

DECLARATION ON CREATING EMPLOYMENT FOR ACCELERATING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Seventeenth Ordinary Session in Malabo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, from 30 June to 1 July 2011;

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the rise in unemployment and under-employment in Africa, particularly among the youth and the serious threat they pose to social cohesion, political stability and the future socio-economic development prospects of our various countries;

RECALLING the African Youth Charter and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

ALSO RECALLING the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation; the AU Social Policy Framework; the AU Migration Policy Framework; the African Women Decade 2010-2020; the African Youth Decade Plan of Action, 2009-2018; and other related policy documents, as well as the Millennium Development Goals, all together aimed at improving the well-being of African people;

WELCOMING outcomes of the G20 Summits in London and Pittsburgh on strong, sustained and balanced global growth;

CONVINCED that employment promotion measures should be driven by interventions based upon solidarity and equality, transparency and accountability, and supported by the State, Private Sector, Employers and Trade Unions, and Civil Society Organizations to foster cohesion and social integration in African societies;

FURTHER CONVINCED that the promotion of productive youth employment is vital to youth empowerment;

Hereby COMMIT to the following:

1. **REAFFIRM** individually and collectively, our previous commitments aimed at accelerating job creation, reduction of poverty, social protection for our people and the social development of Africa. In this regard, we re-dedicate ourselves and commit our countries to accelerate efforts to reduce unemployment and under-employment of Africa's Youth and Women and thereby attain all MDGs by 2015;
2. **REDUCE** Youth and Women unemployment by at least two percent annually over the next five years as contained in the Youth Decade Plan of Action 2009-2018;
3. **MAINTAIN**, extend and harmonize Labour Market Information Systems in support of employment policy formulation, implementation and evaluation;

4. **IMPROVE** and increase responsiveness of the education and training systems to current and future labour market needs in order to address the pervasive and structural skills mismatch;
5. **PROVIDE STEWARDSHIP** as national Governments and achieve policy coherence in National and Regional Certification Frameworks for Education and Vocational Training, as well as the development of integrated and cross-sectoral National and Regional Youth Employment Action Plans;
6. **ACCELERATE** appropriate social protection coverage expansion for the youth, women, informal economy and rural workers and members of their families, in order to reduce poverty and vulnerability;
7. **CALLS** on Member States which have not yet done so to sign, and ratify the African youth Charter;
8. **REQUEST** the Commission to work with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the RECs and international partners, on a comprehensive youth employment pact, with mechanisms that will ensure its implementability at national level through strong ownership by the key Line Ministries, Employers and Trade union organisations, women and youth organisations and the Private Sector, with clear Monitoring and Evaluation system;
9. **REQUEST** the Commission, in close collaboration with the AfDB, to advocate for effective implementation of the G20 commitments made on labour and social protection during the London and Pittsburgh Summits to the benefit of African countries;
10. **URGE** the Commission, in close collaboration with the AfDB, to prepare and submit to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly, the modalities for funding of the Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation;
11. **REQUEST** the Commission to annually report to this Assembly on progress made in the implementation of this Declaration.

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