FIRST MEETING OF THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (STC-SDLE-1) ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA 20-24 APRIL 2015

STC-SDLE-1/Min/

THEME:- “SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT”

ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 24 April 2015
ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

We, Ministers in Charge of Social Development, Labour and Employment of African Union Member States, meeting at the First Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, together with Social Partners, under the theme, "Social Protection and Inclusive Development" at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 24 April 2015,

RECALLING the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, in particular its provisions on human security, encompassing rights to education, health, nutritious food and social security for children, and for employment and social security for vulnerable populations such as older persons, persons with disabilities, women, girls, youths, the working poor in the informal economy and rural sectors, and for migrant workers and their families, among others;

CONVINCED that the family is the fundamental unit of society and has multiple roles and functions, especially in Africa where it is central, unique and indispensable in support of all its members, hence needs all requisite support to be strengthened further;

ALARMED by the devastating Ebola crisis and loss of lives and UNDERSCORE the urgency for support to strengthen national health systems and to scale up social protection services for vulnerable populations;

NOTING the adoption of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development, as well as the Programmes on Labour Migration, (Assembly/AU/20(XXIV)); ENCOURAGING cooperation at all levels and sharing of experiences and best practices among Member States and regions for the effective implementation of these policy instruments;

REAFFIRMING that regular labour migration is an important vehicle for regional cooperation and integration; CONCERNED by the loss of lives of young migrations at sea, and UNDERLINE the urgent need for their integration in our labour markets;

CONCERNED by the deteriorating security situations in some Member States and regions, which impacts negatively on our development efforts; DETERMINED to contribute to the AU Agenda 2063, a new continental socio-economic vision that will promote wider inclusive human development and social protection for all;

COMMIT ourselves to:

a) Fully pursue the rights-based approach to social protection and social security for our citizens, aiming at inclusive development that leaves no one behind, through appropriate legal and policy frameworks supplementing the AU Charter on Human and People’s Rights;

b) Enhance political will in order to fully engage in the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063 where it concerns social development, labour and employment;
c) **Drive social protection** by conviction and a non-partisan political vision that is owned by the state and accepted as a cornerstone of citizen-state relations otherwise referred to as a social contract;

d) **Invest in social protection** for a multiplier effect that promotes social and sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, job creation, expansion of local markets, and improvement of occupational and economic inclusion;

e) **Recognize recipients** of social protection (services and benefits) as rights holders and active citizens to participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of social protection services;

f) **Implement the African Common Position** on the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa and address the root causes of child marriage;

g) **Improve the Status of Women** in African Labour Markets, in particular the status and situation of domestic workers;

h) **Redouble our efforts** towards full and harmonious integration of non-national Africans into our labour markets and economic and social systems;

i) **Expedite** ratification and domestication of the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons by all Member States;

**REQUEST** the Commission to:

a) Prepare an additional protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security;

b) Develop a Social Agenda for the AU Agenda 2063;

c) Promote South-South cooperation on social protection, in particular with Brazil, in collaboration with international partners (UNDP, ILO, UNICEF, FAO, AfDB and Rio+ World Centre);

d) Facilitate the revision of the AU Plan of Action on Ageing of 2002, and to align it with the provisions of the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons;

e) Pursue the establishment of the AU Disability Institute (AUDI) and collect the arrears in contributions owed by Member States that are members of the dissolved African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI);

f) Speed up the implementation of the First Five Year Priority Programme for the Implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development with amendments to be incorporated by the Commission;

g) Consider holding an Extra-Ordinary Summit on Labour Migration.

**WELCOME** the offer by the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria to host the Second Meeting of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment.