

## **INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)**

### **Support to NEPAD**

#### **Period of Report: June 2008 to July 2009**

The contribution of the ILO to NEPAD is two-fold. First, 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 (PRSPs) and more generally. Secondly, the 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.

At the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the NEPAD Steering Committee, held in Johannesburg in August 2007, the ILO was called upon to take advantage of the integration of NEPAD into the structures and processes of the AU to maintain its support to NEPAD through the African Union (AU).

The ILO has continued to provide technical and financial support to the AU, particularly through its Social Affairs Department. As follow-up to the 2004 Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa (Ouagadougou, 8-9 September 2004), the ILO has helped strengthen the institutional capacity of the AU Commission in the area of labour and employment and thus reinforce its capacity for the implementation of the Ouagadougou Plan of Action. A consultant has been placed at the disposal of the Department, and provides analytical, policy and technical services to the AU Social Affairs Department, particularly with a view to making employment central to the AU economic and social policies. Among other things, he has been able to support the AU in preparing the first comprehensive report on the implementation status of the 2004 Extraordinary Summit, to be presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission (Addis Ababa, September 28-October 2, 2009).

The AU/ILO Joint Task Force is in place to plan and undertake joint programmes. An ILO/AU work plan proposes a number of joint activities during 2009. Moreover, the ILO participates in relevant AU-sponsored activities.

The ILO participates in the cluster system of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) of UN Agencies and Organizations working in Africa in support of the AU and its NEPAD Programme. The cluster system offers a key opportunity for the UN to contribute to the realization of the mission, vision and strategic plan of the African Union and its NEPAD programme.

The ILO participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) of UN Agencies and Organizations working in Africa in support of the AU and its NEPAD Programme (Addis Ababa, October 21-22, 2008).

As convener of the “employment” sub-cluster (within the human resources development, employment and HIV/AIDS cluster convened by UNICEF), the ILO is committed to placing decent work at the centre of the development process, as

articulated in the UN Chief Executive Board's Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work<sup>1</sup>.

At the Preparatory Meeting of Experts on the First African Decent Work Symposium on "Together addressing the implications of the financial crisis for Africa's peoples" (Addis Ababa, 27-28 February 2009), participants adopted a number of outcomes, one of which was a call on NEPAD, as a programme of the African Union, to help "boost the crisis response at the continental level".

Finally, the ILO participated at the annual consultative meeting of experts on the implementation of AU/NEPAD activities in central Africa, held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in March 2009. The meeting was preceded by a two-day preparatory meeting on the theme "The economies of countries in post-conflict situation in Central Africa".

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/pardev/relation/multilateral/toolkit.htm>