

# INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

## Support to NEPAD

**Period of Report: July 2007 to April 2008**

The contribution of ILO to NEPAD is twofold. Firstly, ILO assists in integrating employment as a key objective that needs to be explicitly articulated in NEPAD (as well as in development frameworks such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers). Secondly, ILO helps integrate social objectives into NEPAD by showing how employment promotion, social protection and poverty reduction can be approached in an integrated and mutually reinforcing manner.

The ILO Regional Office was invited by the Executive Head of the NEPAD Secretariat to the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the NEPAD Steering Committee, held in Johannesburg from August 22-24, 2007, where a presentation on the "Contribution of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda to NEPAD's efforts, particularly in Infrastructure Development in Africa" was delivered. The presentation underscored three key areas of work. The first area was the ILO assistance to NEPAD in integrating employment and decent work as a key objective of development. This was followed by an outline of how ILO can help integrate social objectives into NEPAD by demonstrating how employment, decent work promotion and social protection can be approached to reduce poverty in the NEPAD agenda and action plans. Finally, it was pointed out how ILO brings to NEPAD a people-centred approach through the involvement of social partners - workers and employers. Moreover, ILO works closely with all member countries in Africa in the policy formulation and implementation of interventions that facilitate employment creation.

The reconfigured cluster system presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Consultation Mechanism (RCM), held in Addis Ababa from November 14-15, 2006, includes the following nine clusters:

- Infrastructure development, water and sanitation, energy, transport and ICTs (Convener - UNECA);
- Governance (Convener - UNDP);
- Environment, population and urbanization (Convener - UN-Habitat);
- Human resources development, employment and HIV/AIDS (Convener - UNICEF);
- Agriculture, food security and rural development (Convener - FAO);
- Science and technology (Convener - UNESCO);
- Advocacy and communication (Convener - OSAA);
- Peace and security (New Cluster) (Convener - UNDPA);
- Industry, trade and market access (New Cluster) (Convener - UNIDO).

The nine clusters are an opportunity for the UN to act as one in its support to the African Union (AU) and its NEPAD programme. While UNICEF convenes the HRD,

Employment and HIV/AIDS Cluster, ILO has been approached to chair the “Employment” sub-cluster.

ILO participated at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Consultations Meeting of the United Nations Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa in Support of the AU and its NEPAD Programme (Addis Ababa, November 5-6, 2007). The meeting discussed the Progress report on the implementation of the 7<sup>th</sup> RCM Recommendations, the Review of the cluster system, the Review of the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme for the African Union and the Post Conflict Reconstruction.