and
- e) Engage with the various organs of the African Union, such as the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, to support Member States in the social protection arena.

CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PLAN OF ACTION ON AGEING

The Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa

20. The Ministers' meeting considered the draft Protocol and **adopted** it for further transmission to the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION DISABILITY ARCHITECTURE

21. The three components of the AU Disability Architecture were considered as follows:

- a) ***Institutional component of the AU Disability Architecture:
Progress on the Dissolution of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI)***
(Considered under Agenda Item 6)
- b) ***b) Program component of the AU Disability Architecture:***

Update on the Draft Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the implementation of the Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities

22. The Ministers' meeting **requested** that Member States should submit written comments on and inputs into the Matrix for the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to the AUC-DSA by 15 June 2014 at email address: pmasabane@gmail.com

c) Legal component of the AU Disability Architecture:

Update on the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

23. The Minister's meeting **urged** Member States to send their comments as soon as possible to the Secretary of the Working Group of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, because the protocol still needs to go through various consultative processes before it can be tabled at the AU Summit in January 2016.

- The Ministers agreed to the Road Map towards the adoption of the Protocol: Input from Member States into the draft available on the website of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights; Adoption of the Protocol by the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (October 2014); Validation workshop at the AU Commission (November 2014); Adoption of the Protocol by the Specialised Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment (March 2015); Adoption of the Protocol by the Specialised Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (May 2015); Adoption of the Protocol by the AU Executive Council and Assembly (January 2016).

CHILDREN: STRATEGY TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD

24. The Ministers' meeting took the following **decisions** regarding the strategy:

- That the strategy includes the principle of accountability in its guideline for implementation;
- That, the right to health, education, including early childhood development opportunities and protection for children with disabilities be realised at all levels;
- That Member States should submit reports to the ACERWC in a timely manner, as non-compliance undermines the work of the Committee.

Agenda Item 5: MINISTERIAL PANEL DISCUSSION: "CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS: BUILDING THE AFRICAN AGENDA"

25. H.E. Dr Mustapha Kaloko, Commissioner for Social Affairs moderated the Panel discussion and noted that 42% of the population in Africa is under the age of 15 years, and in order to harness this demographic dividend, special measures must be taken to support children to enhance the economic growth of African countries in future.

26. Ms Henrietta Bogopane-Zulu, Deputy Minister, Social Development, South Africa, shared national experiences and highlighted the need for strong political will as an essential component for sustainable and nationally-owned social protection systems. She noted that political rhetoric should be translated into tangible programmes as a springboard for social and economic transformation. This starts with viewing social protection as a human right, prioritisation of issues, subsequent budgetary allocations and commitment through expenditure.

27. In his remarks, Mr Martin Mogwanja, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF outlined reasons why social protection works in Africa and urged Member States to use evidence of success to expand coverage. He informed the meeting that Africa now boasts the strongest evidence base on social protection, particularly on cash transfers, anywhere in the world. He gave examples of many African countries that were running successful home-grown models to tackle social vulnerabilities such as disability, health, poverty, poverty, and old age.

28. H.E. Catherine Muigai Mwangi, Ambassador of Kenya to Ethiopia and representative to the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, discussed financing social protection for children in Africa. Drawing from Kenya's experience, H.E Mwangi highlighted critical lessons learnt among them, the need for legislation committing a percentage of Gross Domestic Product to social protection for children, harmonisation of social protection programmes to avoid duplication, and targeting individuals rather than households due to different household sizes and severity of vulnerability.

29. Mr Lawrence Ofori-Addo, Deputy Director, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development, Ghana, implored Member States to have robust national institutional and implementation frameworks for social protection. He noted that effective institutional design as being critical to successful implementation of any social protection system. Sharing Ghana's experiences, he urged Member States to harmonise their social protection programmes as disjointed initiatives hampered effectiveness and efficiency.

30. In discussions that ensued, the Ministers' meeting shared their experiences and good practices and made the following observations:

- There is need to define/redefine country specific national social protection floors as a starting point for implementation of integrated and comprehensive social protection systems;
- There is need to define good social indicators and minimum impacts;
- Importance of a good identification and information system which is linked across programmes;
- Utilise current national, regional and district level structures;

- Exit strategies are school retention rates, and successive education to prepare beneficiaries for the job market. Others are, funding of groups of women or youth to start small businesses; or funding and supporting identified change agents in certain communities;
- The most efficient social protection strategy would be for children to stay in school;
- If cash transfers are introduced, traditional support systems are strengthened in that beneficiaries can contribute or engage again with traditional systems, rather than being isolated because they cannot make contributions.

Agenda Item 6: REPORT OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF SEVEN (7) ON LIQUIDATION OF THE ASSETS OF/ON THE REPLACEMENT STRUCTURE FOR THE AFRICAN REHABILITATION INSTITUTE (ARI)

i) Report of the 1st Meeting of the Committee of Seven (7) on Liquidation of the Assets of/ on the Replacement Structure for the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI)

31. The Ministers' meeting considered the Report of the 1st Meeting of the Committee of Seven (7) on Liquidation of the Assets of/ on the Replacement Structure for the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI) and took the following decisions:

- a) That Member States contribute 30% of their outstanding arrears to realise a total amount of US\$ 3,512,073.80, which will be enough to liquidate all the ARI liabilities owed to deceased, retired and recent staff;
- b) That Kenya, Senegal and Congo be exempted for the payments as they have been contributing directly to the Regional Offices as host countries;
- c) That Lesotho and Namibia also be exempted from further payments as the annual contributions of these Member States have been overpaid;
- d) As the upcoming African Union Disability Institute (AUDI) will serve all Member States, and therefore the delay in liquidating the ARI will affect all, Member States are urged to make a contribution to the establishment of the new institution to be financially supported by the AU Commission in future;
- e) That Member States hosting ARI offices should monitor the closure of the ARI bank accounts to avoid it being used for clandestine purposes; the Commission will communicate to Member States the new bank account

particulars at a bank in Addis Ababa in which arrears and voluntary contributions can be paid;

- f) That the AU Commission is requested to submit a report on the Replacement Structure for ARI for the consideration of the Specialised Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment in April 2015, taking into account:
- the relevant provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and its optional Protocol, in particular Article 44 on regional bodies, such as the African Union, and what are the good practices from other regions, and what will the Replacement Structure do: research or advocacy;
 - the recommendations in the Report of the Committee of Seven (7);
 - a robust resource mobilisation strategy.

Agenda Item 7: AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063

32. The representative of the Directorate Strategic Programme Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Resource Mobilisation (SPPMERM) presented on the **African Union Agenda 2063**. The presentation provided the genesis of Agenda 2063, which was born from the 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States in May 2013, which adopted a Solemn Declaration, which amongst others pledged their commitment to make progress in Africa in the next 50 years in eight key areas. Agenda 2063 is defined by the AU Vision, the transformation framework, with clear goals, targets and milestones, as well as, implementation arrangements. And finally, a ten-year implementation plan has been proposed, identifying all stakeholders and their respective roles clearly defined.

33. The views and inputs of African citizenry have been collected and synthesized, and corroborated by technical rigorous situational analysis, review of national plans and continental frameworks, trend analysis and scenario planning. Considering the resource constraints faced by the AUC with the implementation of its programmes, a Resource Mobilization Strategy is being developed to identify alternative sources of funding for the roll-out of Agenda 2063.

34. The Ministers' Meeting pointed out that the greatest challenge in implementing AU Agenda 2063 is financing and supported the development of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy which should be robust and innovative.

Agenda Item 8: DATE AND VENUE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (STC) ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

35. The Republic of Niger offered to host the 1st Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment. The meeting will convene in May 2015 and the date of the STC Conference in 2015 will be decided upon between the AU Commission and the host.

Agenda Item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

36. The Minister's meeting listed no items for discussion under Any other Business.

Agenda Item 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 4TH SESSION OF THE AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING THE AFRICAN FAMILY FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

37. The Ministers adopted their Report and the Addis Ababa Declaration on Strengthening the African Family for Inclusive Development in Africa, with amendments to be incorporated by the AU Commission.

Agenda Item 11: CLOSING

38. The Chairperson of the Ministers' meeting, Hon. Dr. Maikiri Dandobi from the Republic of Niger, thanked the Honourable Ministers for their constructive contributions, and the AU Commission for their technical support to make the meeting a success.

39. The meeting was then adjourned.

EX.CL/874(XXVI)
Annex 2

**ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING THE AFRICAN FAMILY FOR
INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

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**FOURTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
26-30 MAY 2014**

CAMSD/MIN/Decl.(IV)

THEME: "Strengthening the African Family for Inclusive Development in Africa"

**ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING THE AFRICAN FAMILY FOR
INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

Addis Ababa, 30 May 2014

ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON STRENGTHENING THE AFRICAN FAMILY FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

We, Ministers of Social Development of African Union Member States, meeting at the 4th Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Social Development under the theme, "**Strengthening the African Family for Inclusive Development in Africa**" at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26 to 30 May 2014,

DETERMINED to contribute to AU Agenda 2063, a new continental socio-economic architecture that would promote wider inclusive human development and social protection for all and in particular the African child, youth, women, older persons and persons with disability;

RECOGNISING that the social development programme of the AU Commission is based on a human-centred approach seeking to promote human rights and dignity, promote employment, eliminate poverty and improve access to social services, thus improving the quality of life of the African people, in particular the vulnerable and marginalized groups;

ALSO CONVINCED that the family is the fundamental unit of society and has multiple roles and functions, especially in Africa where it has been central, unique and indispensable;

ALARMED at the challenges confronting the African family in the face of many socio-economic changes, including the erosion of traditional patterns of existence and the enormous changes through migration, conflict, climate change and diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases;

CONVINCED that strengthening and empowerment of the family are crucial for the attainment of inclusive development, particularly in the post 2015 Development Agenda;

RECALLING our commitment to an Africa Fit for Children adopted in Cairo in 2001, and the Renewed Call for Action on the Implementation of the Plan of Action Towards Africa Fit for Children (2013-2017);

GRAVELY CONCERNED at the prevalent rate of child marriage in many of our Member States and its damaging effects on the health, welfare and rights of the child, in particular the girl-child;

MINDFUL that social protection, particularly for the child is vital to the realization of an Africa Fit for Children; and **CONCERNED** that in many of our Member States, social protection systems are fragmented, provide low-coverage, have limited coordination and linkages with existing social services, face policy and funding gaps, as well as capacity and institutional constraints;

REALIZING that social policy has tended to be seen as policy for social consumption, not for human investment, in most Member States and that social policy interventions have mostly failed in its productive, redistributive, social protection and reproductive functions to generate economies that are both dynamic and resilient;

ENCOURAGING cooperation at all levels and sharing of experiences and best practices among countries and regions on social development policies and programmes;

WE HEREBY:

1. **COMMIT** to develop progressive programmes for scaling up and sustaining national integrated systems of social protection to benefit families as part of the post-2015 development framework in Africa;
2. **REQUEST** the Commission and Member States (a) to collect disaggregated data on most vulnerable families in Africa and on how to address the challenge of identifying these families; (b) to promote regular research in Member States on agreed topics; (c) to facilitate the review the Plan of Action on the Family in view of contemporary challenges facing families and available interventions, and also to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Revised Plan of Action;
3. **URGE** Member States to, within their social, economic and political context, (a) define through an inclusive consultative process, a minimum package of social protection which includes the provision of benefits within a system of comprehensive social protection for all, prioritising the needs and rights of children in poverty in their implementation; and (b) allocate in the national budget, resources for social protection for children and ensure that they are ring-fenced and protected in times of crises and budgetary austerity;
4. **CALL UPON** Member States to ensure that social protection policies maximize the complementarity of a range of interventions, such as for income support, employment, livelihood, health care, education, child care, nutrition, birth registration and other basic services, and are systematically informed by equity considerations; **REQUEST** the Commission to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that focuses on the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes for children;
5. **RECOMMEND** the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Older Persons, for the consideration of the Attorneys General and Ministers of Justice for onward transmission to the Assembly for adoption;
6. **NOTE** with appreciation the efforts of the Commission in the dissolution of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI) and **REQUEST** the Commission to submit a

proposal for the Replacement Structure to the next session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment;

7. **CALL UPON** ARI Member States to pay at least 30% of their arrears in contributions in order to liquidate the liabilities owed to deceased, retired and redundant ARI staff, and in the spirit of African solidarity, **URGE** all Member states for a voluntary contribution towards the facilitation of the establishment of the replacement institution for ARI which will serve all Member States to implement AU policies and programmes in the area of disability;
8. **COMMEND** the many noble and virtuous Traditional Practices on the Continent, and **CALL UPON** Member States to implement the Framework of Action and Recommendations on Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) and in this regard, **REQUEST** the Commission to follow up on the completion and return of the Monitoring and Evaluation Tool by Member States;
9. **COMMEND** the Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa and **COMMIT** ourselves to work with all relevant sectors of society to end child marriage; **URGE** Member States that are affected by child marriage to launch the Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa or scale up activities in their countries and to **COLLABORATE** with the Commission to communicate a united, amplified voice against child marriage in Africa; **ENDORSE** Ms Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda Goodwill Ambassador to End Child Marriage for two (2) years;
10. **WELCOME** the development of the African Union Agenda 2063 as it will provide the opportunity for Member States to collectively advocate for political and fiscal space for intensified social policy interventions in Member States;
11. **RECOMMIT OURSELVES** to the acceleration of implementation of the Social Policy Framework for Africa.
12. **WELCOME** the offer of the Republic of Niger to host the First Session of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment in May 2015.

2015

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responsible for social development,
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