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UNIÃO AFRICANA

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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone : 011-551 7700

Fax : 011-551 7844

Website : [www.au.int](http://www.au.int)

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**THIRD SESSION OF THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL  
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,  
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (STC-SDLE-3)  
01-05 APRIL 2019, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA.**

***Theme: "Poverty Eradication Through Strategic Investments at National and  
Regional Levels Towards Social Development, Labour and Employment in  
Africa"***

**DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment is one of fourteen (14) STCs, defined as an Organ of the African Union in accordance with Article 5 (1) (g) of the AU Constitutive Act. The STC on Social Development, Labour and Employment meets once every two (2) years. It is set as a 'tripartite organ composed of Ministers in charge of Social Development, Labour and Employment or such other Ministers or Authorities duly accredited by the Governments of Member States, and the Representatives of the most representative Employers and Workers' Organizations at national, regional and continental levels' (Rule 3)

The Third Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment (STC-SDLE-3) is scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, AUC Headquarters, **from 01 to 05 April 2019** under the Theme: "***Poverty Eradication through Strategic Investments at National and Regional Levels towards Social Development, Labour and Employment in Africa***". This theme is opportune in light of the necessity for strategic investments and strengthening of key institutions as catalytic means of policy planning, implementation and accountability of the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is worth recalling that the Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, adopted a Resolution on 'Financing social protection in Africa' (Addis Ababa, 4 and 5 April 2016). They also adopted a second Resolution on 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.

In response to the Assembly Decision, it is important that all key stakeholders work closely together towards ensuring that key objectives are set and activities planned for the upcoming STC-SDLE-3 are fulfilled. The STC participants must furthermore identify challenges in the domains of social development, labour and employment, social protection and social security and decide which investments will be required to obtain desired outcomes.

## **II. RATIONALE**

The number of extremely wealthy Africans is increasing. The share of Africans who are poor fell from 56 percent in 1990 to 43 percent in 2012. Poverty is related to social development issues such as employment, social security, social protection, equality, and structure of the economy including income source, social norms and traditions. The access to these basic social services is a key determinant of poverty in countries.

The African Union Agenda 2063 aspires for an Africa which shall be a prosperous continent, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development with resources to drive its own development. It has provisions under its Aspiration 1 (A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development), Goal 1 (A High Standard of

Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All), and Priority Area 2 (Poverty, Inequality and Hunger). Within this framework, the AU Commission is resolute in supporting Member States to learn and invest in the best practices of institutional development and address the *what, where and how* for strategic investments in poverty eradication at national and regional levels towards social development, labour and employment in Africa to be made, and ascertain the prerequisites for accountability and responsibility to be enforced.

There are a number of other priority areas that address the issues of Poverty Eradication through appropriate strategies. Among these priority areas are: Incomes, Jobs and decent work; Social security and protection including Persons with Disabilities; health, education and inclusive growth among others. In addition, other areas that are negatively affecting growth and contributing to poverty rates are inequality and discrimination in particular against women, girls and persons with disabilities including Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons who are one of the most vulnerable groups affected by conflict and humanitarian situations, in this vein the AU selected the theme for 2019 to address “Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa” . Recognising that inclusive growth and sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing the specific needs of these groups.

In order to give these key areas visibility and build a coherent approach to social development, they were integrated into the ‘**Social Agenda of the Agenda 2063**’ which was formulated with UNDP support for submission to the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the STC on Social Development, Labour and Employment in April 2019. In addition, in order to give a legal basis, a draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security was formulated and will be submitted to the STC3 for consideration. Further, in an effort to address disability rights in Africa, a Draft Report on the Implementation of the of the Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010 – 2019) and the the Draft Replacement Policy Document of the Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010 – 2019) will be submitted for consideration and endorsement.

It is imperative to augment investment in an appropriate manner in social protection, social security and employment as essential strategies to eradicate poverty, including eradication of working poverty which is as high as 30% of workers on average in the continent. Innovative employment strategies are also necessary to reinforce the roles of disenfranchised young African adults through a comprehensive outreach approach involving providing information, life-skills education (effective and functional job training), proven technologies and opportunities to at least 800,000 youth in 20 RMCs<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/innovative-programme-to-improve-employment-and-income-outcomes-for-young-people-14217/>

### III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STC-SDLE-3

The overall objective of the STC-SDLE3 is to consider investment strategies for poverty reduction policies at national and regional levels towards social development through empowering the vulnerable and marginalized groups to improve their access to livelihood opportunities.

### IV. FORMAT OF THE STC-SDLE - 3

The meeting will be organized in three phases:

- a) High Level Experts Meeting: 01 April 2019, in Addis Ababa

During the first day (07 April 2019) of the Meeting, Experts/Officials from Member States will consider the Draft Implementation Report of the African Decade on Disability, the Draft Replacement Policy Document of the Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010 – 2019), the **Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of Citizens to Social Protection, Social Security, the Draft AU Social Agenda 2063, the Draft Ten Year Action Plan to Eradicate Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

- b) **Experts Meeting: 02-03 April 2019, in Addis Ababa**

During the second and third days (02 – 03 April 2019) of the Meeting, experts/officials from Member States, **Experts** will consider relevant documents and expert panellists' views of the 2 parallels sessions and make appropriate recommendations for the Ministers' consideration and approval.

- c) **Ministers Meeting: 04-05 April 2019, in Addis Ababa**

The Ministers will consider the Report of the Experts' Meeting and endorse the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security; Draft AU Social Agenda 2063; as well as the other draft policy frameworks and guidelines in its agenda.

- 1. Pre-session event:** Technical Consultation of the Social Security Agencies and Pension Funds to consider the following agenda items (in collaboration with ILO and ISSA, IOM, FAO, NEPAD, UNDP, WIEGO, and regional professional organizations):

- Enhancing inter-agencies cooperation for promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers
- Ensuring extension of social security rights to workers in the informal economy and rural sector.

2. **Pre-session Event:** High Level Experts Meeting to consider the Draft Report on the Implementation of the Continental Plan of Action on African Decade of Persons with Disability (2010 – 2019) and the Draft Replacement Policy Framework of the Continental Plan of Action (2010 – 2019)

## **V. PARTICIPANTS**

The Third Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Social Development, Labour and Employment (STC –SDLE-3) will bring together Ministers in charge of Social Development, Labour and Employment, Government Experts responsible for the concerned sectors, the social partners, Regional Economic Communities, and organizations with status of observer such as the Pan African Productivity Association. Pan-African, OECD and International Organizations, including UN agencies, working in the areas of concern will also be invited.

## **VII. DATE AND VENUE**

The STC–SDLE-3 will be held from **01-05 April 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**

## **VIII. LANGUAGES**

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the four (4) working languages of the African Union: Arabic, English, French and Portuguese.

## **IX. DOCUMENTATION**

The main working documents of the STC-SDLE-3 will be available on the AU Website: [www.au.int](http://www.au.int)