



OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Joint Africa-EU Strategy Strategic Partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment

Workshop on Employment, social protection and decent work in Africa - Sharing experience on the informal economy

30 June - 2 July 2010, Dakar

The African Union and the European Union welcome the results achieved in the workshop which constitute the first steps towards the strengthening of the employment component of the strategic partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment of the joint Africa-EU Strategy.

The follow-up of the recommendations listed below will have to be ensured by the Ministries in charge of the questions in line with the proposed agenda of the strategic partnership on Migration, Mobility and Employment, the focus of this agenda is on the employment component which includes also the need to include social protection.

The workshop highlighted specifically:

- A consensus on the need for a balanced economic growth that is economically and socially inclusive and the fundamental role of employment, social protection and social dialogue in development.
- The importance and potential of the informal economy in the development of the economy of the African countries.
- The necessary involvement of governments, non-state actors and, in particular, of the social partners, as well as of international organisations.
- The existence of a satisfactory framework both political as well as sectoral as a result of the strong political commitment from Member States active in the partnership and of the existence of sectoral policies which will serve as the framework for action.

- The need to improve the strategic framework for mobilizing resources for sustainable reforms at local, public and private level, as well as predictable and long-term external resources.

For all 4 levels of interventions, the following recommendations must take into account the gender dimension:

At continental level:

- 1.1 Harmonization of information systems and analysis of the labour market, both formal and informal, in order to have an accurate picture of the current and future situation of the labour market.
- 1.2 Strengthen the harmonisation of qualifications systems and recognition of professional achievement including in the informal sector.
- 1.3 Provide proper guidance for the elaboration of labour contracts enabling a better protection of the African workers in the framework of legal labour migration within and outside the continent.
- 1.4 Establish a platform for social dialogue between the African Union and the European Union including an effective representation of the social partners and representatives of the civil society with a particular focus on the informal economy.
- 1.5 Ensure respect for and dissemination of core labour standards especially in the rural and informal economy.
- 1.6 Establish guidelines for Member States to integrate Employment Intensive Investment strategies in development and investment policies.
- 1.7 Support the effective implementation of the African Union programme on the improvement of the quality and productivity of jobs in the informal economy.

2. At regional level :

- 2.1 Deepen the analysis and support the dialogue on migration of workers inside Africa in cooperation with the Regional Economic Communities (REC).
- 2.2 Harmonise labour rights and social protection at the level of the REC.
- 2.3 Improve the knowledge and techniques on Employment Intensive Investment Programs (EIIP) and approaches.

3. At national level :

- 3.1 Strengthen the capacity of both public and private employment services and labour market information systems.
- 3.2 Create bodies for vocational training which are autonomous in their implementation but within the framework of and the control of national policies.
- 3.3 To restructure the fragmented social protection schemes into a comprehensive national social protection system providing a rights-based social protection for as many workers and family members as possible, creating links between formal and informal sustainable systems. A set of basic essential benefits may serve as a foundation for the build-up of more comprehensive systems.
- 3.4 Strengthen the capacity of organizations and institutions responsible for entrepreneurship and business development support services.
- 3.5 Promote the social economy as a key policy in the organization of the informal economy.
- 3.6 Give higher priority to social protection in the Africa-EU cooperation programme and identify entry points in the existing programmes.
- 3.7 Strengthen the capacity in terms of social policy and social protection of the relevant ministries together with local authorities and social partners and ensure effective participation of all relevant stakeholders to the development and implementation of inclusive social protection systems.
- 3.8 Strengthen knowledge management and actuarial and demographic analytic capacity of the governmental authorities in charge of social protection.
- 3.9 Promote public works as strategies for the extension of social protection in the informal economy
- 3.10 As regards with *Employment Intensive Investment Programmes*: (a) support initiatives aimed at creating a favourable environment for the development of enterprises, especially SMEs active in the area (b) promote social dialogue and social protection in the design and follow-up of these programmes and (c) design these programmes on a sustainable basis targeting the poor and vulnerable groups and ensuring female participation.

4. At local level :

- 4.1 Strengthen or create structures involving actors in the informal economy, local authorities and civil society organisations.
- 4.2 Promote the development of skills to enable rural populations and actors in the informal economy to achieve added value from the chains of production.

The participants in the workshop supports that these recommendations are submitted to the next meeting of the joint AU-EU informal expert group meeting as well as the Africa -EU summit in Tripoli, the Regional Conference on the Social Protection Floor in Yaoundé and at the AU Ministerial Meeting of social development in Khartoum.

An operational follow-up may now be done on this basis by each participant within its level of responsibility including through informal exchanges of experience and the setting-up of networks.
