

**Concept Note on**  
**Africa-EU workshop on Employment and Decent Work in Africa -**  
**sharing experience in particular on the informal economy**

**Dakar, 30 June-2 July 2010**

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**I. Introduction**

Within the framework of the joint Africa-EU Strategy and in particular the strategic partnership on *Migration, Mobility and Employment* the African Union Commission and the European Commission are organising, a workshop *on Employment and Decent work in Africa – sharing experience on the informal economy* on 30 June-2 July 2010, in Dakar, Senegal. The aims of the event are as follows:

- to provide opportunities to share experience on employment, social protection and other decent work related issues between member states of the European Union and African states and other key actors such as international organizations, civil society, social partners.
- to pave the way for a more comprehensive cooperation for the implementation of the employment strand of the partnership namely "to implement and follow up the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa."<sup>1</sup>

**II. Context**

The EU-Africa Summit, held in Lisbon in December 2007, adopted the joint Africa-EU Strategy<sup>2</sup>. It provides a long-term framework for Africa-EU relations, while its first action plan specifies proposals for 2008-2010, structured along 8 Africa-EU strategic partnerships:<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.africa-union.org/EMPLOYMENT/EMPLOYMENT.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/index\\_en.php](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/index_en.php)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/index\\_en.php](http://www.africa-eu-partnership.org/index_en.php)

The objective of the partnership on *Migration, Mobility and Employment* is to provide holistic responses to various issues in the interest of both partners, with the particular objectives to create more and better jobs for Africa and to better manage migration flows. The partnership will ensure that better-managed migration and employment issues become an essential part of poverty reduction strategies or other national development strategies of African countries. The first informal Joint Expert Group meeting took place in November 2008 and the second took place in October 2009 where also the roadmap was approved (annexed to this document).

The main objective of the workshop is to discuss how to implement the specific objective of the partnership ie *"how to create more and productive and better jobs in Africa, in particular for youth and women, in line with the UN Decent work for all agenda"* building on the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation and its follow up integrating the issue of migration and mobility.

The Ouagadougou Declaration and its Plan of Action places employment creation as an explicit and central objective of economic and social policies at national, regional and continental level. It supports the promotion of the decent work agenda including the enhancement of the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all sectors in the society, particularly the poor and vulnerable people.

### **III. Objectives of the workshop:**

1. How to implement the specific objective of the employment strand of the partnership on "Migration, Mobility and Employment" namely *"how to create more and productive jobs in Africa, in particular for youth and women, in line with the UN Decent work for all agenda"* integrating the issues of formal and informal labour mobility and migration?
2. Sharing of experiences and knowledge by presentation of case studies and projects in African and European Union countries in the field of employment, social protection and other decent work related issues.
3. Stimulate the discussion among participants that could lead to creation of a network/working groups in areas of common interest between interested EU member states and African states and other stakeholders.

#### **IV. Organization of the Workshop:**

It is expected that representatives from EU and African states, Pan-African Parliament, European Parliament, civil society including social partners, research institutions, UN organisations and other specialized international organizations will participate. The workshop will be organised in three days with discussion in plenary on the first and last day whereas day 2 will be divided in four breakout parallel sessions.

The workshop will be structured as follows:

Day 1 will after the opening session, be devoted to AU and EU strategies and policies in particular in the area of employment and other decent work related issues. The afternoon will be devoted to introduce the discussion in day 2 ie sharing experiences on job creation in Africa and the challenge of the informal economy. Day 2 will be divided in four breakout sessions/working groups that will discuss the following topics:

1. Skills development and labour market needs/employment including for migrant workers.
2. Improving working conditions and extending social protection coverage in the informal economy including migrant workers.
3. Affordability, fiscal space and long term sustainability of country-defined and social protection systems in Africa in line with AU Social Policy Framework for Africa and the UN Social Protection Floor initiative;
4. Presentation of employment-creation measures such as employment intensive methods in particular within infrastructure.

The situation of women and young people (in particular measures to combat child labour) will be addressed throughout the workshop and in the breakout sessions.

Each session will be chaired by 1-2 designated stakeholders and is expected to provide a 2-3 page outcome report by the end of day 2. It is important that this report not only includes a summary of the discussion but also proposals and recommendations for future work. The report will feed into a final report that will be discussed on day 3 in plenary. Participants are invited to contribute with case studies/exchange of practices that will be presented in day 2. We would welcome to receive any information on on-going initiative that you would like to share.

On day 3 the outcome of each breakout session will be presented in plenary and will feed into a final report that will be presented in the forthcoming EU-Africa joint Expert Group.

## **V. Expected Outcomes:**

It is expected that the workshop reaches the following results:

1. The participants will have a better understanding and knowledge of various approaches used by EU member states and African states for their consideration in national, regional and continental related strategies and programmes;
2. Improved understanding and solutions for addressing employment policies and strategies;
3. Identify areas of common interest for further cooperation between stakeholders.

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