

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

Support to NEPAD

For the period 2003-2004

Areas of support for NEPAD

ILO, as Convener of the sub-cluster on Employment, is assisting the African Union (AU) prepare the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty in Africa, scheduled for September 2004 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The Summit is expected to bring together Heads of State and Government, workers, employers and other actors involved in poverty reduction in Africa. The preparatory process of this Summit and its follow-up give the multilateral system a valuable and compelling opportunity to come together to assist African countries on these vital issues and to make a determined effort to achieve greater convergence of their policies with a view to upgrading the quantity and quality of work and enterprise development.

To facilitate this, the ILO has drafted a preliminary version of this Issues Paper with UNIDO. It has been addressed to all relevant institutions inviting them to contribute by identifying priority policy issues and practical initiatives based on their experience and expertise. Inputs have been received from UNAIDS, UNECA, FAO, WFP, IFAD, UNDP, UNIFEM, WHO, ITU, IMF, UN/OSAA, UN/OHRLLS.

These issues were also addressed by Africa Heads of State and Government during the ILO 10th African Regional Meeting held in Addis Ababa, December 2004. ILO also assisted the AU in organizing a Special Session of AU Heads of State and Government during the 2nd AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission in Cotonou, April 2004. The 7 African Heads of State and Government who participated at the Session stressed the urgent need to restore the link between development and employment creation on the continent.

The ILO is also assisting workers, employers and other actors in poverty alleviation in Africa in the preparation for the Social Partners Forum to be held just before the Summit.