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**REPORT OF EXTRAORDINARY SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SDLE-STC),
ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE, 2-6 DECEMBER 2019**



**EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF THE THIRD
SPECIALISED TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (STC-SDLE-3)
02 and 06 DECEMBER 2019, ABIDJAN, COTE D IVOIRE**

**Ext/STC-SDLE-3/MIN/RPT
Original: English**

***Theme: “Poverty Eradication through Strategic Investments at National
and Regional Levels towards Social Development, Labour and
Employment in Africa”***

**REPORT OF THE MINISTERS’ MEETING OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY SESSION OF
THE THIRD 3RD SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
06 DECEMBER 2019**

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING

INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministers' Meeting of the Extra-Ordinary Session of the Third African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment (STC-SDLE-3) was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on the 6 December 2019. The overall theme of STC-SDLE-3 was "Poverty Eradication through Strategic Investments at National and Regional Levels towards Social Development, Labour and Employment in Africa".

ATTENDANCE

2. The Ministers Meeting was attended by delegates from the following AU Member States: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, eSwatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The meeting was also attended by Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the following partners: International Labour Organization (ILO), Conference Inter africaine de la Prevoyance Sociale (CIPRES), and Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU).

OPENING CEREMONY

4. H.E. Amira El-FADIL, Commissioner for Social Affairs thanked the regional and Geneva ILO offices for their unwavering support to the Extraordinary Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment. She added by appreciating the warm welcome and hospitality of the host country - the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire. She also commended the tireless work of the Member States Experts in their thorough consideration of the working documents (Social Agenda, Social Protection Protocol and the Draft Plan of Action on Eradication of Child Labour, Forced Labour and Modern Slavery), the role of social partners and recognized the principle of tripartism upon which this sector is anchored.

5. The Commissioner stressed that Africa is at a crossroads. In this regard she pointed out that decisive leadership is therefore not a choice it is a must in order to face its challenges head on towards advancing social justice, social inclusion and improving social protection particularly in the informal economy sector and other vulnerable populations. She underscored the need to offer solutions and recommendations for the future of work, decent work and social justice, for inclusive growth and sustainable development in the spirit of shared prosperity and transformation of the continent. She called upon the Social Security institutions to engage in the implementation of AU policies and to work towards a continental organization to this effect.

6. The Chairperson of the Third African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment His Excellency Mr. Seni Mahamadou Ouedraogo, Minister of Public Service, Labor and Social Protection of Burkina Faso thanked the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for the warm welcome and support, the African Union Commission, the delegates from Member States and the partners. He informed the meeting of the prevailing untenable security situation in the Sahel region and its impact on the challenges of the labor market in Africa. The Chairperson underscored that the documents considered during this extra ordinary session of the STC, will undoubtedly help to address the challenges related to concerned policy issues facing African peoples. He reiterated that the sustainable approaches of the continent lies in the ability of Member States to consolidate efforts around existing mechanisms such as the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) to drive the development agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

7. Prior to the adoption of the Agenda, the meeting revisited the issues of tripartism and agreed:

- (i) AUC to maintain the tripartite structure of the STC
- (ii) AUC to stress in the SDLE-STC invitations of Member States that all delegations must be tripartitely constituted
- (iii) AUC to consider amending rules of procedure on quorum to include tripartism composition;
- (iv) The legal opinion proffered by the Office of the AUC Legal Council on the Protocol contentious matter on inclusion or exclusion of non-citizens should be annexed to the report.

8. The meeting adopted the Agenda and Programme of Work.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS MEETING

9. The Ministers considered and adopted the Report of the Experts Meeting as amended.

CONSIDERATION OF THE THREE AGENDA DOCUMENTS

I. DRAFT PROTOCOL TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS ON THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SECURITY

10. After deliberations, the Ministers adopted the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security with the following amendments:

- (i) Include the principle of progressive and gradual implementation of social protection provisions according to capacities of Member States
- (ii) Provide details of complaints/grievance mechanisms and explain the scope of the complaints for citizens

II. THE DRAFT AU SOCIAL AGENDA 2063

11. After deliberations, the Ministers adopted the Draft AU Social Agenda 2063, and emphasis:

III. DRAFT TEN YEAR ACTION PLAN ON ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR, FORCED LABOUR, MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA (2020-2030)

12. After deliberations, the Ministers adopted the Draft Ten Year Action Plan to Eradicate Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery (2020-2030) with amendments. .

ADOPTION OF THE MINISTERS' REPORT

13. The Ministers adopted the Report as amended.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. The following issues were flagged:

- (i) Delegates reiterated the importance of always considering and recognising tripartite partners as part of Member State's delegations during future STCs on Social Development, Labour and Employment; and to anchor collaboration between the social partners and Member States in monitoring and evaluation of the key policy documents;
- (ii) AUC to consider convening a tripartite meetings before the ILO General meetings to develop one African position on a number of issues, including proposing an African candidate for the position of ILO Director General
- (iii) On the proposal that AUC to considers organizing an annual forum that discusses social issues, exchange experience on good practices on a number of areas such as Social Security and Retirement Funds, it was agreed that: The Forum can start in 2020 with an informal tripartite meeting in Addis Ababa to discuss the modalities of organization of a formal forum
- (iv) The issue to be put further in the agenda of the next ordinary session of the STC in 2021 for discussion
- (v) Have annual tripartite meeting in Addis Ababa for 1 day to prepare for International Labour Council (ILC) in Geneva and discuss issues of ILO including the Governing Body (candidatures) in order to have common position

15. On the proposal to create a platform for labor migration, the Commission informed that there are several frameworks in place already to address issues such as the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) the HoAI, Rabat Process and Khartoum Processes; as well as the migration centers to be established in Morocco, Sudan and Mali , which will assist and can be used as tools to address protection of migrant workers

16. On the creation of a forum to address employment issues, the Commission informed that there is a new initiative of H.E the Chairperson of the AUC, called 1 million jobs just launched in September 2019, led by Department of HRST for implementation which targets 100,000 SMES to be created, with support on training, micro loans, entrepreneurship and innovative ideas.

17. On the need to make an assessment of social dialogue with ILO, institutionalize social dialogue to define strategies and help Member States, while the Commission recognizes importance of Social Dialogue in Member States this request need to go through AU procedures.

CLOSING

18. The Commissioner thanked all in attendance for their commitment and dedication. She pointed out that the three documents adopted are essential for the provision of comprehensive social protection and social security for all African Citizens. While acknowledging that implementation can be challenging, she appealed to Member States to keenly follow through. On its part, the Commission will submit the documents to the AUC Summit in February 2020 for political will to allow for popularization and implementation. The Commissions' call is three fold: Take care of implementation; accelerate implementation; and appeal for action.

19. The Chair of the STC3 Bureau similarly thanked all for participation and adoption of the three documents submitted for discussion by consensus. He empathized commitment of the STC3 Bureau, and his personal commitment as chair of the bureau to continue supporting the Secretariat to coordinate implementation of decisions taken; and he expressed hoped that there will be other occasions to continue discussing on current and future initiatives.

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1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Extraordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, 2nd and 6th December 2019
2. **ADOPTS** the following:
 - i) The draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security, for onwards submission to the next session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Matters
 - ii) the Social Agenda 2063;
 - iii) the Ten Year Plan of Action on Eradication of Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of the outcomes of the extraordinary session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, labour and Employment and report regularly to the Executive Council.

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