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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thirteenth Ordinary Session
24 – 28 JUNE 2008
Sharm El-Sheikh, EGYPT**

EX.CL/433 (XIII)

**REPORT OF THE SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AU
LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION (LSAC)**

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission stipulates that the Chairperson shall submit a report on the deliberations of the Commission to the Executive Council for discussion, observation and onward transmission to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for eventual approval.

Pursuant to this Rule, the Chairperson is hereby on behalf of the Commission submits the present report on the deliberations of the Sixth Ordinary Session of Labour and Social Affairs Commission held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 21 – 25 April, 2008.

As is customary, the Sixth Session of Labour and Social Affairs Commission was organized in two Sessions, namely, an Expert and Ministerial Sessions. Among others, the meetings discussed or considered: the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Ordinary Session of LSAC; Consideration of the Study on the Informal Economy in Africa; Consideration of the Report of the Working Group on the Rethinking of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission; Biennial Report on the follow-up of the implementation of the outcome of the Ouagadougou Extraordinary Summit; Report on the follow-up of the implementation on migration policy instruments; Report on Activities of the African Members of the ILO Governing Body and Briefs on productivity in Africa.

The Sixth Session made recommendations and resolutions on the issues discussed by the Conference amongst them is the issue of the candidatures at the ILO post of the Vice President of the 97th International Labour Conference. The Session recommended the candidature of Algeria to that post.

The conclusions, recommendations and proposals of the Sixth Ordinary Session of 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.

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**SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF
AFRICAN UNION LABOUR AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
21-25 APRIL 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

LSC/MIN/RPT (VI)

Theme: *“Improving Informal Economy: The Key to Poverty Alleviation”*

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS’ MEETING

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministers' Meeting of the 6th Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSAC) of the AU was held at the AU Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, **on 24 April 2008**. The Ministers' Meeting was preceded by the Experts' Meeting which took place **from 21 to 23 April 2008**, whose Report is annexed.

II. ATTENDANCE

2. The **Ministerial** Meeting was attended by delegates from the following AU Member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic republic (SADR), Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following RECs, United Nations Agencies, Inter-Governmental and Non-Government Organizations, cooperating partners, and friends of Africa were also represented: IGAD, SADC, ILO, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNDP, WFP UNEP IOM, ICRC, State of Palestine, Arab Labour Organization (ALO), ACARTSOD, OATUU, PEC, ARLAC, ITUC-Africa, SATUCC PANA and AU Commission.

III. OPENING CEREMONY

4. In the absence of the out-going Chairperson, the opening ceremony was chaired, by H.E. Dr, Mohammed Yusuf Ahmed Mustafa, the State Minister of Labour of the Republic of Sudan, First Vice-Chairperson of the 5th Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission. The opening ceremony was addressed by the following personalities: worker representative, General Secretary of PEC, employer representative, Director General of ILO, Juan Somavia, the Commissioner for Social Affairs, Adv. Bience Gawanas and H.E. the President of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia Girma Wolde Giorgis.

(i) Remarks by H.E. Dr. M. Y. Ahmad Mustafa State Minister of Labour, Republic of Sudan, the First Chairperson of the Fifth Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSAC)

Taking the floor, H.E. the Minister of Labour of Sudan welcomed the quest of honour, H.E. Girma Wolde Giorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and all the Ministers, delegates and guests. He thanked the Ethiopian Government for its hospitality and the warm and fraternal reception accorded participants. He further thanked the African Union Commission for making the necessary arrangements for the sound holding of this session and for the activities undertaken towards the implementation and monitoring of the recommendations of the Fifth Session.

The Minister informed the meeting that the Bureau of the Fifth Session had taken all the necessary steps, with the assistance of the Commission, to effectively implement the recommendations adopted in 2007 in Addis Ababa. He added that it was the duty of each and everyone to redouble efforts for the sound implementation of the decisions and recommendations on items featuring on the agenda of the current session.

To overcome the difficulties facing Africa, he stressed the need to settle the problems of migration and labour in the interest of the continent, to find solutions to the informal economy and finally to alleviate the poverty paralyzing African economies and slowing down the continent's developments efforts.

In conclusion, he asserted that all these problems cannot be solved without frank dialogue at various levels, involving social partners and employers. All Member States need to adopt a common position on various issues before going to international forums in order to speak with one and the same voice.

(ii) Statement by Mr. Chibhebhe the Representative of Workers

5. Mr. Chibhebhe the workers representative of the sixth session of AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission expressed the appreciation of the Workers for the hospitality extended to all delegations. He also expressed the strengthening of tripartism as key to social dialogue.

6. He was concerned with a growing number of violations of workers rights by some governments including his own country Zimbabwe. He calls all African countries to respect the workers rights.

7. He further requested government, employers and workers organization to work together in the fight against poverty, HIV/AIDS and gender inequality in Africa.

(iii) Statement by Mr. Azad Jeetun the Representative of Employers

8. Mr. Azad Jeetun, the Secretary General of Pan-African Employers Confederation (PEC) expressed the appreciation of Employers group, for the warm hospitality extended to them since their arrival to Addis Ababa. He commended the African Union for the excellent organization of the Sixth Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSAC). He recalled that the LSAC has become over the years a model of social dialogue, a Forum for all Social Partners to share experiences and expertise. He noted that in this era of Globalization, Africa continues its march ahead in spite of numerous internal and external constraints and challenges. He emphasized the fact that there is a renewed dynamism and better management of African economies and enterprises and there is a growing optimism in the future of the Continent. To that effect, he added that Africa needs a strong and vibrant private sector and a latching public-private partnership.

9. He noted that the meeting is once again honored by the presence of H.E Juan Somavia, the Director General of ILO. He added that his presence is a testimony of his commitment to the development of Africa and recognition of the importance he attaches to this Commission and the strong and growing co-operation between the African Union and ILO.

10. He recalled the cordial relationship the Employers group has with ILO and commented the commitment and hard work done by the AU Commission and he concluded by congratulating Advance Bience Gawanas, Commissioner for Social Affairs, for her dream to fulfill the numerous social objectives of the African Union.

(iv) Statement by Mr. Juan Somavia the ILO Director General

11. In his statement the Director-General, J. Somavia began by congratulating Commissioner Bience Gawanas for her re-election as Commissioner for Social Affairs. He also paid tribute to ILO Regional Director for Africa, Madam Regina Amadi-Njoku for her commitment in her work and contribution. The adage that if you empower a woman you empower society and countries has been demonstrated during her tenure.

12. The Director-General thanked the delegates to the LSAC meeting for their permanent support to ILO and to him personally. He assured the delegates that he would not take the support for re-election for granted; 'your support is my commitment'. He recalled the significance of African solidarity during the years of dictatorship in Chile.

13. Mr. Somavia stated that the Ouagadougou Summit in 2004 was an important catalyst in creating momentum on employment creation and the Decent Work agenda. Africa had decided to focus on employment for 10 years from 2004 to 2014. It had given ILO a mandate to work on employment promotion in the context of the Decent Work agenda. It continued to work to fulfill this mandate.

14. The ILO DG then outlined several key challenges that Africa will have to address. The first is to reinforce tripartism in Africa and that the capacity of the social partners to build tripartism should be strengthened. Social dialogue is indispensable for autonomy but it takes time and trust to build it.

15. His second concern was the major challenge related to the Food and Financial Crises. For example, the growing food crisis would have an impact of the ILO's agenda and programmes. The 'food crisis' was a consequence of a production problem. It was pertinent that the theme of this year's ILO Conference is 'Rural Employment'. Growth of agriculture and productivity would be a boost to employment. The financial system had overshadowed the global production system. Capital had been diverted from production to financial speculation. The danger was that we could have stop-gap solutions for these crises. We could find ourselves going for unequal globalization yet there was need for structural changes.

Statement by Adv. Bience Gawanas the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs Department

16. On the behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union, H.E Alpha Omar Konare, the Commissioner for Social Affairs, Adv. Bience GAWANAS, welcomed warmly the delegates to the 6th Session of AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission. She expressed her acknowledgements to the outgoing Bureau for the valuable accomplishment made in 2007-2008. She stressed the profound importance of the issues that deserve urgent attention and meticulous consideration from all the stakeholders. The Theme of the 6th Session of LSAC "Improving the Informal Sector: the Key to Poverty Alleviation" reflects the key role held by the Informal Economy in African Labour Markets and in Poverty Alleviation in the Continent. Still the challenges in the informal economy remain centered around critical issues relating to Labour Policies and Law, Social Security policies and practices, Financial policies and practices, and, to Education and Training policies.

17. The Commissioner raised the second issue on the Rethinking of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission with an appeal for a solution. On the third issue relating to the second Biennale report on the Implementation of Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action, and Follow Up Mechanisms, the Commissioner emphasized the importance of sharing country experiences for

further achievements in productive jobs creation and decent work promotion. She underscored the actions undertaken by the Departments of Economic Affairs, of Rural Economy and Agriculture and Peace and Security and then acknowledged the contribution made by International Partners, amongst which are ILO and EU.

18. She recalled that Africa lost an important position of the Chairperson of the International Labour Conference in 2007 (last year) and expressed her confidence that, being well aware of the consequences of this outcome, the sixth LSAC will succeed in agreeing on the candidatures to the ILO Governing Body. In her concluding remarks, she extended the sincere thanks of the Commission to all partners, both local and international, for their cooperation.

(v) Remarks by the Guest of Honour, H.E. Girma Wolde Giorgis, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

19. The guest of honour for the 6th Session of AU LSAC H.E. Ato Girma Wolde Giorgis the President of the Federal Democratic of Ethiopia welcomed all the participants of the session to Ethiopia. He pointed out that the session is unique as it is being held during a year when the Ethiopian Millennium is being celebrated as African Millennium.

20. He further pointed out that the LSAC is an institution of cooperation and partnership to fight poverty and backwardness in Africa. He expressed his appreciation on the selection of the theme of the session, which is: *Improving the Informal Economy: The Key to Poverty Alleviation*. Moreover, he indicated that job creation as the pillar of socio-economic development in Africa. He urged for concerted efforts in providing an environment for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Summit Declarations and Plan of Action. He also explained that the challenges attached to the fast growth of the informal economy, which is unregulated, unprotected and characterized by low earning. Hence he recommended the need for a legal and policy framework to protect and improve the informal sector and the people dependent on it.

21. Finally thanked the AUC for organizing the session and also expressed his satisfaction in the quality of the reports prepared by the AU Commission and wished successful deliberations.

(vi) Reply by H.E. Mr., Minister of Labour of Kenya

22. In his vote of thanks statement the Minister of Labour of Kenya, expressed his gratitude to the Federal Republic of Ethiopia for their hospitality accorded to all delegates since their arrival. He commented the Chairperson of the AUC as well as the Commissioner for social Affairs for their input to the organization of the meeting. He finally requested all stakeholders attending the meeting for the effective implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the LSAC.

IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS AGENDA ITEM 2**a) ELECTION OF THE BUREAU**

23. After due consultations Member States and the five AU Regions; and based on the Rules of Procedure of the LSAC, the following Bureau was elected to Office:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| Chairperson: | Tanzania | - Government Representative (East) |
| 1 st Vice Chairperson: | Tunisia | - Government Representative (North) |
| 2 nd Vice Chairperson: | Niger | - Employer Representative (West) |
| 3 rd Vice Chairperson: | Zimbabwe | - Workers Representative (South) |
| Rapporteur | :Chad | - Government Representative (Central) |

b) Adoption of the Agenda

24. The provisional Agenda was adopted as submitted.

c) Organization of Work

25. The Meeting adopted the following working hours:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Morning: | 10:00 hrs - 13:00 hrs |
| Afternoon | 15:00 hrs - 21:30 hrs |

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS**Agenda Item 3: Consideration of the Report and Recommendations of the Experts Meeting - Doc No. LSC/EXP/RPT(VI)**

26. The Chairperson of the Experts meeting presented the Report and Recommendations of the Experts' Meeting. He informed the meeting that 41 AU Member States attended the Experts Meeting, a number of UN Agencies Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations and Cooperating Partners, and friends of Africa. He commended the Experts for the professional way they had handled issues and come up with the Report.

Agenda Item 3 of the Experts Meeting: **Report of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on Labour and Social Affairs Activities - Doc No. LSC/EXP/2(VI)**

27. After the extensive deliberation, the Ministerial Meeting recommended the following:

- i) Member States should submit their reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the 5th Session in May 2008 and that of the 6th Session of the LSAC in November 2008;
- ii) The Bureau of the Session should continue to meet twice yearly

Agenda Item 4 of the Experts Meeting: **Consideration of the Report of the Working Group on the Rethinking of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission – Doc. No. LSC/EXP/3(VI)**

28. This important and serious matter which involves many other sectors was discussed thoroughly and the following recommendations were recommended:

- i) The LSAC should continue to work within the tripartite structure and meet every year;
- ii) The Bureau should meet at least twice a year;
- iii) Recommendations B, C, E and F were not accepted;
- iv) Reflection should continue on the rethinking of the working methods of the LSAC.

Agenda Item 5 of the Experts Meeting: **Consideration of the Study on Informal Economy in Africa - Doc. No. LSC/EXP/4(VI)**

29. At the end of the debate, the meeting recommended that the study needed to have clear strategies and a Plan of Action.

Agenda Item 6 of the Experts Meeting: **Biennial Report on the Follow up of Implementation of the Ouagadougou Extraordinary Summit – Doc LSC/EXP/5(VI)**

30. The following recommendations were made:

- i) The *format* of the Report should be similar to the contents of the 11 priority areas listed in the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action;
- ii) It is necessary to consolidate the two biennial reports for the next Session of the LSAC by including in it data from Member States relating to the implementation of the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action;
- iii) Member States that have not yet forwarded their reports to the Commission should be urged to do so;
- iv) Member States should adopt an approach for the implementation of the Ouagadougou **Declaration and** Plan of Action based on and not limited to Basic needs development agenda in order to generate more decent jobs and guarantee food security in the Continent.

Agenda Item 7 of the Experts Meeting: Progress Report on the Follow-up of the Implementation of Migration Instruments - Doc LSC/EXP/6 (VI)

31. In the debate that ensued, delegates expressed their appreciation on the progress made in implementing the various instruments on Migration. They welcomed the recruitment of a Programme Coordinator on Migration to assist Member States and RECs in their work on migration.

32. A request was made for the *Migration Programme Plan of Activities (2008-2009)* to be disseminated and serious focus be put on trafficking in women and children within Africa. The AU Commission indicated that all the comments and suggestions would be taken into consideration.

Agenda Item 8 of the Experts Meeting : Report on the activities of the African Group members of the ILO Governing Body – Doc. LSC/EXP/7(VI)

33. In the ensuing discussions, the delegations made the following observations and recommendations:

- a) Commended the AUC for the report;

- b) Highlighted the importance of the LSAC in facilitating the preparation of African common positions for meetings of the ILO. In this regard, some delegations recalled previous experiences of the LSAC where member states had presented position papers in preparation for the ILC;
- c) With reference to the candidature of the Director General of ILO for a third term of Office, Nigeria presented a motion in support of the re-election of the Director General, for consideration by the meeting. The motion recalled the achievements of the DG, Mr Juan Somavia, since March 1999, his commitment to defending the values and objectives of the ILO as well as his support for the African Union Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on Employment and Poverty Alleviation;
- d) With regards to the issue of candidatures for the GB, the Chairperson encouraged the sub-regions to continue consultations on their candidates. In this regard, the following regions presented their candidatures:

Southern Africa Sub-region:

Mozambique - Titular
South Africa - Titular
Zambia - Deputy

East Africa sub-region:

Tanzania - Titular
Sudan - Deputy
Kenya - Deputy

West Africa sub-region:

Nigeria – Titular
Ghana - Deputy
Guinea - Deputy
Benin- Deputy

The Central Africa Sub-Region

Congo – Titular
Burundi- Deputy

North Africa sub-region

Tunisia – Titular

Egypt - Deputy

34. Delegations also recommended that the item on the report of activities of the African Member of the ILO GB, be used to prepare African common positions for presentation to the ILC. It was further recommended that members of the GB be given the task to prepare position papers and recommendations on ILC agenda items, for presentation to the LSAC, for its consideration;

- f) Noting that the agenda of the ILC is set two years in advance, the African Members of the GB should identify member states that would prepare position papers on the ILC themes scheduled for the following year. The states that are tasked with this responsibility should be communicated to the AU Commission. In addition, the Coordinator should be responsible for overseeing follow-up on designated tasks by ensuring, with the assistance of the AUC, the distribution of position papers at the following year's LSAC;
- g) The African group spokesperson for the ILC committees should be identified/selected at the LSAC meeting preceding the ILC;
- h) The working method of the African Group at the ILC should ensure maximum unity and input from African Member states. In this regard, the African group spokesperson for each ILC committee should chair a daily working group composed of African members of the committee to discuss and develop common African positions, work out lobbying strategies and, if needed, identify issues that require input from the larger African group;
- l) The LSAC should discuss proposals for future ILC agendas in order for Africa to adopt a longer-term strategic approach to the ILO;

Consideration should be given to hold an African Group tripartite meeting at an early stage of the ILC in order to facilitate the development of common positions with social partners;
- k) The meeting supported the candidature of Algeria for the post of Government Vice-Chair for the 97th Session of the ILC;
- l) The meeting supported the candidature of the Mr Juan Somavia for the post of Director General of the ILO for a third term. The motion was unanimously adopted;
- m) The meeting supported the proposal to allocate the floating seat to West Africa for the period of 2008-2011 and there after will follow the regional rotations;

- n) The meeting extended its congratulations and appreciation to the Coordinator (Kenya) for the work accomplished during the last three years.

Agenda Item 9 of the Experts Meeting: **Consideration of the
Information Note on
Productivity in Africa – Doc.
LSC/EXP/8(VI)**

35. The following recommendations were made:

- i) through brainstorming should continue on this issue;
- ii) there is the need to implement the strategies contained in the Note, in collaboration with social partners, Member States, RECs, the PAPA and international partners such as the ILO;
- iii) the Commission should help in the establishment and/or strengthening of national and regional structures involved in the promotion of productivity,
- iv) the Commission should support the PAPA by sensitizing Member States to join the organization.

Agenda Item 10 of the Experts Meeting: **Reports of the Regional
Economic Communities
(RECs)**

Report of SADC Employment and Labour

36. The meeting took note of the Report and urged other RECs to follow suit.

Agenda Item 11 of the Experts Meeting: **Briefing on the activities of AU
Specialized Agencies and
Inter-African Organizations:**

(a) The Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) – Doc No. LSC/EXP/9a (VI)

37. The Meeting took note of the Report.
**(a) Pan-African Employers’
Confederation – Doc. LSC/EXP9b (VI)**

38. The Meeting took note of the Report.

- (c) **Report of the International Trade Union Confederation – Africa (ITUC-Africa) – Doc. LSC/EXP/9(c)**
39. The meeting took note of the report
- g) **The African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ARCARTSOD): Doc No. LSC/EXP/8g (VI)**
40. The Ministers' Meeting took note of the Report.

Agenda Item 14 of the Experts Meeting: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Draft Resolutions:**
 - i) **Resolution on Palestinian Workers:**
41. The Ministers unanimously adopted the Resolution in support of Palestinian workers.
- ii) **Declaration on food crises**
42. The Ministers unanimously adopted the Resolution on food crises.

Agenda Item 5: DATE AND VENUE OF THE 6TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AU LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

43. Having been no country wishing to host the 7th Session of Labour and Social Affairs Commission, The AU Commissioner for Social Affairs informed the meeting that the next session of the LSAC will be hosted by the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The proposal was unanimously welcomed.

Agenda Item 6: ADOPTION OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING

44. The Ministerial Meeting adopted the Experts Report as amended.

Agenda Item 7: CLOSING CEREMONY

45. In his closing remarks the Chairperson thanked all delegates for meaningful deliberations, which contributed to the success of the meeting. He also thanked the Interpreters, the Secretariat as well as all the technical team. He apologized to the delegates for any inconvenience that may have occurred and declared the Meeting closed.

EX.CL/433 (XIII)
Annex I

Resolution on Palestinian Workers



LSC/EXP/Res.(VI)

Resolution on Palestinian Workers

The AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission, meeting in its sixth Ordinary Session in the Headquarters of the Commission of the African Union in Addis Ababa the capital of Ethiopia from 21 – 25 April 2008:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report about the situation of Palestinian workers submitted by PLO on behalf of the Palestinian National Authority;
2. **RECALLS** all its previous Resolutions in this regard;
3. **ALSO RECALLS** Resolution No. AU/LSC/RES. (V), paragraph 3, of the AU Labour and Social Affairs meeting that calls upon the ILO governing body to set up a special committee to follow up and prepare report on the situation of the Palestinian workers in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;
4. **DEEPLY CONCERNED** with the Israeli Occupation Authority's aggressions against Palestinian, especially Palestinian workers, due to its ongoing policy of deliberate destruction of infrastructure, of the economic and service institutions, the expropriation of Palestinian irrigated lands that are adopted by the Israeli Occupation Authority, and because of the continual blockade to the Occupied Palestinian Territory by daily increasing numbers of military checkpoints between Palestinian towns villages and territories, as well as its continuation of the unilateral measures that contradict with Peace Process and Road Map Plan such as expansion of settlements and the persistent construction of the Separation Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which have cause huge losses in production, Labour and income, great damages to the Palestinian's agriculture and economy and imposed restrictions on economic activities of all kinds.

5. **FOLLOWS UP** with great concern the Israeli Occupation Authority's humiliation practices and policies against Palestinian workers, farmers and employers during their access in the military checkpoints and crossroads in the Occupied Palestinian Territory that violate their fundamental human rights, and characterized by practicing the collective punishment and continuing to isolate them from their work places; and **URGES** Israel to halt all acts that humiliate the dignity of workers, and harm their livelihood and legitimate rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in Israel.
6. **CONDEMNS** the Israeli occupation policies in imposing the strict siege on Palestinian people and severe restrictions on the movement of persons, goods and services, especially the siege and collective punishment imposed on Gaza Strip, which aggravate the deterioration of living conditions of Palestinian workers and increased the unemployment and poverty rates inside Palestinian Society in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
7. **FURTHER CONDEMNS** the expansionism of Israeli occupation that contradicts with Peace Process and Road Map Plan by its confiscation of Palestinian lands, establishing illegal settlements, and continuing its construction of the Apartheid Segregation Wall due to its negative impact on Palestinian workers and farmers, and on their right of work; and the increase of psychological, material and legal impacts on all kinds of Palestinian society, through out depriving of Palestinian workers and farmers from access to their work place and lands, which constitute a flagrant violation of their dignity and their legitimate rights that guaranteed by the International laws and the Forth Geneva Convention of 1949; and **CALLS UPON** the Israeli Occupation authorities to halt all its activities that contradict with Peace Process, Road Map Plan, Quartet's resolutions, and Annapolis Meeting, especially the illegal settlement on the expropriated Palestinian territory and to eradicate it and to stop the construction of the Apartheid segregation Wall and to reduce its negative impacts on Palestinian employment.
8. **CALLS UPON** the International community to compel Israel to fulfill its obligations towards International legitimate resolutions related to workers and employers by halting all outrageous aggressions that perpetrated by the Occupation Authority against Palestinian workers and pay due compensations to them for the social and economic damages and losses caused by these violations and because of the continuous Israeli occupation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

9. **URGES** countries participating in the Paris Donors Conference for the Palestinian People to provide material support pledged in view of sustaining the emerging Palestinian economy, and **CALLS UPON** the International Community to continue to provide support and humanitarian and financial assistance to the Palestinian People in order to prevent the deterioration of Humanitarian, Economic and Employment situations in Palestine.
10. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** the International Labour organization and relevant International and regional institutions and Organizations as well as the African Union to follow-up on all decisions and recommendations of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission on the situation of Palestinian Workers in the Occupied Territory, especially those aimed at protecting the rights and humanities; and on exerting all effective economical and political pressures on Israeli Occupation Authority to remove its settlements from the Occupied Palestinian Territories and to respect the rights of the workers and Palestinian Civilians.
11. **URGES** Members States, other partners and relevant International and regional Institutions and Organizations to implement all relevant decisions and recommendations of the Labour and Social Affairs Commissions

EX.CL/433 (XIII)
Annex II

DECLARATION ON THE FOOD CRISIS

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**SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF
AFRICAN UNION LABOUR AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
21– 25 APRIL 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

LSC/EXP/Decl.(VI)

DECLARATION ON THE FOOD CRISIS

The African Union Labour and Social Affairs Commission meeting in its sixth ordinary session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 21 to 25 April 2008,

Noting with great concern the food crisis that affects mostly the low income households, workers, the poor and the unemployed who cannot afford the escalation of food prices;

Considering the negative consequences of the food price continuous rise in terms of malnutrition of children, hunger, misery, rising poverty levels and widening income inequalities and social and political instability;

Bearing in mind the poor performance of the African agriculture;

1. **RECOMMENDS** to Member States to adopt immediate measures to reverse the food price rise and to develop and implement agriculture and food strategies, policies and programmes at the continental level in order to mitigate the impact of the food crisis and to achieve food self-sufficiency. These measures should include: substantial investment in agriculture, providing of basic technology, execution of capital-intensive irrigation projects and subsidizing poor farmers especially through the provision of fertilizers.

EX.CL/433 (XIII)
Annex III

**MOTION OF SUPPORT FOR MR. JUAN SOMAVIA,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ILO**

AFRICAN UNION

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**SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AU
LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
21 – 25 APRIL 2008
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

LSC/EXP/Motion(VI)

**MOTION OF SUPPORT FOR MR. JUAN SOMAVIA,
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ILO**

Presented by:

- a) **Cameroon;**
- b) **Egypt;**
- c) **Nigeria;**
- d) **Pan-African Employers' Confederation (PEC);**
- e) **ITUC-Africa;**
- f) **Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU)**

The AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission meeting in its 6th Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 21 to 25 April 2008.

Recognizing the considerable work accomplished by Mr. Juan Somavia since March 1999 in promoting the Decent Work, both as a global goal and a specific response to the problems and needs of African countries, including fundamental principles and rights at work, elimination of the worst forms of child labour, enterprise development, youth employment, women's empowerment, progressive formalization of enterprises and protection of workers in the informal economy, HIV/AIDS and the world of work, tripartism and social dialogue;

Bearing in mind his unflinching commitment in defending the values and objectives of the Organization;

Taking note, in particular, of his involvement in support of the African Union Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa (Ouagadougou, 8 – 9 September 2004) and his commitment to its follow-up by deciding to align ILO's policies and programmes with the outcomes and recommendations of the Ouagadougou Summit;

1. **CONGRATULATES** the Director-General for the progress achieved by the ILO in the past nine years;
2. **ENCOURAGES** him to continue to support the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda in Africa (2007-2015) adopted at the 11th ILO African Regional Meeting (Addis Ababa, April 2007) and Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCP);
3. **EXPRESSES** its support to the candidature of Mr. Juan Somavia for re-election as Director-General of the ILO for the period 2009-2014 and requests the ILO African Tripartite Members of the Governing Body to ensure the effective implementation of this decision during the 303rd Session of the ILO Governing Body to be held in November 2008.

2008

Report of the sixth ordinary session of the AU labour and social affairs commission (LSAC)

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