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**SECOND MEETING OF THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL
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**“Mobilisation of Domestic Resources:
Fighting Against Corruption and
Illicit Financial Flows”**

INVESTING IN CHILDREN, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND OLDER PERSONS

A. INVESTING IN THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

1. The greatest opportunity for Africa's economic development lies in the potential of its current and future generations of children and youth. Today, two thirds of African Union Member States are still in the pre-dividend phase of demographic transition, characterized by high fertility rates and high dependency ratios. Today's rapidly increasing child and youth populations will constitute Africa's working age population in 15-20 years' time.
2. The proportion of children living in monetary and non-monetary poverty remains very high across Africa, potentially affecting two out of every three children on the continent. Success in ending child poverty and harnessing the demographic dividend depends on the capacity of governments to mobilise domestic resources — mainly through taxation — and invest them effectively and efficiently at national and subnational levels in critical sectors for children.
3. Investing in children's health, protection and education holds the promise of faster and more stable growth in the 21st century that could lift hundreds of millions out of extreme poverty and contribute to enhanced prosperity, stability and peace on the continent and beyond.
4. Budget transparency is a core component of good budgeting and helps to ensure that public resources are spent in children's best interest. Transparency contributes to efficiency and combats corruption and mismanagement of public budgets, which in turn increases the public resources available to advance child rights.
5. To achieve the Agenda 2063 Ten-year Implementation Plan and the SDGs and the pledge to Leave No One Behind and to accelerate implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, Governments:-
 - i) Need to increase and improve budget allocation and spending to key sectors of importance for children with a specific focus on the most marginalized and deprived groups;
 - ii) During the budget planning stage of the budget process, they must include the situation of different groups of children, especially those in vulnerable situations, taking into account the past (at least the last 3 to 5 years), current and future situations (at least next 5 to 10 years).
 - iii) Ensure that adults and children, including the most marginalized and deprived, have meaningful opportunities to influence public budgeting and spending. This

- includes ensuring that people have access to timely and user-friendly information in languages and formats they can access and understand;
- iv) Maximize the use of available resources (domestic and international) to increase investments in Africa's children and youth, targeting population groups with the greatest need, and scaling up essential services — such as health, social welfare and protection — to support them;
 - v) Strengthen public financial management systems, including greater transparency, so that budgets are aligned with cost plans, support the best combination of evidence-based programs to promote children's rights and are fully expended as intended;
 - vi) Transform Africa's educational, skills and vocational learning systems through systems strengthening, curriculum reform and access to technology, to enhance learning outcomes and to match the skills of Africa's children and youth to current and future labour market needs;
 - vii) Protect Africa's children and women from violence, exploitation and abuse, especially child marriage and harmful practices.

B. INVESTING IN DISABILITY INCLUSION

1. The World Report on Disability, published jointly by the World Health Organization and the World Bank in 2011, estimates that over one billion people, or about 15% of the world's population is living with a disability. This is significantly higher than previous estimates. The Report found higher disability prevalence in lower income countries than in higher income countries. Poorer people, including women and older people were also found to have a higher prevalence of disability, and children from poorer households and those in ethnic minority groups were at a significantly higher risk of disability than other children. The implications for the countries of Africa are clear. To address these findings, the World Report suggests measures to improve accessibility and equality of opportunity; promote participation and inclusion; and increase respect for the autonomy and dignity of persons with disabilities
2. The World Report highlights and documents widespread evidence of barriers such as:
 - i) Inadequate policies and standards;
 - ii) Negative attitudes;
 - iii) Lack of provision of services;
 - iv) Problems of service delivery;

- v) Inadequate funding;
 - vi) Lack of accessibility;
 - vii) Lack of consultation and involvement; and
 - viii) Lack of data and evidence.
3. These disabling barriers contribute to the disadvantages experienced by people with disabilities in all countries, and result in poorer health, lower education, and less economic participation, all leading to higher rates of poverty and increased dependency, restricted participation and exclusion.
 4. To address these barriers and the unacceptable situation of persons with disabilities in Africa, the African Union in partnership with other stakeholders proposed an African Decade of Persons with Disabilities from 1999 – 2009, modelled after similar Decades in other Regions of the world. The First Decade was extended in 2010 to 2019 as a result of poor results from an analysis on the implementation of the Continental Plan Action of the Decade. The goal of the extended African Decade of Persons with Disabilities is the full participation, equality, inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities in Africa.
 5. Investment in disability inclusion also ensures gender equality, empowering all disabled women and girls, and the full realisation of their human rights to achieve sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development without leaving anyone behind. There is need for gender mainstreaming with a focus on disability inclusion, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies.

C. INVESTING IN AGEING

6. People are living longer, more active and more fulfilling lives. But those additional years mean additional costs as pensions are drawn for longer periods and the costs of surgery, medication, healthcare and nursing care continue to soar. So the flipside of the scientific triumph over illness and disease is that many people do not have adequate financial resources to support their longer lives with the desired level of comfort.
7. In low- and middle-income countries, this is largely the result of large reductions in mortality at younger ages, particularly during childhood and childbirth, and from infectious diseases.
1. Approximately 11 per cent of the world's population comprises people over 60 years. By 2050, this figure is expected to rise to 22 per cent. The world is ageing

and we need to be prepared for it. In 2050 nearly 1 in 5 people in developing countries will be over 60

2. Many have not saved enough privately and their investments are not generating as good a return as is needed. Many traditional workplace pension schemes, which offer a guaranteed payment linked to salary, are now deep in deficit as workers draw pensions for much longer without working any additional years before retirement or making additional contributions during their working lives.
3. Ensuring both adequate old-age incomes and the long-term financial sustainability of pension and healthcare systems is a huge challenge. In the current environment, there is the danger that immediate pressures to act will result in poorly designed short-term responses with negative long-term consequences for the capacity of pension systems to provide adequate levels of retirement income on a sustainable basis.
4. Older people form a significant proportion of those affected by crises and disasters and they are far too often invisible in emergency humanitarian situations as well as longer term development programmes. Ignoring the ageing population is no longer an option. The health needs of the world's population are being transformed by global ageing yet governments, development and health practitioners have been slow to react. There is no historical precedent for a majority of middle-aged and older adults having living parents, as is already the case today. More children will know their grandparents and even their great-grandparents, especially their great-grandmothers. On average, women live six to eight years longer than men.
5. Older people have a lifetime of skills and experience, and most continue to contribute to local economies through paid or unpaid employment. Many also have valuable roles caring for or raising children.
6. Despite significant vulnerabilities and capacities, older people continue to be marginalized in national development priorities. SDGs present a significant opportunity for 'leaving no one behind'. At the same time, older people's experience is different based on gender, disability and other parameters. Lifelong experiences in the form of lesser opportunities, inequalities, limited decision making roles, poorer health access and higher poverty means older women are much more vulnerable. Older people are facing the following challenges:
 - i) Majority of older people die of non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes, rather than from infectious and parasitic diseases. In addition, older people often have several health problems, such as diabetes and heart disease, at the same time;
 - ii) Older people have experienced some form of maltreatment at home. Abusive acts in institutions include physically restraining residents, depriving them of dignity (by for instance leaving them in soiled clothes) and intentionally providing insufficient care (such as allowing them to develop

pressure sores). The maltreatment of older people can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences;

- iii) Many of the very old people lose their ability to live independently because of limited mobility, frailty or other physical or mental health problems. Many require some form of long-term care, which can include home nursing, community care and assisted living, residential care and long stays in hospitals;
- iv) When communities are displaced by natural disasters or armed conflict, older people may be unable to flee or travel long distances and may be left behind. Yet, in many situations they can also be a valuable resource for their communities as well as for the humanitarian aid process when they are involved as community leaders.

7. Investing in children, older persons and persons with disabilities recognises the importance of

- i) the provisions of social protection systems with a focus on, among other groups, vulnerable children, persons with disabilities and older persons;
- ii) employment and decent work with full and equal participation of persons with disabilities and older persons, in the formal labour market;
- iii) education for all children, by delivering quality education to all children, including reaching children with disabilities and to upgrading educational facilities that are sensitive to children with disabilities;
- iv) technology, through the facilitation of accessible technologies for persons with disabilities and older persons;
- v) data and monitoring, for an increase in high-quality and reliable data disaggregated by disability, among many other relevant characteristics.

D. Recommendations

8. In an effort to protect the rights and welfare of vulnerable children, older people and persons with disabilities in Africa and to ensure more equitable provision of resources, the Department of Social Affairs calls upon this Second Meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration to increase funding for:

- i) programming for all vulnerable groups, in particular children, persons with disabilities and older persons and extend services to rural areas;

- i) the development, implementation and monitoring of the new and existing legal policy instruments to ensure the protection of vulnerable children, persons with disabilities and older persons. This will ensure the elimination of exclusion and other discrimination in service provision and resource allocation, and provide more effective measures to halt corruption, which robs many children, older people and persons with disabilities of their livelihoods, retirement and other benefits;
- ii) the need for increased, regular and comprehensive collection of disaggregated data for vulnerable children, older and disabled populations in Africa and the needs related to their vulnerabilities. Lack of data hampers vulnerability targeting.