



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

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PRESS RELEASE

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Employment for Peace, Stability and Development for The Horn of Africa

The Employment for Peace, Stability and Development in the Horn of Africa - Conference of Stakeholders' and Development Partners' - will be held from 11-12 April 2011 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The high-level interactive conference, jointly organized by the African Union Commission (AUC), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), will host Vice-President, Ministers of Labour as well as representatives of Employers' and Workers' Organizations of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda.

More than 120 participants including delegates from UN Economic Commission for Africa, UN agencies, European Union, African Development Bank, donor countries, embassies and diplomatic representations, NGOs based in the sub-region are expected to deliberate on a regional strategy for the Horn of Africa - developed by the AUC, the ILO and the IGAD - entitled "Employment for Peace, Stability and Development" built upon a "virtuous triangle" consisting of the creation of employment opportunities, social protection for the most vulnerable and empowerment for people and communities.

Key objectives of this dialogue process include building consensus around the newly designed Regional Strategy for the Horn of Africa; fostering commitment for the successful implementation of the 'Road Map' by stakeholders; and promoting the 'Virtuous Triangle' concept i.e. creating jobs, extending social protection as well as empowering people and communities to secure employment for peace, stability and development in the region.

The rationale behind this innovative forum for policy debate is threefold: the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Employment and Poverty Alleviation (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, September 2004); the Decent Work Agenda and the Decision adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on the need to develop a regional approach to the challenges of peace and security in the Horn of Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 30-31 January 2011).

Despite major challenges (conflict and insecurity, food scarcity and poverty, high-level of unemployment, significant economic migration, environmental degradation, presence of terrorist organizations, rebel groups and international criminality - piracy), the Horn of Africa characterized by a young population, rural/pastoralist population, is witnessing signs of hope. The region is currently exhibiting increased governments' commitment towards sustainable development and good governance; strengthened partnership/commitment - bilateral, multilateral, private-public, great potential with abundant natural resources; growing foreign investment in the sub-region creating decent employment opportunities; and youthful and dynamic population - critical to increased productivity and long-term employment.

Success stories, best practices and concrete projects implemented on the ground in these different countries will be shared during roundtable discussions. Key panel sessions have also been designed to highlight thematic issues related to governance, climate change and green economy, food security, and migration in the Horn of Africa.

Mobilizing social partnership for inclusive and sustainable peace, stability and development in the Horn of Africa will present concrete opportunities for participants so that they are able to identify practical implementation modalities of the regional strategy in the sub-region.

For media coverage, interviews and photos ops:

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