1. The adoption of social protection should be grounded in human rights, making it accessible to all. Social protection needs to be driven 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. Countries should design social protection systems with broader objectives of ensuring social, political and economic inclusion, especially among vulnerable groups. As such, social protection needs to be a comprehensive set of inter-sectorial policies that protect citizens - prioritising the poorest - from social, environmental and economic shocks that arise throughout their life-cycle and build their resilience, as well as improve their wellbeing. Countries can consider a broad range of policies that combine and coordinate social services and benefits that include contributory and non-contributory social transfers, food security, in synergy with sectorial policies.

2. Chronic underfinancing of social protection in Africa calls for strong political will to put adequate resources and institutional frameworks behind the social protection agenda and to ensure financial sustainability. Financial sustainability hinges on anchoring the social protection agenda firmly on domestic financing and reflecting it in countries' medium term expenditure frameworks (MTEF). Effective domestic resource mobilization, through tax reforms and innovative forms of financing, can provide the fiscal space for greater investments in social protection in Africa. The private sector can play a critical role for the financial sustainability of social protection in the region as a responsible contributor to governments’ fiscal policies.

3. While domestic financing is the primary source of funding for social protection programmes, international coordination will continue playing a
al role for supporting countries in Africa. Technical cooperation and capacity development support from development partners, such as the United Nations system, will continue playing a critical role in supporting governments to strengthen their social protection systems, including through South-South cooperation exchanges and partnerships. Caution should be exercised not to create vertical funds but rather to strengthen government efforts providing support that is integrated into government priorities, institutions, and systems.

4. Social protection should be managed through public systems based on national legal frameworks and aligned with development strategies. A clear definition of roles and responsibilities amongst institutions and coordination structures among local, regional and national levels are critical. In this regard, the African Union is requested to play a pivotal role in supporting Member States. It is important to foster information and monitoring systems to assure the effectiveness of the services provided, the results, as well as the process of management towards the strengthening and improvement of policies. Social protection systems can be more efficient and expand their impact when promoted by well-planned offers of services, based on the analysis of needs and vulnerabilities, operated with transparent and accurate eligibility criteria. The social protection system shall be addressed to all citizens under the same conditions of vulnerability and guided by the principles of universality, uniformity (i.e. homogeneity in quality of service provision regardless of location) and equity.

5. Beneficiaries of social protection need to be recognized as rights holders and active citizens with the right to advocate for the fulfillment of their social and economic rights. It is therefore critical to ensure their participation in the social protection system through community-based participatory processes.
6. Social protection systems are an investment with a multiplier effect that promote sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, job creation, promote local markets, improving occupational and economic inclusion. Social protection must be articulated with actions towards inclusive productivity focused on the most vulnerable.