

**REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF  
PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

**OF ZIMBABWE**

**AT THE OCCASION OF THE  
ELECTION INTO THE BUREAU**

**OF THE**

**FIRST SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL**

**DEVELOPMENT, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

**23 APRIL 2015**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

- **Dear Colleague Ministers;**
- **Distinguished delegates**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Allow me to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude and pleasure at the humbling confidence you have shown in my Government by electing Zimbabwe to be the chair of the Incoming Bureau. Indeed, Zimbabwe is pleased to accept the honour to chair this august body and from the onset, allow me to assure you of our determination to work for the greater good of the African people.**

**It is common cause, Dear Colleague Ministers that Africa lags behind in asserting its rightful place in the international community. This is attributable to the inequalities between Africa and the developed world which manifest in all international fora particularly those dealing with social development, labour and employment.**

**Dear Colleagues, I wish to encourage, the participation of Africa in the global arena to ensure**

**that our voice is heard. In so doing, I wish to emphasise the need for us to realize that we are the masters of our own destiny, hence the need to pursue value addition in all our programmes which would ultimately benefit our people. Given that our continent is endowed with vast natural resources, it is only through our combined efforts that we can realize the full potential that Africa has.**

**Without taking much of your time Dear Colleagues, distinguished delegates, allow me to also congratulate my fellow members of the Bureau and to say on their behalf, that we will spare no effort in moving the work of our STC forward.**

**Once again, I wish to thank you all for the vote of confidence you have shown in us. I therefore wish to declare the First Session of the African Union Specialised Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment officially open.**

**I thank you.**