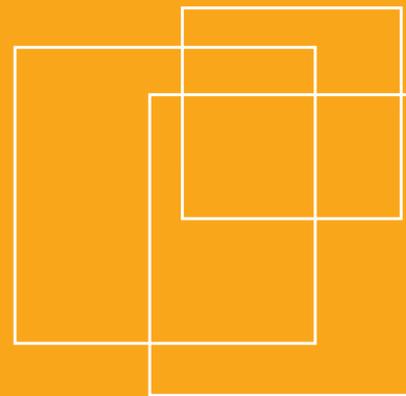


2nd African Decent Work Symposium 2010

“Building a Social Protection Floor with the Global Jobs Pact”

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***Palais des Congrès,
Yaounde - Cameroon***



***Yaounde Tripartite Declaration on the implementation
of the Social Protection Floor***

Yaounde Tripartite Declaration on the implementation of the Social Protection Floor

We, the tripartite delegates from 47 African member states of the International Labour Organization to the Second African Decent Work Symposium «Building a Social Protection Floor with the Global Jobs Pact», hosted by His Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, met in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 6th to 8th October 2010.

Having reviewed the conclusions on the outcomes of a number of historical milestones in the development of social protection policy during the past decades and having discussed the strategic options available for the extension of social security,

adopt the following Yaounde Tripartite Declaration on the implementation of the Social Protection Floor, this 8th Day of October, 2010, in full recognition of the urgent need for all African Member States and Social Partners to start the effective and rapid implementation of a Social Protection Floor for all Africans,

I. Outcomes of key events in the development of social protection policy

We recall that:

- a) On the occasion of the 89th ILC, in June 2001, the ILO constituents reached a new consensus on social security, stipulating that, among other conclusions, the highest priority should go to policies and initiatives to extend social security coverage to those who have none; not only is social security important for the well-being of workers, their families and the community as a whole, but it also enhances productivity and supports economic development;
- b) the third extraordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in September 2004 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action aimed to empower people, open opportunities and create social protection for workers through building a people-oriented environment for development and national growth;
- c) the Livingstone and Yaoundé Conferences (March and September 2006) recommended the general introduction of a basic package of social security benefits;
- d) the 11th ILO African Regional Meeting, held in Addis Ababa in April 2007 invited all African countries to adopt coherent national social security strategies;
- e) the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, adopted by the International Labour Conference in 2008, reaffirms the tripartite commitment of the Declaration of Philadelphia (1944) to extend social security to all;
- f) the first session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Social Development (Windhoek, Namibia, 27-31 October 2008) adopted the Social Policy Framework for Africa that recommended a number of steps to guide the implementation of a minimum package of social security benefits;

- g) the High Level Committee on Programmes of the UN Chief Executives Board adopted the Social Protection Floor as one of its Joint Crisis Initiatives in April 2009,, with the ILO and the WHO as lead agencies;
- h) the International Labour Conference in June 2009 endorsed the social protection floor approach in the Global Jobs Pact, which requests countries that do not yet have extensive social security to build adequate social protection for all, *drawing on a basic Social Protection Floor*;
- i) the ILO Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Strategies for the Extension of Social Security Coverage, held in Geneva in September 2009, recommended the two-dimensional strategy to extend the coverage of social security;
- j) the First African Decent Work Symposium, «Recovering from the crisis: The implementation of the Global Jobs Pact in Africa», held in Ouagadougou in December 2009, highlighted the progress on building a Social Protection Floor in several African countries, and
- k) the UN Commission for Social Development adopted a resolution in February 2010 calling upon the ILO «*to strengthen its social protection strategies, including the assistance to countries in building social protection floors and policies on extending social security coverage for all*»;
- l) the Millennium Summit in New York recognized the importance of social protection floor policies for accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

II. The role of and need for social protection strategies in Africa

We recognize that:

- (a) social security is a human right that needs to be realized;
- (b) the implementation of the Social Protection Floor can best be determined in a national decision-making and social dialogue process;
- (c) the realization of the Social Protection Floor with all its elements depends on a strong and sustained political commitment;
- (d) there are glaring social security coverage gaps in Africa, notably in the informal economies, and rural areas, casual work and cultural work, together with severe inequities in particular in relation to gender;
- (e) a substantial part of deep poverty and avoidable morbidity and mortality in Africa can be attributed to the absence of income security and effective social health protection schemes;
- (f) without effective national social protection systems that combat poverty and social exclusion, insecurity, inequality, ill health and educational deficits, we cannot build social peace and inclusive societies with decent standards of living for all;
- (g) employment and social protection are inherently linked as highlighted in the Global Jobs Pact and the ILO Declaration of Social Justice for a fair Globalization;

- (h) the promotion of inclusive, job-rich growth and sustainable enterprises reduces the number of people who depend on social protection and increases the number of people who actively contribute to the financing of social protection systems;
- (i) sound social protection is a political, economic and social necessity being a necessary condition for sustainable inclusive growth; and
- (j) social protection systems are automatic social and economic stabilizers in times of crisis and structural change;
- (k) sustainable social protection systems require a reliable and benchmarked resource base as well as good governance, including permanent monitoring and evaluation;

III. Building an African social security paradigm

We decided:

1. To call upon governments and social partners in Africa to undertake decisive steps to improve the level of social security for all in Africa by the adoption of a two-dimensional strategy for the extension of effective social security coverage, thus:
 - The horizontal dimension should consist of the rapid implementation of national social protection floors, i.e. a minimum package of transfers, rights and entitlements that provides access to essential medical care and provides sufficient income to all in need of such protection.
 - The vertical dimension should seek to provide higher levels of social security – at least in line with the coverage and benefits requirements of the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) – to as many people in our societies as possible and as soon as possible; based, as a prerequisite, on policies aiming at gradually formalize the informal economies of Africa.
2. To call upon governments and social partners in Africa to reinforce efforts towards the widest possible ratification of Convention No. 102.
3. That the social protection strategy in each country should contain a basic set of social security guarantees such that:
 - all residents should be able to afford and have access to a nationally defined set of essential health care services including maternal health,
 - all children should have income security, at least at the level of the nationally defined poverty line, through family/child benefits aimed at facilitating access to nutrition, education and care,
 - all those identified as vulnerable in active age groups (such as female workers, unemployed youth, migrant workers, informal economy workers, people living with HIV/Aids) who are unable to earn sufficient income on the labour market should enjoy a minimum income security through social assistance or social transfer schemes or through employment guarantee schemes or unemployment benefits,

- all residents in old age and with disabilities have income security at least at the level of the nationally defined poverty line through pensions for old age and disability.

IV. Building a coalition for the implementation

We call upon

1. ***African Governments:***

to engage with social partners and promote effective social dialogue to achieve the most appropriate national policies and time frames for the progressive implementation of effective social protection floors, taking into consideration the AU Social Policy Framework for Africa (Windhoek 2008) vision and perspectives that also take into account the necessity to promote employment, economic and social development.

2. ***Social Partners:***

- to actively support the elaboration and the implementation of national social protection strategies;
- to assist in developing standards of good performance and accountability for effective and efficient operation of the overall national social protection administration.

3. ***UN agencies, bilateral Aid Agencies and other development partners:***

- to work towards sustainable financing of the Social Protection Floor to be established on the basis of thorough actuarial studies that should also determine required rates of additional taxes and/or contributions and to develop a Delivering as One UN support effort and funding strategies in the framework of UNDAFs;
- to envisage, in case of real need, external sources of funds, or international financial mechanisms for supplementary contribution into the scheme;
- to ensure that the implementation of a Social Protection Floor remains a central element of a joint social policy agenda of the UN system at the regional, sub-regional and national levels to cope with the recurrent social crises and toward the attainment of the MDGs.

4. ***The ILO, in close collaboration with the African Union Commission:***

- (i) to pursue its Global Campaign on Social Security and Coverage for All through all its means of action, and promote the ratification and implementation of up-to-date ILO Conventions on social security and notably Convention No. 102;
- (ii) to explore – using all its means of action - the option to introduce a new mechanism that guides countries in national implementation of the Social Protection Floor;
- (iii) to actively assist member States, through appropriate technical advisory services and by promoting outcome oriented social dialogue, to support the national implementation of the social protection floor, and the regular evaluation of its impact, viability and sustainability;

- (iv) to develop the capacities of member countries, including national social security institutions and labour administrations, to design social security systems which are responsive to new challenges including changing demographic trends and assure the proper functioning of national social security systems;
- (v) to strengthen the capacities of employers' and workers' organizations to participate in the design, governance and implementation of comprehensive and sustainable social protection for all;
- (vi) to promote south-south cooperation to facilitate the exchange of experiences and expertise.

V. Follow up

We invite the ILO, in close collaboration with the African Union Commission to:

- Play a leading role and to provide a strategic plan of action based on the above mentioned activities which should be undertaken in active cooperation with the African Union, national, regional and international employers' and workers' organizations, other UN agencies including the World Bank and the IMF, the ISSA, as well as all other active members of the coalition of donors and international NGOs representing national and global civil society movements;
- communicate and publicize this declaration and emphasize the support needed to give effect to this renewed and firm commitment jointly made by African Governments and Social Partners to achieve the implementation of the Social Protection Floors throughout Africa, within the perspective and vision of the AU Social Policy Framework for Africa, from the year 2011 onwards;
- bring this Tripartite Declaration to the attention of the ILO Governing Body at the earliest possible session with a view to consider an ILO plan of action and the necessary monitoring mechanism.

This statement of action, adopted by tripartite constituents of the ILO, is to be known as the «*Yaounde Tripartite Declaration on the implementation of the Social Protection Floor*» adopted this 8th day of October 2010. Its aim is to commit African member States and social partners to adopt the principles, main elements and practical aspects of the Social Protection Floor, in synergy with the AU Social Policy Framework for Africa, as set out in this document. Member States of the ILO are encouraged to give effect to the necessary budgetary implications of this statement of action progressively as from the year 2011.