



Signature of the Declaration of Intent

To launch

The Joint AUC-AfDB-ECA-ILO Youth Employment Initiative

Remarks by

Mr Hans Hofmeijer, ILO Acting Regional Director for Africa

ADDIS ABABA, 12 September 2012

Excellences,

Dear colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me to be able to sign this Declaration of Intent today on behalf of ILO. When I arrived in Addis to take up my functions earlier this year I immediately realized that this Initiative would be key to promoting youth employment in Africa.

By allowing each of the partners to bring its knowledge and experience to the table the Initiative will make it possible to develop African solutions to the major challenge facing not only the continent but the whole world today.

By working together the partners will be able to leverage resources more effectively and efficiently, thus ensuring that Member States get the greatest possible value for their money.

The Initiative will no doubt also help facilitate external resource mobilization by showing our development partners that it is possible for organizations like ours to work closely together.

The ILO has made youth employment one of its global areas of critical importance and we will be glad to share our experience from other regions with the Initiative, keeping in mind of course that there are no “one size fits all” solutions.

Pilot efforts are already underway in the context of the Initiative in Burkina Faso and Senegal and we look forward to scaling up activities in the near future.

To be able to do so it is essential for the Initiative’s Steering Committee to meet as soon as possible and in any case before the end of the year!

Thank you for your attention.