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SOCIAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ILO	International Labour Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OAU	Organization of African Unity
REC	Regional Economic Community
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
SPF	Social Policy Framework for Africa
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The vision and mission of the African Union Commission (AUC) is to build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, using the best of the continent's human and material resources. To this end, the AUC programme on social development is based on a human-centred approach that seeks to promote human rights and dignity. However, this aspiration is likely to be hampered unless the dire social developmental crisis facing the continent—reflected in, among others, a high burden of disease, lack of basic infrastructure and social services, inadequate health care and services; poor access to basic education and training; high illiteracy rates; gender inequality; youth marginalisation; and political instability in a number of countries—is sufficiently addressed.

It is in this context that the Ministers present at the First Session of the African Union Labour and Social Affairs Commission, held in Mauritius in 2003, made a recommendation and requested the AUC in collaboration and consultation with other stakeholders, to develop a Social Policy Framework for Africa (SPF). The primary reason behind this recommendation was to complement and supplement on-going national and regional programme and policy initiatives such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP) and NEPAD, and to close the gap where it was deemed that these did not adequately address social issues.

Drawing upon the strategic objectives of the AUC social programme, and within the context of its objectives of promoting sustainable development, the SPF aims to provide an overarching policy structure to assist African Union Member States to strengthen and give increasing priority to their national social policies and hence promote human empowerment and development. The framework treats social development as subordinate to economic growth, but justifies social development as a goal in its own right. It acknowledges that while economic growth is a necessary condition of social development, it is not exclusively or sufficiently able to address the challenges posed by the multi-faceted socio-economic and political forces that together generate the continent's social development challenges.

The SPF focuses, in no particular priority, on 18 key thematic social issues: population and development; labour and employment; Social Protection, health; HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other infectious diseases; migration; education; agriculture, food and nutrition; the family; children, adolescents and youth; ageing; disability; gender equality and women's empowerment; culture; urban development, environmental sustainability, the impact of globalisation and trade liberalization in Africa and good Governance, Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law. , .. In addition the following four issues were identified as also deserving particular attention in Africa: drug and substance abuse and crime prevention; sport; civil strife and conflict situations; and foreign debt. The discussion of each issue is immediately followed by a broad range of recommendations to guide, and assist AU Member States in formulating and implementing their own national social policies.

Cognizant of the importance of effective monitoring and evaluation and coordination in ensuring that the SPF is implemented and has maximum impact, the key roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders are outlined in the concluding section.

1.0   Introduction

Rationale

1*.*   The need for a Social Policy Framework for Africa is within the purview of the African Union's vision to "build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, an Africa driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena" and, to achieve by 2025:

> *A united and integrated Africa; an Africa imbued with the ideals of justice and peace; an inter-dependent and virile Africa determined to map for itself an ambitious strategy; an Africa underpinned by political, economic, social and cultural integration which would restore to Pan-Africanism its full meaning; an Africa able to make the best of its human and material resources, and keen to ensure the progress and prosperity of its citizens by taking advantage of the opportunities offered by a globalised world; an Africa engaged in promoting its values in a world rich in its disparities.*

2.   The AU Commission's (AUC) programme on social development is based on a human-centered approach that seeks to promote human rights and dignity. The programme encompasses health and endemic diseases; migration; population; reproductive health and rights; culture; sport; social welfare and protection of vulnerable groups including children, people with disabilities, the older persons; the family; gender equality; education; and human resource development, amongst others. People are regarded as the drivers and the beneficiaries of sustainable development and, in this regard, special attention is also given to marginalized and disadvantaged groups and communities. A continental social policy framework will therefore enhance the attainment of the AU Social Affairs Department's ambition of promoting:

> *A holistic and human-centred approach to socio-economic development, and intra-and inter-sectoral coordination of the social sector with a view to alleviating poverty and improving the quality of life of the African people, in particular the most vulnerable and marginalised.*

3.   In order to reverse the legacy of colonialism, exploitation and abject poverty, in the 1960s African governments drew up development plans and programmes intended to improve the cumulative process of underdevelopment. The major characteristic of this period was that there was considerable infrastructural investment and some economic growth, but no trickle-down effect to the grassroots level. Consequently, the condition of the ordinary people in the continent remained the same as before. In recognition of this, from the 1970s various policy reforms were introduced and implemented to mitigate the different socio-economic crises experienced by African countries and to reduce poverty. In many cases, such reforms started with Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) of the 1980s, which were designed by Bretton Woods Institutions (the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund) for the purpose of bringing about economic growth and recovery.

4.   One of the major limitations of the policy prescriptions that came with structural adjustment packages was that they were based on a narrow quantitative concern for economic growth and macro-economic stability. There was little or no concern for questions of equity, livelihoods and human security. Where these concerns were on the agenda, they were to be achieved through trickle-down effects of growth, and not through any deliberate intervention by the state. In general, social development was seen as a drag on economic development, existing merely to serve the objectives of the latter. This policy regime has created a false dichotomy between social development and social policy on the one hand, and economic development and economic policy on the other. The disproportionate preoccupation with macroeconomics also tends to reduce social policy to poverty reduction; merely palliative, to reduce the adverse effects of economic stabilization. It also tends to ignore the synergies and complementarities between social development and economic development. As Mkandawire (2004) argues, this approach undermines the intrinsic value of social policy and development, and the fact that issues of equity and improved livelihoods are important development goals in their own right.

5.   Largely because of this dominant development paradigm, in most African countries there is relatively low expenditure and investment in social development. There is also little inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation among the various social sector institutions, and between them and the economic ministries. This tends to be the case at both policy formulation and implementation stages. In addition, despite the growing recognition by scholars and development agencies that the greatest wealth of a nation is its people, the human capabilities of the African people have not been harnessed and mobilized for the continent's development. Instead, there has emerged in the continent what can be referred to as an enclave economy - one that deliberately excludes and exploits the majority of the African population while benefiting a minority. Consequently, social development policies in the continent are often inadequate because they are oriented towards the urban centres and lack bottom-up concern, with emphasis on decentralisation, self-reliance and community or grass-root involvement.

6.   This lack of 'inclusive' development has pertained to most of Africa's history, and necessitates that the continent develop a social policy framework combining economic dynamism (including pro-poor growth policies), social integration (societies that are inclusive, stable, just and based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, non-discrimination, respect for diversity and participation of all people) and an active role for government in the provision of basic social and other services at local and national levels.

7.   Notwithstanding the progress made, the general developmental crisis in Africa has not been fundamentally altered. Despite the wealth of natural resources in the continent, African countries typically fall toward the bottom of any list measuring social development and economic activity. In 2006, for example, 34 of the 50 nations on the United Nations' (UN) list of least developed countries (LDCs) were in Africa, and the bottom 25 spots on the UN quality of life index are regularly filled by African nations. Indeed, it is now universal knowledge that a third of Sub-Saharan Africans are underfed

and that more than 40 percent live in absolute poverty as measured by the poverty threshold of less than US$1 per day. This tragic waste of human potential in Africa is caused by many factors, including a high disease burden (most of which is preventable); a lack of basic infrastructure and social services such as roads, potable water and sanitation; inadequate health care and services; poor access to basic education and training; high illiteracy rates; gender inequality; youth marginalisation; and political instability in a number of countries. In addition, rural-urban migration in many countries has led to rapid urbanisation which, in turn, has created unplanned, congested urban centres and slums. These slums are typically characterised by, *inter alia*, high levels of unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, and crime. The prevailing population dynamics that include high infant and child morbidity and mortality rates, high maternal mortality, high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and low life expectancy also have serious implications for socio-economic development in Africa. The continent's situation is further aggravated by external factors such as debilitating debt, unfavourable terms of trade, and declining Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows.

8.   Africa has, in the last decade, made significant strides in certain areas of social and economic development. For example, in addition to increasing literacy rates, the continent has witnessed increasing democratisation and reduction of civil strife. Furthermore, while the HIV prevalence rate remains high relative to other regions of the world, African countries are making progress in reducing or slowing the spread of the epidemic, and access to treatment for people living with the virus and the disease, is improving. Overall, countries are intensifying their interventions to improve social development indicators across the continent, with a number having demonstrated their commitment in this direction by creating ministries specially dedicated to social development. Economically, there has been recovery in the rates of economic growth and African economies have continued to sustain the growth momentum, recording an overall real GDP growth rate of 5.7 percent in 2006 compared to 5.3 percent in 2005 and 5.2 percent in 2004. This growth performance was underpinned, among others, by improvements in macroeconomic management in many countries of the continent.

9.   It is against the above background, of compelling and pervasive socio-economic development challenges facing Africa, and on the understanding of the importance and role of social policy in addressing these challenges, that the Ministers present at the First Session of the African Union (AU) Labour and Social Affairs Commission (LSAC) held in Mauritius in 2003, made a recommendation and requested the African Union Commission, in collaboration and consultation with other stakeholders, to develop a Social Policy Framework for Africa (SPF).

10.   Social policy can be described as a mechanism that allows for collective state-led measures implemented by the state and its partners – the private sector, civil society and international development partners — to protect vulnerable groups, by guaranteeing basic economic and social conditions, overcoming structural deficiencies in the distribution of wealth and productive assets, creating greater equality for all, and rectifying market failure (Kabeer and Cook, 2000). In the same vein, Adesina (2007:1) defines social policy as

…the collective public efforts aimed at affecting and protecting the social well-being of the people within a given territory. Beyond immediate protection from social destitution, social policy might cover education and health care provision, habitat, food security, sanitation, guarantee some measure of labour market protection, and so on".

11.   The above definitions underpin two important factors regarding social policy. The first is the centrality of the state and society to the development agenda. That is, social policy involves state interventions and collaborative working relations with society; social development is not left to the invisible hand of the market. The second factor is the instrumental value of social policy to secure and improve the living conditions of people. In other words, improved livelihood and the consequent human security that it engenders is an important development goal in its own right. From this perspective, social policy involves policy instruments and actions to promote and enhance the welfare and well-being of people in a given geographical location.

12.   It is important to note that non-citizens living in a given territory also benefit from a social policy regime; hence we refer to the well-being of people. However, social policy should not be limited to social welfare, nor should it be micro-nised and sectoral-ised. Rather it should be viewed as a web of policies that act in a complementary, multi-dimensional, multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary manner. As Mkandawire (2004:10) aptly puts it, "Ultimately, the issue is not just 'health policy' or 'education policy' but 'social policy' within which these measures are coherently embedded". In effect the question that should be addressed is how, say, 'health policy' and 'education policy' complement and enhance one another. Effectively, social policy is a comprehensive and coherent agenda in which, health policy, education policy, social welfare, employment policy, among others, are components.

13.   Social policy fulfils three main functions in the development agenda (Mkandawire, 2004). One of its basic functions is that of social protection. The purpose of social protection, according to the United Nations, is to ensure minimum standards of well-being among people in dire situations to live a life with dignity, and to enhance human capabilities. Social protection includes responses by the state and society to protect citizens from risks, vulnerabilities and deprivations. It also includes strategies and programmes aimed at ensuring a minimum standard of livelihood for all people in a given country. This entails measures to secure education and health care, social welfare, livelihood, access to stable income, as well as employment. In effect, social protection measures are comprehensive, and are not limited to traditional measures of social security.

Another function of social policy is that of economic development or production, which it achieves mainly through human capital formation and the creation of a conducive climate for investment and economic growth. As Mkandawire (2004:26) notes, "With respect to accumulation, social policy takes the form of social capital investments that enhance the social productivity of labour (through better health and education) and by setting minimum labour standards. Social policy also has a positive impact on development through its reproductive role, or by creating the conditions for the reproduction of the labour force. It is now generally acknowledged that educated and

healthy people have significant positive impact on economic development, and a country with high levels of illiteracy and other incapacities is unlikely to create conditions for investment that are so central to economic growth. For example, the transition of the Asian developmental states from developing to developed, occurred when their populations became more educated and skilled. Therefore, through its contribution to the health and education of citizens, social policy makes a significant contribution to the workforce.

14.   Overall therefore**,** a social policy must be concerned with the redistributive effects of economic policy, protect people from the vagaries of the market and the changing circumstances of age, illness and disability, enhance the productive potential of members of society, and reconcile the burden of reproduction with that of other social tasks.

15.   The main purpose of this Social Policy framework for Africa (SPF) is to provide an overarching policy structure to assist AU Member States in the development of their national social policies to promote human empowerment and development in their ongoing quest to address the multiple social issues facing their societies. The SPF moves away from treating social development as subordinate to economic growth. Rather, the framework justifies social development as a goal in its own right. It acknowledges that while economic growth is a necessary condition of social development, it is not exclusively or sufficiently able to address the challenges posed by the multi-faceted socio-economic and political forces that together generate the continent's social development challenges.

1.2 Guiding Principles

16.   To enhance the attainment of the above objectives, the following should serve as guiding principles for the SPF:

- ➢ Social policies must encapsulate the principles of human rights, development imperatives and be embedded in the African culture of solidarity;
- ➢ It must be intimately linked to economic and political policies aiming at advancing society's well-being
- ➢ Policy for social development as a broader goal should be coordinated with, but not subordinate to, economic growth and political development;
- ➢ Social policy formulation must include bottom-up approaches to allow the participation of beneficiaries and recipients in decision-making;
- ➢ Social policy should have a long-term development perspective;
- ➢ The different stakeholders should work together in well-coordinated partnerships that enable them to complement and not compete with one another.

1.3 Target Group for the Social Policy Framework for Africa

17. Governments play a leading role in the formulation and implementation of policies to achieve social development. Therefore, the main target of the SPF is AU Member States, who will work in close collaboration with Regional Economic Communities (RECs), civil society, community-based organisations, marginalised populations, the private sector, and development partners to achieve the goals and objectives of national social policies.

2.0   The Social Policy Framework for Africa

Introduction

18.   In advancing the social and human development agenda in Africa as captured in this Social Policy Framework, there are 18 key thematic social issues and others that deserve attention and will need to be realised. Each thematic area highlights and addresses challenges and provides a broad range of recommended actions to guide, and assist AU Member States in formulating and implementing their own national social policies. The framework is therefore a comprehensive and integrated reference document and an important tool for assisting AU Member States in implementing the various continental and international commitments that they, and other organs of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the AU, have ratified or adopted over the years.

19.   It is not intended to legally bind, dictate, or impose any obligations emanating from treaties or conventions not ratified by Member States. In this regard, Member States can utilise elements of the framework that they deem fit, appropriate and applicable to their country-specific social challenges and situations.

2.2   Issues and Recommendations

2.2.1   Population and development

Issues and Challenges

20.   Africa is the second largest and second most populous continent after Asia. With an area of 30.3 million square kilometres (11.7 million square miles), it covers 20.4 percent of the world's total land area. The continent's total population, of about 924 million (2006 estimate), is expected to reach 1.3 billion by 2025 thus increasing the current population density of 30 people per square kilometre to 40 people per square kilometer by that year. With the current rate of population growth of 2.7 percent - which is relatively high compared to Asia (1.13 percent), Latin America (1.24 percent), and Europe (- 0.02 percent) - Africa will accommodate 17 percent of the world's population in 2025, and 22 percent by 2050, compared to the current (2005) 14 percent.

21.   Mortality rates in Africa are also the highest in the world. In 2005 the crude death rate was 13.2 per 1000 persons while in 2006 infant mortality was 95 deaths per 1000 live births. The maternal mortality ratio in Africa ranges from 32 to 814 per 100,000 live births in Mauritius and Malawi respectively. As in much of the developing world, the high maternal mortality in Africa is a consequence of continued neglect of women's reproductive health, coupled with largely ineffective programme interventions. Fertility rates in Africa are also the highest in the world, with an average crude birth rate of 38 births per 1000 persons and a total fertility rate of 5.1 children per woman[1]. United

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[1] These figures exclude North Africa and means that on average a woman in Africa will give birth to about 5 children in her life assuming that the current age specific fertility rates prevail.

Nations projections indicate that African's population will reach 2 billion by 2050 if current birth rates remain unchanged. Among the main factors contributing to high fertility in the continent are: gender inequality; lack of women's empowerment; early marriage; lack of coordinated family planning programmes and limited use of contraception; high demand for children and preference for boys due to tradition, culture old age security; limited access to health and medical facilities; and lack of integration of population factors into development planning.

22   Due to the high levels of fertility and mortality, Africa has a young population. In 2000, 42 percent of the population was aged less than 15 years, the working age group (15-60 years) constituted about 53.2 percent while the older persons, those aged 60 years and above made up only about 5 percent. As a result, the continent has a high youth (0-14 years) dependency ratio and a growing elderly (over 60) dependency ratio: for the 1995-2000 period, these were 78.6 and 22.9 respectively. An inevitable concomitant of the high dependency burden, and the youthful, and not yet productive, population is undue pressure exerted on already overstretched social infrastructure and facilities, especially, in the health, education and employment sectors, as well as almost complete reliance on informal networks for social protection.

23   Given the cross-cutting nature of population issues, Africa will not achieve its noble objectives of improving the well-being and quality of life of its people if the issues of population dynamics in the continent are not adequately and effectively addressed.

While it has been argued that population growth provides a stimulus to economic growth by providing much needed labour and product markets, it has also been shown that unmatched by resource availability and land carrying capacity, population growth increases demand for social services and employment, and compounds the challenges of migration, urbanisation and environmental pressures, which adversely affect sustainable development. As a rule of thumb, a threefold increase in economic growth is required if the population growth rate is to enhance socio-economic development. However, since no African country has enjoyed such high economic growth rate for a sustained period of time, it is likely that the continent will, for the foreseeable future continue to face demographic challenges that negatively affect sustainable socio-economic development. AU Member States should, therefore, strive to ensure that they have quality populations by investing in the development and empowerment of people.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Evaluate the implementation of *the African Charter on Social Action*, the *African Common Position on Human and Social Development and the Tunis Declaration on Social Development*;

Evaluate the implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action, the Declaration and Programme of Action of the *Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development*, and the Declaration and Programme of Action of the *Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development* and other AU declarations, charters and commitments related to population and development;

Implement the *Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights* and step up the effective implementation of the *Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*;

Expand health and advisory services to promote reproductive choice and health, and to prevent unwanted pregnancies;

Provide comprehensive family planning programmes and expand existing ones, including those offered by civil society, to encourage community participation;

Strengthen primary health care with a particular focus on safe motherhood and child survival programmes that can reduce infant, child and maternal deaths in accordance with the *Bamako Declaration on Reduction and Maternal and Neo-Natal Mortality and the Bamako Initiative on Child Survival, Development and Universal Immunisation in Africa among others*;

Address, through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategies, cultural beliefs that are obstacles to the use of family planning methods and reproductive health services;

Strengthen programmes that promote male participation in family planning;

Reduce the demand for large families by developing and adopting policies, such as old age pensions, that reduce the economic and social risks of having small families;

Support programmes that enhance adolescent self-esteem and extend their future perspectives and aspirations to promote delayed marriage and childbearing, lengthen the span between generations, and promote population stabilization.

2.2.2 Labour and employment

Issues and Challenges

African governments have, over the last three decades, identified employment creation as the key to their fight against poverty and they have placed employment creation at the centre of their countries' development strategies. Despite these efforts, Africa's employment problem remains severe and multidimensional as shown by levels of unemployment, underemployment, informal employment and working poverty that are relatively higher than those observed in other developing regions. In 2003, the average rate of unemployment was 10.9 percent in most of Africa and 10.4 percent in North Africa, rates that are higher compared to those of other developing regions. Indeed, Africa has the highest unemployment rates after the Middle-East and regional trends show that the rate of unemployment in Africa has over the last ten years, remained stable at around 10 percent.

Africa's unemployment problem is severe and multidimensional. It is, for example, unevenly distributed across age and gender groups. Although they made up of only 33 percent of the labour force, youth accounted for 63 percent of the total unemployed population of sub-Saharan Africa in 2003.   Furthermore, at an average 21 percent in most of Africa and 22.8 percent in North Africa, the unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years was twice that of the total labour force in 2003. In terms of gender,

female unemployment rates are higher than male rates in North Africa but lower in the rest of Africa.   However, due to the general underestimation of female unemployment, the gender gap in favour of women in most of Africa does not reflect the dire situation of women in the labour force.   For example, employed women are mostly engaged in the informal sector where they are likely to be among the working poor and without any protection.

The formal-informal split represents the most distinctive feature of the labour market in Africa. The informal economy remains an ever-expanding sector where most people are employed. In fact, in countries where data are available, it is estimated that only 5-10 percent of new entrants into the labour market can be absorbed by the formal economy, with the bulk of new jobs being generated by the informal economy. While the key issue in the formal sector is unemployment, the main problem in the informal sector is low productivity, low earnings and high poverty among its workers. There are two basic reasons for this: (1) informal sector workers generally live and work under harsh conditions that are more commonly associated with shocks such as illness, loss of assets, and loss of income; and (2) workers have little or no access to formal risk-coping mechanisms such as insurance, pensions and social assistance, and they generally lack resources to pay for proper housing, health care services and education.

Although it has the potential to play a pivotal role in job creation, and serve as the safety net for the formal sector, the informal sector has to-date received little, generally fragmented, and under-capitalized support and attention from African governments. To the extent that Africa's sustainable development depends on the degree to which its resources are mobilised and utilised, there is an urgent need for governments in the continent to institute a comprehensive approach to tackling the unemployment problem.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Support the implementation of the *Ouagadougou Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa* including the key priority actions in its Plan of Action and Follow-up Mechanism;

Strengthen the role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in promoting regional integration, mobilising regional investments and attracting Foreign Direct Investments in key sectors that generate employment;

Place employment at the centre of economic policies, including employment targeting, and conducive working conditions;

Facilitate the promotion of private sector investment for job creation;

Promote employment creation and enhance employment prospects for youth by implementing the recommendations of the 2002 Alexandria Youth Employment Summit, such as ensuring access for all youth to appropriate education and training which will be followed by adequate support during the transition to work;

Establish close links between educational institutions and the labour market through, for example, apprenticeship schemes and industrial placements, to encourage and promote work-related skills training;

Encourage and support career counselling services and activities to ensure that the skills and experiences of young people match the demands of the labour market;

Review, adopt and implement legislative, administrative and other appropriate measures to ensure that women and men, including those who are disabled have equal access to wage employment in all sectors of the economy in accordance with ILO Conventions;

Adopt policy measures to ease the burden of the multiple roles played by women by enabling them to arrange their working hours in a manner that allows then to participate in paid employment and achieve a work-family life balance;

Give the informal sector the necessary support by removing administrative, legal, fiscal and other obstacles to its growth, and facilitate its employment creation functions with access to training, credit, advisory services, appropriate legislation, productive inputs, social protection, and improved technology;

Promote and support technical and vocational training in trades, skills, crafts, and engineering fields such as construction, civil and mechanical engineering to create self-employment opportunities, and raise the level of productivity in the informal and small-scale formal sectors;

Develop an extension of social security and social protection to cover rural and informal workers as well as their families;

Develop effective and functional labour market information systems.

2.2.3 Social Protection

<u>Issues and Challenges</u>

Member States recognized in December 2004, the centrality of social protection for social policy enhancement in Ouagadougou. The Plan of Action to be implemented committed governments to "improving and strengthening the social protection schemes and extending them to workers and their families currently excluded…" Following that commitment, a number of policy activities, statements and recommendations have been developed. These include the 2006 Livingstone and Yaoundé Calls for Action, agreements reached during the 11th African regional meeting of the ILO held in Addis Ababa in April 2007 and the recommendations of the 2008 Regional Meetings on "Investing in Social Protection in Africa" (Livingstone 2) process.

The interventions falling under a social protection framework include social security measures and furthering income security; and also the pursuit of an integrated policy approach that has a strong developmental focus, such as job creation, equitable and accessible health and other services, social welfare, quality education and so on. AU Member States have noted that social protection has multiple beneficial impacts on national economies, and is essential to build human capital, break the intergenerational poverty cycle and reduce the growing inequalities that constrain Africa's economic and social development.

Investment in and access to social protection is still low in many countries. Social protection and social security will be built gradually, based on comprehensive longer-term national social protection action plans. Measures include extending existing social insurance schemes (with subsidies for those unable to contribute); building up community based or occupation based insurance schemes on a voluntary basis, social welfare services, employment guarantee schemes and introducing and extending public-financed, non-contributory cash transfers.

Member States are encouraged to choose the coverage extension strategy and combination of tools most appropriate to their circumstances. There is an emerging consensus that a minimum package of essential social protection should cover: essential health care, and benefits for children, informal workers, the unemployed, older persons and persons with disabilities. This minimum package provides the platform for broadening and extending social protection as more fiscal space is created.

A minimum package can have a significant impact on poverty alleviation, improvement of living standards, reduction of inequalities and promotion of economic growth and has been shown to be affordable, even in low-income countries, within existing resources, if properly managed.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Build political consensus and recognise that social protection should be a state obligation, with provision for it in national legislation;

Include social protection in National Development Plans and Poverty Reduction Strategy Processes, with links to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) outcomes and processes;

Review and reform existing social protection programmes;

Develop and operationalise costed national plans for social protection based on the concept of a "minimum package";

Accelerate the implementation of priority area number 4 of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation;

Design and deliver effective impact assessments, monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes;

Long-term funding for social protection should be guaranteed through national resources with specific and transparent budget lines;

Member States should ensure coordination and strengthening of development partner support for sustainable financing of social protection;

Member States should develop and coordinate social protection programmes through inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral coordination bodies at the highest level of government;

Enhance the technical, infrastructural, and institutional capacities of Ministries responsible for social protection;

> Member States should take advantage of regional and, South-South cooperation and regional and international best practice;
>
> Governments should include civil society in policy-making on social protection, and in programme design, implementation, monitoring and impact evaluation;
>
> Utilize social protection instruments as a means of safeguarding the poor from global financial and economic shocks.

2.2.4 Health

<u>Issues and Challenges</u>

African countries and the African Union have, in the recent past, adopted several strategies with the aim of improving the health status of people in the African region. However, Africans in general, and women and children in particular, still face a huge burden of preventable and treatable health problems. As the demographic and health transitions have matured, the burden from communicable to non-communicable diseases has negatively impacted on development in the continent. The World Health Organisation has demonstrated that the disease burden of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV and AIDS annually reduces GDP growth by as much as 1.3 percent. While these three diseases pose the greatest challenges, the continent faces a severe burden of communicable diseases including pneumonia, diarrhoea and measles in children, as well as other diseases that severely debilitate communities affected by them. There are also ongoing outbreaks of cholera, meningitis, Ebola and Marburg in many parts of the continent. Increases in both death and disability from non-communicable diseases remain a challenge and need to be prioritized. Chronic diseases associated with socio-demographic changes, such as obesity and heart disease, are becoming more prevalent. Public health challenges due to substances abuse; injuries from violence; wars; traffic accidents and other preventable causes; the impact of mental ill-health; and the high prevalence of specific cancers are also becoming widely recognized.

 The multi-dimensional nature of health, and its impacts on the population, means that good health plays a pivotal role in poverty reduction and development. Therefore, reducing the burden of disease will directly release the potential of African people and countries to increase production and productivity, and thus achieve higher growth rates as well as improved human and social development.

> **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**
>
> (a) Develop and/or adopt integrated and coherent health policies that are grounded in the principles of primary health care and the *African Health Strategy: 2007-2015*;
>
> (b) Implement the recommendations taken at the Second Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health held in Gaborone in 2005 (*the Gaborone Declaration)*;
>
> (c) Strengthen health systems and build on existing structures for scaling up and accelerating Universal Access to prevention, treatment and care for common causes

of ill health, disability and death. These should be within the framework of *the Alma Ata Declaration on Health* for All through primary health care;

(d) Intensify efforts to develop strategies for health care financing including delivering on the Abuja commitment of 15% of national budget to health, community participation and mobilization for health care provision, extensive training for community health workers, and the establishment of district health committees;

(e) Restructure government expenditure in the health sector in favour of preventive and community health care, paying particular attention to maternal and child health services, especially immunization; family planning programmes; public health education; nutrition; sanitation; and provision of safe drinking water;

(f) Promote traditional medicine through the development of legal frameworks and establishment of pharmacopeia, and African pharmaceutical industries in line with the Plan of Action on the Decade on African Traditional medicine;

(g) Promote healthy life styles, healthy eating habits, regular physical activity, and adequate rest;

(h) Discourage and prevent the use of illicit drugs and abuse of substances such as alcohol and tobacco;

(i) Ensure an equitable access to health for everybody via adequate social protection mechanisms.

2.2.5 HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other infectious diseases

Issues and Challenges

The three most common causes of ill health among adults in Africa are HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria, while among children the main causes include malaria, and respiratory and diarrheal diseases. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), most of Africa is home to 68 percent of adults, and nearly 90 percent of children, living with HIV in the world. UNAIDS further estimates that 1.7 million people in most of Africa were newly infected with HIV in 2007, thus bringing to 22.5 million the total number of people living with the virus in the continent. Additional figures from UNAIDS show that of the 2.1 million adult and child deaths that were due to AIDS–related illnesses in 2007, 1.6 million or 76 percent occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. All these figures indicate that Sub-Saharan Africa is, without doubt, the world region most affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

The economic impact of the epidemic in Africa is noticed in, among others, slower economic growth, and increased inflows of international assistance. There are also fears that a major long-term drop in adult life-expectancy will change economic decision-making, contributing to lower savings and investment. The epidemic has also intersected with drought, unemployment and other sources of stress to create what Whiteside and de Waal (2003) have called "new variant famine," describing the inability of poor, AIDS-affected households to cope with the demands of securing sufficient food during a time of food crisis. The social impact, on the other hand, is most evident in child

care. It is estimated that of the 34 million children in most of Africa who are under the age of 15 who have lost one or both parents, approximately 12 million have lost that parent to AIDS. These children are mostly cared for by extended family. However the economic capacity of the extended family to cope with this burden is stretched very thin and is, in some places, collapsing.

The work place has been recognized as one of the most important for genuine action against HIV and AIDS which is also one of the best entry points for learning, training of workers and communities and aligning interventions with national programmes.

The increasing AIDS-related morbidity and mortality in Africa is also partly due to the high rate of tuberculosis (TB), which kills more than a million people on the continent each year, and disproportionately affects the poor and other vulnerable groups, including women, children and older persons. African Union Ministers of Health have recognised TB as a crisis, which requires urgent and concerted efforts to curtail its spread and save the lives of people it has infected and affected. An inherent association between HIV and AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) has also been observed: well over 75 percent of HIV infections in the world are acquired through sexual transmission or through transmission during pregnancy, labour and delivery, or during breastfeeding. The presence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) other than HIV therefore increases the risk of HIV transmission.

Malaria is another major health problem in most of Africa. Its highest toll is often noted in pregnant women and very young children in parts where malaria is endemic. In epidemic prone areas, where about 110 million Africans live, the disease tends to affect people of all ages. Malaria exerts high pressure on health services. For example, the disease accounts for at least a third of outpatients, and a quarter of admissions in endemic areas.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Adopt multi-sectoral, rights-based approaches to implement the *Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases* (2001), the *Maputo Declaration on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Infectious Diseases* (2003) and *the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action Towards Universal Access to HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services in Africa* (2006), all of which were adopted by African Heads of State and Government at three specially convened summits on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria;

To the extent that the scourge of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa is a symptom of deeper socio-economic, development, and human rights issues, policies that seek to respond comprehensively to the epidemics through initiatives should go beyond the public health sector, to include the promotion of comprehensive prevention programmes that are targeted to the local epidemic, as well as human rights and gender equality programmes;

Ensure relevant social protection, including income transfers, to support the poorest families in their efforts to mitigate the economic and social impacts of the epidemic on the most vulnerable such as older persons, youth, children and the sick;

> Develop and/or implement effective social policies and programs to provide assistance to families for the care of orphans and vulnerable children, as well as to those who provide protection for children outside of family care;
>
> Integrate comprehensive HIV/STI prevention management and treatment with sexual and reproductive health SRH, and provide appropriate information on the provision of STI and HIV/AIDS and SRH services;
>
> Support research programmes of African research institutes on HIV, TB, Malaria and Other Related Infectious Diseases.

2.2.6 Migration

Issues and Challenges

Migration is an essential, inevitable and potentially beneficial component of the economic and social life of every country and region. Of the 150 million migrants in the world, more than 50 million are estimated to be Africans. The UN has estimated that over 16 million people in Africa are living in a country other than that of their birth. By the same token, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has estimated that the number of labour migrants in the continent constituted one fifth of the global total and that by 2025 one in ten Africans will live and work outside their countries of origin. Given that the number of migrants is increasing and that this trend is likely to persist in the foreseeable future, the management of migration has necessarily become one of the critical challenges for African States in recent years.

Forced migration, in particular, continues to be a serious and, in some areas, an expanding problem across Sub-Saharan Africa. The continent is home to more than 15 million forcibly displaced populations. A substantial proportion of these people have been displaced by conflicts for years and, in some cases, even decades. There are also an estimated five million African refugees and asylum seekers, the vast majority of whom reside in other African countries. Protracted refugee situations (people living in refugee camps or settlements for more than five years) also continue to be a particular problem in the continent. Addressing the plight of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) is another complex and persistent challenge faced by the continent today.

Due to the deteriorating socio-economic and environmental conditions, as well as armed conflicts in many African countries over the last four decades, the pattern of migration in the continent is dynamic and complex. This is reflected by, among others, increasing feminization of migration streams, diversification of migration destinations, transformation of labour flows into commercial migration, human trafficking, and the increasing role of regional economic organizations in fostering free flows of labour. Internal migratory movements add to the complexity of the picture. Rural-urban migration, for example, often leads to a demand for urban shelter and services that is much higher than their supply. This has led to rising prices for urban land and the establishment of urban informal settlements and slums. As discussed earlier, these slums are typified by poor sanitation, high youth unemployment and underemployment, crime, juvenile delinquency, drug and substance abuse, and other forms of deviant behaviour.

Another migration-related problem that currently faces Africa is that of brain drain. According to the International Organization for Migration, Africa has already lost one third of its human capital and is continuing to lose its skilled personnel at an increasing rate. It is estimated that 20,000 professionals have been leaving the continent annually since 1990, and that there are currently over 300,000 highly qualified Africans in the Diaspora. In effect, African countries are funding the education of their nationals only to see them end up contributing to the growth of developed countries with little or no return on the original investment. At the same time, Africa spends US$4 billion per year (representing 35 percent of total official development aid to the continent) to employ some 100,000 Western experts performing functions generically described as technical assistance.

As serious as the consequences of brain drain are for the overall development of the African continent, the health sector is particularly affected by the migration of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and social services personnel. Indeed, the desperate shortage of health professionals is the most serious obstacle in Africa's efforts to fight AIDS and support other health programs. In several countries the brain drain of medical professionals is threatening the very existence of the countries' health services. To put this in context, the minimum standard set by the World Health Organization to ensure basic health care services is 20 physicians per 100,000 people. Whereas Western countries boast an average of 222 physicians per 100,000 people, 38 countries in most of Africa fall short of this minimum standard, with some countries having five or fewer physicians per 100,000 people.

The loss of these professionals is a growing phenomenon, fueled principally by shortages in developed countries. For example, the United States has 126,000 fewer nurses than it needs, and its government figures show that the country could face a shortage of 800,000 registered nurses by 2020. It is because of such shortages, that industrialized nations have embarked on massive international recruitment drives, offering African nurses the opportunity to earn as much as 20 times their home salaries. Other salient factors accounting for brain drain include failing economies, high unemployment rates, inhospitable working environments, human right abuses, armed conflicts and the general lack of adequate social services. In a different vein, trained professionals are sometimes frustrated by donor and some governments' policies that over-emphasize reliance on foreign technical experts at the expense of trained nationals.

Well-managed migration has the potential to yield significant benefits to countries of origin and destination. For example, best estimates suggest that Africans working abroad send home about US$40 billion a year. Labour migration has also played an important role in filling labour needs in agriculture, construction and other sectors, thus contributing to the economic development of many destination countries in Africa. Mismanaged or unmanaged migration, on the other hand, can have serious negative consequences for the wellbeing of States and migrants, including potential destabilizing effects on national and regional security, and jeopardizing inter-State relations. Mismanaged migration can also lead to tensions between host communities and

migrants and give rise to social pathologies such as trafficking, xenophobia and victimization.

Therefore, the question in Africa should no longer be whether migration is occurring or not, but rather how to manage migration effectively so as to enhance its positive and to reduce its negative impacts. For example, one aspect of the brain drain that requires attention is how to more effectively tap the abundant resources within the African Diaspora, much less the remittances that so many send to families and communities, but particularly the know-how they have acquired that could be applied to developments "back home".

Major economic and social burdens are placed on Member States, which are at the receiving end of mass illegal migration One of the challenges is to address migration as a governance issue.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

(a) Adopt, and scale up the key recommendations of the *Migration Policy Framework for Africa*, African Common Position on Migration and Development; Africa-EU Joint Declaration on Migration and Development;

(b) Apply the principles of the 1969 OAU *Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa* without discrimination as to race, religion, nationality membership of a particular social group or political opinions;

(c) Ensure that internally displaced persons are not discriminated in any way by virtue of their status as stipulated in the 1981 *African Charter on Human and People's Rights* and its Protocol of 2000 on the establishment on an African Court on Human and People's Rights;

(d) Support the implementation of the key recommendations of the 2006 *Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children*;

(e) Ensure that refugees and internally displaced children are included in HIV and AIDS prevention and response programmes, and that such programmes are viewed as an essential component of all humanitarian relief and assistance;

(f) Establish the major factors leading to the brain drain and develop appropriate mechanisms and put in place effective incentive structures to promote skills retention;

(g) Create networks with citizens in the diaspora and encourage them to actively use their skills to take part in their countries', and the continent's development;

(h) For every project, explore the capabilities at home and in the diaspora, before contracting foreign technical experts, and call upon donor agencies to do the same;

(i) Establish and adequately equip academic and scientific research institutions to provide returning professionals with a choice of places to use their skills;

(j) Promote the regional integration and collaboration of social security schemes in African countries in order to ensure the portability of social security rights and benefits of labour crossing the borders;

(k) Develop labour market data and information on the migration flow;

(l) Integrate migration and development into Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSPs) to promote migration as an instrument for regional and social integration.

2.2.7 Education

Issues and Challenges

Education is one of the most powerful instruments for reducing poverty and inequality and for laying the foundation for sustained socio-economic development. African countries recognised this critical role of education as way back as 1962 when they committed themselves to "Education for all children by 1980" in the Addis Ababa Declaration. However, more than 40 years since that declaration, even improving literacy levels, and achieving universal education remain a major challenge in Africa. An emerging consensus is also to extend early childhood education to children in all communities.

 Overall, only 61 percent of adults in most of Africa can read and write with understanding, reflecting one of the lowest adult literacy rates in the world. In fact, 14 of the 22 countries in the world with literacy rates below 60 percent are in sub-Saharan Africa. Although the rate increased by more than ten percentage points between 1990 and 2004, high population growth meant the absolute number of illiterate adults continued to rise, from about 133 million to around 144 million. The number is expected to reach 168 million by 2015.   Therefore, unless African governments significantly expand adult literacy programmes, they will in the foreseeable future, be burdened by adults unable to significantly expand their contribution to economic growth.

 There has been some progress in primary school enrolment on the continent. However, dropout rates, especially for girls, are still alarmingly high. Secondary school enrolment has also shown a general increase: in 2004, some 31 million students were enrolled in secondary schools in most African countries, an increase of about 43 percent since 1999. Beyond the absolute numbers, however, participation at that level remains low, with average enrolment rates below 30 percent. Secondary education is also more developed in English-speaking African countries, particularly those in the southern hemisphere, than in Central and West Africa.

There are reports of poor quality primary and secondary education continent-wide. Factors such as teacher shortages, burgeoning class sizes, strained infrastructure, limited teaching time, under-qualified and poorly paid teachers, rote learning, and scarce and poor quality learning materials have detracted from the quality of education that is delivered in many African countries. The content of the curricula is not keeping pace with the needs of the labour market and information, communication and technology has also not been incorporated as part of schooling.

To compete in a knowledge-based society, young people need access to higher education. But demands for higher education in Africa have also not been met, and public expenditure on higher education has declined and remains chronically under-funded. Notwithstanding impressive increases in tertiary education enrolment of more than 50 percent since 1999, only a small share of the relevant age group has access to this level of education, with an enrolment rate of less than 5 percent in 2004.

Given that the performance of the education sector could directly affect, and even determine, the quality and magnitude of Africa's social development, it is imperative that African governments put in place effective interventions to address the challenges facing this sector.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Member States should rededicate themselves to the realisation of the Plan of Action of the AU *Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015)* goals;

Support and promote adult and non-formal education programmes, tertiary education for girls and vocational training;

Provide free and compulsory basic education and take steps to increase access to education beyond primary schooling;

Encourage retention by abolishing all user fees in primary education as well as initiating and expanding school feeding programmes to cover all primary school children as well as enhance affordable and equitable access to education through other social protection measures including cash transfers;

Take into account national needs, local realities, local languages and knowledge, special learning needs of children with disabilities, girls, working children and children from nomadic communities, in curriculum development and in delivery of education;

Strengthen the capacity of teacher training colleges, review remuneration of teachers and ensure continuous teacher training;

Strengthen partnerships between local communities, students/parents' associations, employers' associations, trade unions, development partners, faith-based organisations, and non-governmental organisations to increase resource mobilisation for education in rural and other under-served areas;

Strengthen the teaching of science and the utilization of new information and technologies as well as innovative teaching and learning approaches and methods;

Promote the linkage between education and culture.

2.2.8 Agriculture, food and nutrition

Issues and Challenges

Agricultural production and incomes in Africa have, over the years, been negatively affected by the generally weak, unproductive, and inadequate agrarian systems on the continent. A combination of external setbacks such as climatic uncertainties; livestock diseases; lack of micro financing; increased preference of biofuels; poor infrastructure; 0 biases towards the industrial sector, and instability in world commodity prices, have led to food insecurity and exacerbated poverty levels of the majority of Africans who live in rural areas, and whose livelihood depend largely on subsistence agriculture.

 One of the consequences of the lack of food self-sufficiency is the prevalence of Protein-Energy Malnutrition (PEM) and micronutrient deficiencies, especially of iron, vitamin A, zinc and iodine. The long-term impact of this on adults includes low productivity and susceptibility to chronic diseases. Among children malnutrition, particularly PEM retards growth and development, with inter-generational impacts on human capital development. Furthermore, moderate to severe PEM increases the risk that young children will die from common infections. Similarly, nutritional anaemia and vitamin A deficiency increase morbidity and mortality in young children, while iodine deficiency and zinc deficiency are associated with impairment of mental and intellectual functions in children and adults**.**

 There is therefore an urgent need to address the problem of inadequate agricultural systems in Africa so that food production, food security and nutritional standards are raised.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

(a) Implement commitments undertaken under the *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);*

(b) Support the implementation of the 2004 *Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water* as well as the recommended actions;

(c) Support the implementation of the African Regional Nutritional Strategy: 2005-2015;

(d) Enact and implement legislation to preserve land for food crops and promote production of drought resistant crops, protection of intellectual property in traditional food crops; commercial farming; and crop diversification for long term food security;

(e) Encourage and support agricultural science education since agriculture is still the largest employer and the basis of rural development and agro-industry;

(f) Enhance food and nutrition information dissemination including information on genetically modified foods through education and communication activities and public participation;

(g) Promote community-based strategies for monitoring the nutritional status of vulnerable groups, particularly children, women of reproductive age and older

persons and ensure that interventions are well targeted to children whose growth falters and is at risk; as well as pregnant and lactating women;

(h) Provide the necessary support and incentives to small producers especially women to help boost agricultural production;

(i) Support research and development of novel and nutriceutical food;

(j) Review the land tenure system and actively promote the expansion of mechanized agriculture;

(k) Enhance veterinary standards to ensure quality services;

(l) Provide support to small farmers and improve women's access to microfinance.

2.2.9 The Family

Issues and Challenges

Given its multiple roles and functions, the centrality, uniqueness and indispensability of the family in Africa is unquestionable. For generations the institution has been a source of strength for its members by providing them with a wide circle of relatives to depend on for guidance and support. In times of crisis, unemployment, sickness, poverty, old-age, and bereavement, most Africans rely on the family as the main source of material, social and emotional support and social security. The family is also the principal focus for the socialization and education of children. Indeed, it is at the centre of all human societies, despite variations in structure and composition.

This important institution has been adversely affected by the rapidly changing social, economic and political circumstances that have taken place in Africa over the last four decades. Changes in family patterns and structures are reflected in, for example, increases in female-headed households, child-headed households; households headed by older persons, increasing prevalence of cohabiting and consensual unions with declines in marriage, rising rates of divorce, smaller families, and weakened family relationships. Diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and others have changed the demographic structure of the family, and loss of household income has considerably increased poverty at the family level. The institution also has to bear the burden of care and support for the terminally ill, with women bearing a disproportionate share of all negative changes.

To the extent that family-centered development efforts are key to socio-economic development, it is important for African governments to strengthen the family as part of an integrated and comprehensive approach to sustainable development. Indeed, it has been argued that Africa's development to date has been a result of the strength of the family.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Effective implementation of the key recommendations of the *Plan of Action on the Family in Africa*;

Develop and/or evaluate policies and legislation aimed at strengthening and preserving the family as an institution;

Raise awareness on the role of the family and strengthen the relationships within the family in order to reinforce its union and stability in assuming its functions;

Involve the community and media to raise awareness on the positive role the family can play in society;

Develop and integrate policies and strategies to address families in vulnerable and crisis situations;

Promote and support community associations or networks which can support families in times of need;

Empower the family and enhance its capacity to enable it to meet its socio-economic needs through intervention such as income transfers, where necessary

Reinforce family values of African solidarity.

2.2.10   Children, adolescents and youth

<u>Issues and challenges</u>

Children and youth make up the largest and fastest growing proportion of Africa's total population: 16 percent of the population is below the age of 5 years, 41 percent is below the age of 15, and 30 percent is aged 10-24 years. This youth population bulge, commonly known as the demographic bonus or dividend, is recognised as an opportunity to renew the world's, and indeed Africa's, social and economic capital. Young people's energy, creativity, flexibility and adaptability to interface with the scope of change in the globalizing world are a recipe for steady, sustained growth and development. However, this benefit will only be reaped if young people are healthy, receive education of good quality, are able to find work, and become active participants in their societies.

The lives of children and young people in Africa are, however, subject to a number of contradictions. For example according to UNICEF, Africa accounted for almost half of all global child deaths in 2007. In the same vein, UNAIDS figures show that nearly 90 percent of children living with HIV in the world live in Sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, and, as earlier shown, Africa's infant and childhood mortality rates are the highest in the world. The lives of children on the continent are made precarious by conflict situations in many countries, and by the HIV/AIDS epidemic which has left many of them orphaned and vulnerable. HIV/AIDS is also exacting its greatest toll on young people in Sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS is now the leading cause of mortality among young men and women in the region. High maternal morbidity and mortality associated with pregnancy and childbirth are other health problems affecting young African women.

Children are exposed to many social challenges, including drug abuse, violence, exploitation and sexual abuse. Many of them live and work on the street and are victims of trafficking.

Another tangible challenge facing youth in Africa is youth unemployment and underemployment. Although lack of data and consistency in defining youth unemployment make it difficult to assess youth unemployment on the continent, figures of 34 percent for Egypt, 35 percent for Morocco and 50 percent for South Africa have been documented. These high unemployment rates underestimate the extent to which young people are affected by poor employment prospects. Most young people who work are employed in low paying, temporary positions, working long hours under poor conditions often with few, if any, protection. This type of work is likely to persist well into the future. Young people have become the street youth of Africa – hustling to make a living through petty trading of fruit, telephone cards and other portable goods. Young people in Sub-Saharan Africa are only second to South Asia in the extent to which they live in extreme poverty and hunger.

While youth unemployment results in significant losses to economies of countries, the greatest damages are to the self-esteem and general well-being of young people as they find themselves socially excluded, vulnerable, frustrated and idle- a mix of feelings that can predispose them to engage in a range of risk behaviour. As such, young people are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, mental illness and teenage pregnancy and are also involved in crime, violence, substance use, and other deviant behaviours.

Despite the expansions of democratic governance on the continent, and the value attached to youth participation in policy-making, contemporary youth organizations claim it is not meaningfully realised. Young people voice concerns about how they are treated by governments – often more as a threat than a partner. Moreover, youth structures and processes are seldom sufficiently resourced – and young people often lack the capacity or know-how to function independently or to implement programmes envisioned by policies.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

(a) Implement the key recommendations of the *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, The Call for Accelerated Action on the Implementation of the Plan of Action Towards Africa Fit for Children* and the *Algiers Common Position and Plan of Action on Strategies to Support Orphans, Vulnerable Children and Children Infected with HIV/AIDS*;

(b) Institute clear steps to improve pre- and post-natal care and early child development, including attention to adequate nutrition as well as child care that promotes development;

(c) Institute clear steps to prevent children from working in unprotected labour situations. This should include developing laws that stipulate a minimum age for employment; procedures for monitoring employers to ensure compliance with the law; and improving service delivery so that children no longer need to go long distances to get wood or water for the family;

(d) Harmonise youth policies through the ratification and implementation of the *African Youth Charter*;

(e) Prioritise the issue of high levels of youth unemployment and underemployment in national development programmes complemented by clear programmes to address unemployment, and with specific provisions for youth with disabilities to ensure that they have equal access to opportunities;

(f) Institute clear steps to promote education beyond primary schooling and to provide relevant education of sound quality that prepares young people for the world of work and for life;

(g) Provide social security to vulnerable children and adolescents including those with disabilities to ensure food security, clothing, housing and other basic needs;

(h) Institute policies and programmes to promote and protect the physical, mental and spiritual health of young people, with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS;

(i) Put in place adequate infrastructure and services in rural and urban areas for children and youth to participate in sport, physical education, cultural, artistic, and recreational and leisure activities;

(j) Improve youth participation in decision-making processes and democratic discussion forums;

(k) Increase investment in youth development and empowerment including through the provision of sufficient and sustainable resources for technical and professional skills development and youth employment;

(l) Provide protection to children in conflict situations, orphans, vulnerable and street children;

(m)Provide protection and rehabilitation to children in conflict with the law.

2.2.11 Ageing

Issues and Challenges

Africa's youthful population may overshadow the fact that the continent is clearly experiencing the phenomena of ageing. Despite the deepening poverty and the effects of HIV/AIDS such as low life expectancy, the majority of Africans are expected to grow older and, in all probability, live longer than previous generations. The continent's population of older persons (those aged 60 years and above), currently estimated to be slightly over 38 million, is projected to reach 212 million by 2050, thus increasing six-fold in five decades.

Older people are generally recognized to be amongst the poorest of the poor and are under served by public provision of health, education, water and sanitation. Older women can experience extreme abuse, violence, asset stripping and discrimination by virtue of their age and gender. In addition to the usual physical, mental and psychological changes associated with ageing, older persons in Africa are further

disadvantaged by their lack of social security for everyday socio-economic needs. For instance, the changes associated with urbanisation and development in the continent have, among others, weakened the traditional kinship mode of residential settlement. This is affecting older persons in a number of ways, including the physical separation of members of the family who, in traditional African societies, provided primary care and support to older persons. Consequently, some older persons in Africa, the majority of whom live in rural areas, only receive erratic family care and support. In addition, at a time when they themselves should be taken care of, older persons often take up the responsibility of caring for children when young adults succumb to AIDS or migrate. Overall, apart from children, older persons are the social group most vulnerable to the many social challenges facing Africa particularly poverty, food insecurity, violence, inadequate social welfare services, and civil strife. Africa, therefore, needs to intensify efforts to put in place effective mechanisms to cater for the needs of its older population.

Overall the level of data collection, research and focus on ageing in Africa is low. Africa needs to intensify efforts to put in place effective mechanisms to deliver the rights of and cater for the needs of its ageing population.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

(a) Fully implement the key tenets of the 2002 African Union's *Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing*;

(b) Implement other international instruments that deal with the issues of ageing and older persons, the 1991 *UN Principles for Older Persons,* the 1992 *UN Proclamation on Ageing,* and the 2002 *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;*

(c) Promote the rights of older persons and enact national laws to include these rights;

(d) Adopt innovative policies and programmes to mainstream the issue of older persons in Ministries and Organisations;

(e) Support older persons by effectively addressing their needs through specific programmes that are incorporated into national development plans and strategies including social protection;

(f) Promote policies to encourage productive ageing and recognize the contributions of older persons as people with skills and expertise and also as caregivers;

(g) Develop intergenerational programmes which create mutual benefits to both youth and older persons.

2.2.12 Disability

Issues and Challenges

Approximately 650 million persons or 10 percent of the global population are persons with disabilities defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its optional protocol as including "those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others." An

estimated 80 percent of these persons live in developing countries, many in conditions of poverty. The United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992) and the African Decade of Disabled Persons (1999-2009) raised awareness of disability issues, and facilitated considerable progress in the prevention of disability, mainstreaming of disability issues in society; and the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. To this end, the AU established the African Rehabilitation Institute as an AU specialized agency.

In Africa, however, the decade did not have much impact. Many people in the continent continue, on a daily basis, to become impaired by malnutrition and disease, environment hazards, natural disasters, traffic and industrial accidents, civil conflicts and wars and other preventable impairments associated with communicable, maternal and peri-natal disease and injuries. These then lead to disability and the associated disadvantage and discrimination. Indeed, people with disabilities remain the poorest of the poor, least educated and least likely to be the sector of the African population to be employed. This also leads to significant exclusion in family, community and political life for many people with disabilities. For example, the social stigma often associated with disability results in marginalisation and isolation, and often leads to begging as the sole means of survival. A further consequence of living in poverty with a disability in Africa is inadequate access to health services, resulting frequently in serious secondary conditions that could be effectively prevented, and a general deterioration of the quality of life. Furthermore, children with special needs and disabilities are particularly at risk of being out of school or not progressing because of their specific needs not being met. This leads to poor educational achievement and limited access to employment as adults.

It should be noted that it is not so much the person's impairments and activity limitations that result in this high level of disadvantage, but rather the role of environmental barriers that prevent the person from realizing his/her potential. Thus it is important to understand the complex and multidimensional phenomenon that is disability and address its different components in measurement as well as policy development and implementation. The general lack of reliable data sources on disability in many African countries, however, has hampered researchers' efforts to document the link between poverty, social exclusion and disability. This in turn has resulted in a lack of awareness, among policy makers, of the strong link between poverty and disability in the development context. Consequently, the disability dimension of social development and poverty reduction has remained a marginal field in many African countries.

Interventions should, therefore, not only focus on the individual but also on the environment, including the physical, social, and policy/legislative environments. Furthermore, just as gender mainstreaming requires a constant gender lens to be applied to all aspects of data collection, policy and legislation, there is a need to treat disability in a similar manner. Overall, it is necessary to integrate people with disabilities in all development programmes in order to empower them, provide them with equal opportunities and enhance their living standards. Of particular need are children with disability who require early interventions to mitigate the effects of the challenges they face. Issues of disability are also related to human rights, social and developmental matters.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Evaluate the implementation of the *Continental Plan of Action for the African Decade of Disabled Persons (1999-2009);*

Ensure ratification and effective implementation by all African states of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*;

Adopt disability sensitive legislation, mechanisms and fast track implementation of existing national laws;

Improve data collection and estimates of disability prevalence to build concrete evidence on the impact of poverty on disability and vice versa, and to help in directing resources towards tackling disability as part of social development and poverty reduction efforts;

Ensure effective mainstreaming of disability issues in all sectors and programmes of government and civil society as a means to increase participation, social inclusion and representation of people with disabilities at all levels of society, including in decision making and monitoring processes;

Invest in access to health services to reduce communicable diseases and prevent disability;

Ensure that people with disabilities have access to information and services to sexual and reproductive health, including HIV and STI prevention, management and treatment;

Enhance access to employment, and education and training, through investments in accessible education and affordable ICTs that address individual diverse needs;

Develop policies and implement projects to promote barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities;

Develop a comprehensive social protection strategy that ensures the provision of relevant services and optimized service delivery for people with disabilities;

Promote the Establishment of national disability councils.

2.2.13   Gender equality and women's empowerment

Issues and Challenges

Since the post independence era, the lives of African women have undergone profound changes, at both national and regional levels. On the positive side, most countries have registered a substantive increase in the number of women with access to various levels of educational and employment opportunities. Women's participation in structures of governance is also on the increase in a growing number of African countries. Many African governments have enshrined gender equality in their constitutions, domesticated international human rights instruments, promulgated gender-friendly legislation and policies, and put in place national machineries with a mandate to promote gender equality.

Nonetheless, Africa remains replete with patterns of inequality between women and men, boys and girls. For example, even though women in the continent are increasingly becoming the main income earners for a majority of households and the hub of development, particularly in agriculture where they play a key role in food production activities in addition to their traditional domestic chores, various cultural traits and taboos have continued to underpin the marginalisation of women in the development process. This is manifested in, among other things, women's lack of adequate access to health resources; their relatively high unemployment rate in the formal sector as compared to men; as well as their lack of access to credit facilities for investment in income generating activities and self-employment. Other constraints include differences in legal status and entitlements, exemplified by the many instances in which women lack equal rights to personal status, security, land and inheritance. Women are also subject to high levels of gender- based violence such as rape, and the trafficking of women and girls has, among other things, shown to increase women's risk of contracting HIV. Furthermore, Female Genital Mutilation, early marriage and forced widow marriages seriously undermine the bodily integrity and human rights of women and girls and should therefore be eliminated.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

(a) Implement the key instruments such as 1994 *Dakar Platform of Action and the 1999 African Plan of Action to Accelerate the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action for the Advancement of Women; Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) ICPD Plan of Action; Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality*;

(b) Strengthen the machinery at national and regional levels and ensure adequate budgetary provisions for monitoring and regular Africa Gender and Development Index reporting;

(c) Review, amend and enact laws and policies that ensure that women and men have equal access to wage employment and social security in all sectors of the economy in accordance with the Ouagadougou Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation and ILO Conventions and Decent Work Agenda;

(d) Create a conducive environment to enable women to participate in non-traditional occupations in the productive sector through strengthening training programs and institutions that can equip them with the necessary skills and resources;

(e) Enact and/or enforce laws to prohibit all forms of violence against women including rape, regardless of whether the violence takes place in private or public;

(f) Adopt other legislative, administrative, social and economic measures as may be necessary, to ensure the prevention, and eradication of all forms of violence against women; and punishment of the perpetrators;

(g) Improve and harmonize policy and legislation on women's property and land rights with special consideration for women affected by armed conflict and other forms of violence and discrimination;

(h) Promote the economic empowerment of women through entrepreneurial opportunities.

2.2.14 Culture

<u>Issues and Challenges</u>

Culture, in its rich diversity, has intrinsic value for development as well as social cohesion and peace. Cultural diversity is one of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means of leading a more fulfilling intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual life. As the report of the First Session of the AU Conference on Ministers of Culture states, culture can contribute to bringing together what politics has separated, and it can also hasten and consolidate the process of restructuring in the economic field. Cultural diversity is thus an indispensable asset for poverty reduction and the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, it is essential to protect and effectively utilize indigenous knowledge that represents a major dimension of Africa's culture, and to share this knowledge for the benefit of the continent's general population.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

(a) Implementation of the 1976 *Cultural Charter for Africa and Charter for the African Cultural Renaissance;*

(b) Implement and report progress on *the Nairobi Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries in Africa* and the Algiers Declaration on Harmonization and Coordination of Cultural Policies and Programmes;

(c) In accordance with NEPAD principles, give special attention to the protection and nurturing of indigenous knowledge, which includes tradition-based literacy, artistic and scientific works, inventions, scientific discoveries, designs, marks, names and symbols, undisclosed information and all other tradition-based innovations and creations resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields;

(d) Fully implement the cultural rights as defined in Article 27 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 13 and 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity*;

(e) Protect the rights of the marginalized indigenous and minority groups to safeguard their livelihood, culture and way of life;

(f) Advocate against harmful traditional practices such as Female Genital Mutilation, early childhood marriages which could result in fistula as well as cattle rustling, and others which could exacerbate conflict or diminish human rights and dignity;

(g) Develop and patent cultural products to stimulate economic development, create job opportunities and promote AU Member States' cultural heritage;

(h) Promote the participation of individuals and cultural institutions in Pan African cultural events and programmes.

2.2.15 Urban development

Issues and Challenges

Africa is still very largely rural and agricultural, as some 62 percent of all Africans live outside cities and towns. Nevertheless, during the past generation, urbanization has increased at a very rapid pace. More than 38 percent of the Continent's current population lives in urban areas (2005 estimate), compared with only 30 percent in 1985 and 23 percent in 1970. While in 1970 there were only two cities in the continent with populations exceeding 500,000, in 2005 a total of 37 African cities had populations of more than 1,000,000. If current trends continue, 48 and 53 percent of Africa's population will live in urban areas in 2025 and 2030, respectively.

This rapid urban population growth has been caused by factors such as prospects for jobs, access to health services, education, and general attractions of urban life. Many people migrating to the cities, however, have discovered that their prospects are not significantly improved by relocation. Consequently, unemployment and underemployment are rampant in every major city in Africa. In addition, without adequate housing facilities, the rapid population growth rate has resulted in poor and crowded housing and inadequate infrastructure in urban slums. Municipal authorities in Africa should therefore envisage, in the foreseeable future, problems of unplanned settlements, poor access to social services, congestion, growing air and water pollution, drug abuse and crime in their towns and cities unless African governments and policy makers adopt more proactive and creative approaches to tackle rapid urban growth.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

(a) Strengthen efforts to address the major causes of rural-urban migration;

(b) Establish systematic urban development planning and maintenance to deal with large concentrations of people in capital cities;

(c) Develop policies to arrest the proliferation of informal settlements, urban slums and peri-urban areas and to effectively manage urban settlements;

(d) Build partnerships with urban dwellers to facilitate their participation in the improvement of their environments;

(e) Integrate population and human settlements planning into ongoing and future national development plans;

(f) Improve the availability of affordable and adequate shelter for all, safe drinking water and sanitation in accordance with the 2000 Global Strategy for Shelter;

(g) Facilitate family home ownership through micro-finance systems;

(h) Evaluate and expand the NEPAD Scheme for Sustainable Cities to include more African cities.

2.2.16   Environmental sustainability

<u>Issues and challenges</u>

Africa faces a persistent problem of ensuring environmental sustainability and safeguarding natural habitats for the future. Whereas many countries on the continent have made efforts and progress to protect the environment, the livelihoods of poor rural people have continued to degrade the environment. Land covered by forest and land protected to maintain biological diversity, continue to decrease at a fast rate. This has been aggravated by high population growth rates, which leads to encroachment on marginal lands, including wetlands and forests, which are cut for firewood. The situation is exacerbated by lax or non-existent environmental regulation that may allow unplanned settlements, environmentally unfriendly industrial activities and destruction of watersheds. The challenge remains how to protect the environment, match population growth rates with land-carrying capacity, improve management of the water resources, and avoid deforestation. Africa should, nonetheless, adopt measures for adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its adverse effects and take all necessary measures to protect the environment and safeguard future generations.

Many African countries have taken commendable steps to provide safe water and proper sanitation for their people. However, more still needs to be done. For example, in 2005, only 45 percent of people in rural areas had access to improved water sources while in urban areas the corresponding figure was 82 percent, indicating a serious rural-urban differential. The need to address the low access to safe water and the urban-rural divide is made more urgent by the fact that water-borne diseases like dysentery, diarrhoea, cholera, malaria and others are all spread by poor quality water and sanitation.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

(a) Enact and/or review legislation on the environment and ensure implementation of existing instruments and Protocols;

(b) Formulate, implement and enforce appropriate land use and environmental policies;

(c) Promote individual, local, regional and international cooperation for environmental protection, rehabilitation and sustainable use;

(d) Support the search for, and use of, alternative and renewable energy to reduce dependency on wood fuel as the primary means of household energy;

(e) Promote environmental education through formal and informal channels;

(f) Put in place legislative and regulatory measures to control the management and safe disposal of agricultural, industrial and other waste;

(g) Strengthen environmental surveillance and rapid response systems, early warning systems and disaster prevention capabilities;

(h) Mainstream climate change and disaster risk reduction issues into national development planning processes;

(i) Create mechanisms for rehabilitation and/or restoration of severely degraded areas;

(j) Ensure effective implementation of the key tenets of the *UN Convention on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights*, which among other things, calls on its signatories to ensure that all their citizens have easy access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The impact of globalisation and trade liberalisation in Africa

Issues and challenges

Globalisation has become a controversial and emotive topic. Technology, politics and markets are becoming intertwined, creating a new symmetry of linkages across nations and peoples, in some cases affecting cultural sensitivities and creating new forms of alienation. For many of those who are anti-globalisation, the phenomenon is synonymous with unleashing market forces, minimizing the role of the State, reinforcing enduring inequities, and deepening global exploitation, poverty and inequality. It is equally important to note that globalisation has spurred some inherently contradictory tendencies. On the one hand, trade liberalization and open markets are the standard norms of public management and international economic relations. On the other hand, the world is entering a period of competitive markets where new and powerful regional actors seek to preserve their economic domains from competition from developing countries, maintain huge subsidies, and build protectionist walls against human and material exports from the developing world.

Contrary to common perceptions, Africa's markets are considerably integrated in these processes of globalisation and trade. However, the effective participation of the continent, with the exception of the North African region, is limited by its small markets and fragile economies. In general the markets of Africa's 53 states are not only too small to attract significant investment flows, but they are also too balkanized to generate meaningful economies of scale and be competitive in the global economy. For example, the region, accounted for only about 2 percent of the world trade and global GDP in 2000. On the other hand, considered as a single economic space, the African continent has a potential market of more than 900 million people and a natural resource base of unique dimensions and diversity, unsurpassed by any other continent.

Against this background, regional integration remains the best paradigm for responding to the challenges of globalisation and liberalization. Economic integration involves the application of a set of policies and measures by a group of countries with the aim of creating a regional economic space that is bigger than the national economic space.

The creation of an integrated regional economic space can bring benefits to the participating countries in several ways: (1) Regional economic integration will create room for a more efficient utilization of the natural and human resources and for specialization according to comparative advantage; (2) The scope for the realization of economies of scale is bigger in a regional market than in a national market; (3) Economic integration can ensure high productivity, increased competitiveness in the

global economy, growth, and improvement of the integrating economies which would benefit from the economies of scale.

However, there are social consequences of this economic and trade driven process including: a) job loss as well as creation b) the erosion of the power of national bargaining rights; c) the possible lowering of labour and social standards; d) the variable impact on the prices of food and basic necessity. While economic integration is essential, it will not respond to Africa's development challenges without corresponding social integration. Hence, Ministers of Social Development must engage in the process of regional trade negotiations with the EU and other trading partners in order to ensure these social consequences of regional trade are addressed in the negotiating process. Thus, Continental and Regional social policies need to be developed at the same time.

These policies, led by the AU and the Regional Economic Communities, can support the process of socio-economic integration by enhancing the productivity of the African labour force, providing regional social cohesion and peace, and enabling the integration of the regional labour markets through the portability of social security rights and benefits. Regional social policies can also benefit from economies of scale by facilitating in cross-border investments and sharing of regional health and education specialist resources.

Indeed, the adoption of the Abuja Treaty, the Sirte Declaration and the Constitutive Act of the African Union reflect the considerable importance which African Leaders attach to regional integration as a strategy for meeting the challenges of development in the 21st century. The adoption of the Social Policy Framework by the AU and the Johannesburg Declaration Towards an African Regional Social Policy by the SADC, bears testimony to that fact.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Provide basic social security, retrain workers for growing sectors and improve access to market orientated skills and credit for entrepreneurs to effectively respond to challenges of globalisation;

Increase inter-governmental cross border cooperation in sector investments and programmes in the fields of employment, education, health, social protection, housing and utilities;

Increase inter-governmental cross-border co-operation on policies, which address *social issues and social problems* such as poverty and social exclusion. Such policies should promote regional social justice and equity, social solidarity and social integration (e.g. establishment of regional social funds or regional disaster mitigation funds, and the development of regional regulations of labour markets and utilities and health and education services);

Member States to increase cooperation to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms (e.g. by establishing sub-regional charters of human and social rights and regional observatories to monitor progress).

Good Governance, Anti-Corruption and the Rule of Law

Issues and Challenges

Good governance constitutes the linchpin for democracy and the rule of law, as enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the Anti-Corruption Charter. In addition to other international instruments World leaders have recognized corruption as the single greatest obstacle to development globally. Corruption and undemocratic practices erode the Continent's social and human capital in that it can force skilled nationals to migrate overseas, undermining development. Undemocratic practices contribute to the perception of Africa as a continent where rule of law does not prevail.

Corruption significantly contributes to a skewed distribution of the benefits of development and growth. Most profoundly, corruption and associated crimes destroy the trust relationship between the people and the state thus undermining democracy. Aside from direct losses to national funds due to corruption, it can erode the tax base.

The fight against crime, the reinforcement of administrative and judicial capacities in African countries, as well as promoting good governance and the rule of law create conditions conducive to sustainable development.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Encourage all AU Member States to sign up to the Africa Peer Review Mechanism, sign and ratify the Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and Sign and ratify related UN Conventions against trafficking in small arms, drugs, human beings, corruption, money laundering and other organized crime;

RECs to prioritize fighting of cross-border organized crime and harmonizing of legislation with regard to extradition and mutual legal assistance.

2.2.19 Other issues deserving attention

(i) *Drug and Substance abuse and Crime Prevention*

Issues and Challenges

Drug abuse, crime and corruption are undermining development efforts in a number of African countries. The use of, and trafficking in illicit drugs, weapons and people can

seriously affect the health and welfare of people, and the cultural, political and economic foundation of society. For example, the funds derived from drug trafficking can not only distort economies of African countries, but also enhance the ability of transnational criminals and organisations to penetrate, contaminate and corrupt the structures of government, legitimate commercial and financial business as well as society, at all levels. By the same token, crime and corruption, in their broad sense, inhibit socio-economic development in Africa by destroying human and social capital, driving away business and investments, and generally undermining the ability of States to promote development. Furthermore, the negative impact of abuse and trafficking of drugs on society in general, and youth in particular, cannot be over emphasized. Therefore, unless these criminal activities are effectively addressed, efforts to achieve sustainable social development in Africa will be greatly hampered.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Scale-up the effective implementation of the African Union *Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention (2007-2012*), and its Mechanism for Implementation, Follow-up and Evaluation;

Strengthen local, national, regional and international partnerships to eradicate demand, supply and trafficking of drugs, including using youth to traffic drugs;

Support and encourage education, preventive measures and community action to curb crime, corruption, and the supply and demand for illicit drugs;

Provide after care services to ex-prisoners for their social reintegration;

Encourage and support sport and other recreational activities for children and young people to give them alternatives to engaging in crime and drug abuse;

Establish or strengthen multi-disciplinary law enforcement agencies to combat illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of drugs.

(ii*) Sport*

Issues and Challenges

Sport is perceived to have the potential to alleviate a variety of social problems that often stem from social exclusion, including poor health, high crime levels, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, educational under-achievement, and lack of social cohesion and community identity. Sport can also be a powerful tool to strengthen social ties and networks, and to promote ideals of peace, solidarity, tolerance and justice. Furthermore, as the African Union Heads of State and Governments acknowledged in their Declaration Proclaiming 2007 as the "International Year of African Football", sport can also be used in preventive campaigns against HIV/AIDS, and other scourges affecting the youth of the continent. It is, therefore, imperative that Africa adopts strategies that can enhance the use of sport as a catalyst for achieving peace and social development.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

(a) Implement the Framework for Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa, including the harmonisation of free movement of sports persons, and improvement of the conditions of service of all sports players;

(b) Conduct feasibility studies on the establishment and/or strengthening of sports academies;

(c) Conduct an audit of the state of African sports in order to develop a programme of action to strengthen all sport codes as feasible commercial businesses;

(d) Strengthen scientific and technological support systems for all sport codes;

(e) Promote sport for development, peace and integration;

(f) Promote the participation of women in sport through providing incentives and opportunities;

(g) Support the All Africa Games to promote social and economic integration.

(iii) *Civil strife and conflict situations*

Issues and Challenges

Africa has experienced a variety of conflicts, which have ranged in intensity and have generated negative consequences for the continent. Among the key drivers of conflict in Africa are: a proliferation of small arms; natural and man-made environmental phenomenon, such as droughts, deforestation, famine, and global warming which inevitably lead to scarcity of resources and, often, to conflict among neighbouring communities or countries; failure by some States to be inclusive in the formation of a Government and to create a nation state; ethnic dominance; religious beliefs and inclinations; inequitable distribution of national resources or the plundering of national resources by a few powerful individuals; and competition for investments and markets. Conflicts have also contributed to social, political and economic instability on the continent, including widespread population displacement, outflows of refugees, child soldiers, basic health and infrastructure destruction, economic crisis, food insecurity and malnutrition.

It should be noted, however, that Africa is progressing, albeit slowly, towards being more politically stable and an increasing number of countries have either emerged, or are emerging out of conflict, or are at least not engaged in civil war. However, the effects of war have been devastating. Therefore, until the remaining conflict are resolved and the once conflict-stricken societies are rebuilt, Africa cannot be set on the path to development, of without peace and stability there can be not long-term development.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Establish and strengthen mechanisms for the timely prevention and resolution of intra-state and inter-state conflicts;

Advance good governance, including principles of democracy, rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice and promotion and protection of human rights and equal opportunities;

Provide protection to refugees, displaced persons and children in conflict situations;

Implement the Policy on Post Conflict Reconstruction including the reintegration and rehabilitation of people and reconstruction of infrastructure in post conflict countries.

(iv) *Foreign debt*

Issues and Challenges

Of all developing regions of the world, Africa has been the most adversely affected by the problem of external indebtedness. In spite of numerous past initiatives aimed at finding a durable solution to the continent's debt problem, in recent years, the problem has become more intractable, and assumed a crisis dimension. A significant amount of available resources devoted to debt servicing has been invested in infrastructure and social services, which are critical for sustainable development. Such diversion of resources has led to retrenchment of critical imports and a deepening of poverty, with grave consequences such as social conflict and political instability.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Implement the recommendations of the Economic Commission for Africa's Experts Group Meeting held in Senegal in 2003 to explore workable solutions to Africa's external debt problem. Examples of the meeting's recommendations include the following:

Each African country should strive to enhance and consolidate good economic governance and management as these are prerequisites to finding a lasting solution to Africa's debt problems;

Attention should be paid to the legal details involved in entering into debt contracts, such as the appropriate contracting party for government debt, the equitable division of losses from state guaranteed private commercial debt, the invalidation of contracts following corrupt practices, the invalidation of contracts due to misrepresentation and the effectiveness of arbitration procedures. These steps could play an important role in encouraging greater transparency and accountability by both contracting parties, and ultimately a lower debt burden.

Engage with donor agencies to implement the various aid-related commitments that they have ratified in the recent past, key among them being the 2002 *Monterrey Consensus*, *Rome Declaration on Harmonisation of Donor Practices for Effective Aid Delivery* and the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005).*

3.0   Follow–up Mechanism for Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

Introduction

Future social development in Africa will depend on, among others, the extent to which African Union Member States are able to adopt and effectively implement the key recommendations of this social policy framework (SPF). It is imperative, therefore, that the implementation and impact of the framework is effectively monitored and evaluated. To achieve this, there is need for strong commitment and coordination at the national, regional and continental levels. The following outlines the key roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SPF.

3.2   Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders

African Union Member States

(a)   Use the SPF as the key guiding framework to develop where these do not exist, detailed national social policies that clearly outline objectives, milestones, the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders, and how resources will be mobilized.

(b)   Where national social policies exist, harmonize them with the SPF and develop country-level operational plans.

(c)   Adopt a social development approach across key Ministries and build capacity of the Ministries and their Departments to deliver and implement social development objectives in accordance with the principles of a human rights-based approach.

(d)   Use national budgets as the primary source of funding for social development in the medium term. Therefore, advocate and engage with Ministries of Finance to realize this.

(e)   Ensure that national statistical agencies collect relevant data to inform evidence-based social development planning.

(f)   Strengthen and support social research and share best practice experiences and models with other African countries.

(g)   Establish a National Social Development Coordination mechanism to promote inter-sectoral coordination and effective implementation of the SPF and social policies.

(h)   Prepare and submit biennial progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the SPF to the African Union Commission.
(i)   Need to ratify the various policy instruments, develop and implement national action plans and follow up with monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

3.2.2 Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

Establish a regional Coordinating Mechanism to promote follow up, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of the SPF and all regional social issues.

Establish, where they do not exist, social development desks to disseminate and popularize the SPF, and lead the agenda for social policy in the region.

Work closely with Member States and other stakeholders to adopt and implement the key recommendations of the SPF.

Leverage resource mobilisation to meet additional needs identified by Member States in implementing the key recommendations of the SPF.

Collaborate and exchange information with the African Union Commission on all matters related to social issues and policies in the region.

Establish a process for best practice learning and cross- border mechanisms in the sector of social policy.

3.2.3 The African Union Commission

Establish an inter-departmental mechanism for the coordination and promotion of the SPF and other programmes.

Promote and disseminate the SPF as widely as possible.

Sensitise African countries, the international donor community, and non-governmental organisations about the need to adopt the SPF and implement its recommended strategies.

Liaise with the government of each Member State for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the SPF.

Receive biennial reports from AU Member States; review the reports and assess the status of implementation of the key recommendations of the SPF including factors and issues contributing to, or affecting, the implementation process. Collaborate with Member States to find solutions where there are constraints and problems.

Produce a report on Social Development in Africa every two years, highlighting emerging issues and continuing challenges.

Prepare a comprehensive evaluation report on the implementation of the SPF every five years.

Cooperate with other national, continental and international organisations responsible for social development to mobilise resources and support.

(h)   Involve continental and regional NGOs and Civil Society organizations, including human rights bodies, in the implementation of the Social Policy Framework.

3.2.4   Other African Union organs (e.g The African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights; the Pan-African Parliament, The African Court of Justice)

Accord high priority to the SPF on their agenda and play meaningful roles in implementing the key recommendations.

Include social development issues in their specific programmes.

Work in collaboration with the AU Department of Social Affairs on social development activities.

3.2.5   UN Agencies and Development Partners

Provide technical and financial support to Governments to implement the recommendations of the SPF.

Provide a coordinated support aimed at strengthening the capacity of the AU Commission and the RECs to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the SPF.

Accord high priority to financing the various elements of the SPF to achieve social development goals.

Work in collaboration with the AU Commission and Member States to promote, disseminate and implement the SPF.

3.2.6   Civil society

Play an active advocacy role in raising awareness on the SPF and its implementation.

Undertake independent analyses of progress and lessons learnt and subsequently provide relevant and up to date information to Member States and also for submission to the AU Commission.

Work in collaboration with the AU Commission and Member States to promote, disseminate and implement the SPF.

Facilitate community-based dialogue on the SPF and regularly inform Government on community perspectives and concerns.

3.3   Way Forward

Social development is a cross-cutting issue.   Member States should strengthen the capacity of various Ministries to implement the recommendations of the SPF;

Member States to include recommendations made under various issues as well as emerging issues into their national strategy plans.

Member States to work with various stakeholders in policy formulation, mobilizing funds and designing projects for the implementation of the SPF;

Member States to provide the necessary budget for social development.

Appendix A: **Regional and International Instruments on Social Development**

The following lists show the various continental and international resolutions, decisions, plans, programmes, charters and strategies that African countries and the various organs of the African Union have adopted over thee years to address the various social issues on the continent. It is also on these instruments that this draft social policy framework is largely based. It should be emphasised, however, that these lists are not exhaustive, but are merely meant to illustrate the extent to which Africa recognised the primacy of addressing social problems to achieve sustainable development.

A1:   **Declarations, Strategies, Goals, Programmes and Plans Adopted At Continental Level**

The Vision and Mission of the African Union, 2004.
The Constitutive Act of the African Union, 2000.
The Tunis Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and government on Social Development; 1994.
The African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa; 1994.
Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC), 1991.
The African Charter for Social Action, 1989.
The Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa (1980-2000).
The Monrovia Declaration of Commitment; July 1979.
OAU Charter; May 1963.

Population and Development Issues
- Relaunching Africa's Economic and Social Development: The Cairo Agenda for Action, 1995.
- The Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development adopted by the Third African Population Conference in December, 1992 and by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in June, 1993.
- The Kilimanjaro Programme of Action, 1986.
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981.

Labour and Employment
Ouagadougou Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa; 2004.
Declaration on the Employment Crisis in Africa, 1991.

Health
- Africa Health Strategy: 2007 – 2015.
- Plan of Action on Violence Prevention in Africa, 2007.
- The Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Heath and Rights, 2006.
- Continental Policy Framework on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, 2005.
- The OAU Bamako Declaration "Vision 2010" on Reduction of Maternal and Neo-Natal Mortality, 2001.

- The OAU Bamako Initiative on Child Survival, Development and Universal Immunization in Africa, and on the Programme of Essential Medicines for Children and their Mothers, 1989.
- Declaration on Health as a Foundation for Development, 1987.

HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and other Infectious Diseases
- Maputo Declaration on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Other Related Infectious Diseases, 2003.
- Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases (ORID), 2001.
- Abuja Declaration on Roll Back Malaria (RBM) in Africa, 2000.

Migration
African Common Position on Migration and Development, 2006.
Migration Policy Framework for Africa , 2006.
Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, 2006.
Joint AU-EU Declaration on Migration and Development – Tripoli, Libya 2006

Education
Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015).

Agriculture, Food and Nutrition
African Regional Nutritional Strategy: 2005-2015.
Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, 2002.
African Regional Nutrition Strategy (1993-2003).

The Family
The Plan of Action on the Family in Africa, 2004.

Children, Adolescents and Youth
- The Call for Accelerated Action on the Implementation of the Plan of Action. Towards Africa Fit for Children, 2008.
- Sirte Decision on Accelerated Action for Child Survival and Development in Africa, 2005.
- The African Youth Charter, 2006.
- Alexandria Declaration and Framework for Action, 2002.
- The Kigali Declaration on Children and HIV/AIDS Prevention, 2001.
- The Tunis Declaration on the follow-up of the Mid-Decade Goals for the Child, 1995.
- The Consensus of Dakar, 1992.
- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990.
- The African Common Position on Children–Africa Fit for Children, 2001.

Ageing
- The AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002.

Disability
- The AU Continental Plan of Action for the African Decade of Disabled Persons (1999-2009), 2002.

Gender and Women's empowerment
Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, 2003.

African Plan of Action to Accelerate the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action for the Advancement of Women, 1999.

Declaration of the Sixth African Regional Conference on Women: Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms of Action, 1999.

Plan of Action for Enhancing the Participation of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Women and Children in Post-Conflict Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Reconstruction and Peace Building, 1998.

Addis Ababa Declaration on Violence against Women, 1997

The Kampala Declaration and Framework for Action adopted by the African Conference on the Empowerment of Women through Functional Literacy and the Education of the Girl-Child, 1996.

Declaration on the African Plan Concerning the Situation of Women in Africa in the Context of Family Health, 1995.

Addis Ababa Declaration on the Dakar African Platform for Action on Women, 1995.

African Platform for Action, 1994.

The Ouagadougou Declaration on the Education of Girls, 1993.

The Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace: Regional Conference on Women and Peace, 1993.

Indigenous Culture
- Nairobi Plan of Action for Cultural Industries in Africa, 2005.
- Cultural Charter for Africa, 1976.

Civil Strife and Conflict Situations
Plan of Action for Conflict Affected Areas, 1997.

Drug Control, Abuse and Trafficking
- African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention *(2007-2012)*, and its Mechanism for Implementation, Follow-up and Evaluation.
- Declaration and Plan of Action on control of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse in Africa, 2002.
- African Common Position for the Ministerial Segment of the 46th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 2002.
- Declaration and Plan of Action on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Control in Africa (1997-2001), 1996.

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