

AFRICAN UNION

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**ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION
THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
ON EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
8 - 9 SEPTEMBER 2004
OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO**

EXT/ASSEMBLY/AU/ 5 (III)

**FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION,
MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Extraordinary Summit On Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa is taking place against a background of pervasive and deepening poverty coupled with rampant unemployment and underemployment which continue to afflict the majority of the African population.
2. The Summit would also have taken note of the fact that previous African/Continental initiatives have not been effectively implemented, amongst others, because of inadequate coordination, lack of resources and capacity, limited commitment by Governments and other stakeholders, lack of awareness of the existence of such initiatives and lack of an effective Follow-up Mechanism for Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation. Hence, a strong political commitment is needed for the effective implementation of these Summit outcomes.
3. The operationalisation of this mechanism will be guided by the individual and collective pledge made by the African Leaders in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which is a common vision for the eradication of poverty and place African countries on a path of sustainable growth and development and to participate actively in the world economy in order to extricate the African continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a fast globalizing world.
4. The overall theme of this Extraordinary Summit is "***Strategies for Employment Creation/Promotion and Enhancing Sustainable Livelihoods***". It will serve to guide the implementation of the Summit decisions.
5. It is imperative to ensure that henceforth the outcome of the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa adopted by the Heads of State and Government be effectively implemented and followed up. There is an urgent need, therefore, for an integrated, interrelated and coherent implementation and follow-up at the national, regional and continental level of the recommendations and commitments of the Summit. The implementation process should be reviewed so as to identify progress made as well as obstacles hindering the full and effective implementation. Whilst Member States and Regional Economic Communities have the primary responsibility to

ensure implementation, cooperating partners also have an important role to play in contributing to, assisting in, and reviewing progress of the implementation at all levels.

6. It is in view of the above that the following is proposed as the Follow-up and Evaluation Mechanism of the outcome of the Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, at National, Regional (Regional Economic Communities) and Continental (African Union) levels.
7. The Mechanism shall be composed of National Follow-up Institutions; Regional Follow-up Institutions; and the Commission of the African Union.

II. FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

8. The overall objective of the Mechanism will be to assess and evaluate progress made in the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa.

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

9. Existing national institutions would be responsible for following up and implementing the Declaration and Plan of Action. Where these institutions do not exist Member States are called upon to establish them.

- **Functions.** The functions of the National Follow-up Institutions shall include:
 - a) To develop detailed Plans of Action with clear objectives, milestones, roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and development partners and indicators using the Summit Plan of Action as a guideline framework. The Plan must also indicate how resources will be mobilised.
 - b) To review, revise and propose national employment and poverty alleviation policies and programmes in line with the Decisions of the Summit.
 - c) To provide advocacy in favour of the large number of unemployed and working poor;

- d) To disseminate and popularize the Summit Declaration and Plan of Action;
 - e) Prepare National country reports with wide consultation with relevant stakeholders and submit them to the AU Commission
- **Modalities.** The National Follow-up Institution shall establish its own Rules of Procedure to enable it carry out its functions

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

10. Each Regional Economic Community (REC) shall establish within its own structure a Regional Follow-up Institution where one does not exist.

- **Functions:** Each REC will be responsible for the coordination of the Declaration and Plan of Action in its region. This shall include:
 - a) To convene consultative meetings with National Follow-up Institutions;
 - b) To follow up on all employment related issues within the region;
 - c) To disseminate and popularize the Summit Declaration and Plan of Action;
- **Modalities.** The Regional Follow-up Institution shall establish its own Rules of Procedure to enable it carry out its functions

AT THE CONTINENTAL LEVEL

11. The African Union will coordinate the follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action at the Continental level. The AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission as the Specialised Technical Committee dealing with, inter alia, employment and poverty issues will provide the oversight for the follow-up and evaluation.

12. The Commission of the African Union will perform the following functions:
- a) To review progress in the implementation of the decisions of the AU Extraordinary Summit, including:
 - (i) Sensitising African countries and international intergovernmental and non governmental organisations about the need to initiate and coordinate actions and programmes to implement the Plan of Action;
 - (ii) Ensuring that all Member States and Regional Economic Communities establish the National and Regional Institutions to follow-up and evaluate the implementation of the Plan of Action;
 - (iii) Liaising with the Government of each Member State and each Regional Economic Community for monitoring the implementation of the Plan of Action;
 - (iv) Collecting and documenting information from countries, UN Agencies, donor agencies, IGOs and NGOs, commissioning interdisciplinary studies, research and evaluating employment and poverty alleviation situations;
 - (v) Receiving and reviewing reports from the Follow-up Institutions of the Regional Economic Communities and make recommendations on them;
 - (vi) Reviewing past decisions, resolutions and recommendations in labour, employment and poverty alleviation issues and advise on their relevance and how they can be implemented at all levels in collaboration with all stakeholders;
 - (vii) Providing advisory services to the Follow-up Institutions
 - b) Prepare relevant reports including:
 - (i) An annual report on the follow-up activities of the Commission;
 - (ii) Analytical reports every two years to assess the status of implementation including factors and issues contributing to, or affecting the implementation of the Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation in Africa and suggesting possible solutions to constraints and problems;

- (iii) Comprehensive evaluation reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action every five years;
- c) Cooperate with other African, Regional, Continental and International Organizations concerned with employment and poverty alleviation issues and problems and to mobilize resources and support from cooperating partners and UN Agencies.

III. POST SUMMIT FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

13. Various activities have to be undertaken by the AU Commission:
- a) Convene consultative meetings with the RECs and cooperating partners to popularise the Summit outcomes on regional level;
 - b) Develop guidelines to assist Member States, which so desire, to formulate detailed Plans of Action and decide on the composition and mandate of the Follow Up mechanisms at regional and national level;
 - c) Develop standardized reporting format that ensures continuity and comprehensive reporting.

IV. REPORTING

14. Biennial Reports on the status of implementation will be submitted to the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission for its consideration and action and make recommendations to the relevant AU Organs. This could serve as core inputs into the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) process. A comprehensive Evaluation Report will be prepared in 2009 and 2014.

V. RESOURCE MOBILISATION

15. Due regard should be given to modalities for the funding of the activities of the follow-up process at the national, regional and continental level. Such modalities should be worked by the Commission of the African Union for approval by the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission and endorsement by the appropriate policy organs of the AU.

16. It is hoped that appropriate measures would be taken at all levels to implement the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation