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**3RD SESSION OF THE AU CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
26-30 NOVEMBER 2012**

***THEME: PROMOTING THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES***

CONCEPT NOTE

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**3rdSESSION OF THE AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT (CAMSD3), ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 26-30 NOVEMBER 2012**

I. BACKGROUND

1. AU Member States have made notable efforts to address social development over the past years. Some Member States have designed and implemented various social policies to promote development through the redistributive, protective and transformative functions of social policy. Examples are cash transfer programmes to assist vulnerable groups, safety net programmes, food subsidy grants, child support grants and integrated basic education assistance programmes.
2. The Second Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Social Development (CAMSD2) was convened in Khartoum, The Sudan, 21-25 November 2010, in accordance with the Decision of the AU Executive Council (EX.CL/Dec.473(XIV) of January 2009. After considering the Report of the CAMSD2, the Executive Council requested the AU Commission to:
 - a) Facilitate capacity building activities for social policy analysts in Member States and devise strategies for the successful implementation of the Social Policy Framework for Africa (SPF);
 - b) Assist in the restructuring process of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI);
 - c) Facilitate the work of the Steering Committee on Ageing towards the establishment of the Advisory Council on Ageing, and in this regard, request the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to include the Advisory Council on Ageing in the draft additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) focusing on Ageing, in order to provide the Advisory Council with a firm legal basis.
3. Subsequently, the agenda of the 3rd Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Social Development provides for particular focus on persons with disabilities, children, and implementation of the Social Policy Framework for Africa.

II. MAIN OBJECTIVES

As portrayed in the theme for the Conference, the key focus of the meeting will be to consider policy, activities and organisational structures to improve the lives of persons with disabilities in on the Continent. Measures to address the wellbeing of children and families in Africa will also be considered, as well

measures to facilitate implementation of the Social Policy Framework for Africa.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

4. It is anticipated that the Conference will adopt the following:
 - i. The Continental Plan of Action of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010 – 2019);
 - ii. Decisions on the proposed African Union Disability Architecture;
 - iii. Proposal for the Restructuring of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI);
 - iv. Decisions on the Implementation of the Call for Accelerated Action on the Plan of Action Towards Africa Fit for Children;
 - v. Decisions on Best Practices for Social Protection measures towards vulnerable groups in Member States.
 - vi. An African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy development and implementation, for the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014.

IV. FORMAT OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting will be organized in two phases:

- a. **Experts Meeting: 26-28 November 2012**

During the first two days of the Conference, experts/officials from Member States will consider relevant documents and make appropriate recommendations for the Ministers' consideration and approval.

- b. **Ministers Meeting: 29-30 November 2012**

The Ministers will consider the Report of the Experts' Meeting, as well as accompanying documentation, including recommendations regarding the way forward to address the concerns of the persons with disabilities, older persons in Africa, children and matters pertaining to promotion of social policy intervention.

V. AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION

6. The Conference will consider the following key items:
7. The main objectives of the 3rd Session of the AU Conference of Ministers for Social Development (CAMSD3) are to consider the following:
 - i. The Continental Plan of Action of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010 – 2019);
 - ii. Report of the Commission on the Draft African Union Disability Architecture;
 - iii. Progress report on the Restructuring of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI);
 - iv. Progress report on the development of the Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
 - v. Report on the Implementation of the Call for Accelerated Action on the Plan of Action Towards Africa Fit for Children;
 - vi. Report on the 3rd Pan-African Child Forum;
 - vii. Paper by the Commission on Best Practices for Social Protection measures towards vulnerable groups in Member States;
 - viii. Report on the training of social policy analysts from Member States;
 - ix. Draft African Common Position in preparation for the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2012.
 - x. Briefing by the Commission on the Draft Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons as considered by the 52nd Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, Banjul, the Gambia, 22 October – 2 November 2012.

VI. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE WILL BE THE FOLLOWING:

8. Documents:
 - i. The Social Policy Framework for Africa;

- ii. Plan of Action on the Family in Africa;
 - iii. Revised Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010-2019);
 - iv. The African Union Disability Architecture;
 - v. The Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing;
 - vi. The Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons;
 - vii. Report on the Implementation of the Call for Accelerated Action on the Plan of Action Towards Africa Fit for Children;
 - viii. Summary report of the sessions of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, since November 2010, presented to the Executive Council;
 - ix. Paper by the Commission on Best Practices for Social Protection measures towards vulnerable groups in Member States;
 - x. Report on the training of social policy analysts from Member States; and
 - xi. Draft African Common Position in preparation for the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014.
9. The Concept Note, Agendas, Work Programmes, and documents to be considered at the Conference will be posted on the AU Website (www.africa-union.org) and other relevant documentation will be circulated during the Conference.

V. PARTICIPANTS

10. It is expected that the 3rd Session of AU Conference of Ministers for Social Development will bring together: Ministers responsible for Social Development and Experts/Officials from AU Member States, the RECs, the AU Commission and AU Organs, UN Agencies, Development Partners, International, Regional and National Organizations, including CSO's dealing with social development issues, Independent Experts and Resource Persons, and Special Guests.

VI. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

11. The AUC will be responsible for the invitations to Member States and the preparations of all related documents. Translation and interpretation services, and secretarial support, will be availed by the AUC.

VII. BUDGET AND OTHER RESOURCES

12. While the AU Commission will contribute the amount earmarked in the budget for the convening of the Conference, financial and technical support might be provided by partner organizations to facilitate the preparation of documents and participation of representatives from CSOs, independent experts and resource persons.

VIII. CONTACT PERSONS:

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