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MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release

ILO DIRECTOR-GENERAL GUY RYDER TO ATTEND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OAU - AU

ADDIS ABABA/GENEVA (ILO News) – The Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Mr Guy Ryder is to attend the official ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) – African Union (AU) on 25 May 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

During this official visit, his first to the Headquarters of the African Union Commission, Mr Ryder – who is accompanied by Mr Gilbert Hougbo, ILO Deputy Director-General for Field Operations and Partnerships - will meet African leaders and social partners to reaffirm ILO's readiness to support Africa's renaissance and socio-economic transformation agenda.

The cooperation between the OAU and the ILO (in such areas as Employment, Social Protection, HIV AIDS, Rights, etc.) started fifty years ago immediately after the creation of the continental organisation.

The ILO has been a strong advocate of this unique tripartite structure of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission of the African Union; an interactive platform where Ministers of Labour, representatives of trade unions and from the private sector chart their key priorities for Africa's development.

The new Joint Youth Employment Initiative (ILO, AU, UNECA, and AfDB) addresses the call of the African Heads of State and Government at their Summit in Malabo in July 2011 to tackle more decisively the youth employment challenge in Africa.

As a partner for development of Africa, the ILO attaches great importance to this milestone in the history of the continent. Both organisations have expressed their commitment to strengthen their cooperation in the framework and the spirit of the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action (2004 – 2014) on Employment Creation and Poverty Alleviation.

At a time when key challenges, such as persistently high youth unemployment rates as well as uneven patterns of growth across the continent must be tackled while seizing new opportunities and redefining priorities in realizing Africa's renaissance, the ILO and the world of work will be marking the 50th Anniversary by moving forward together for the next 50 years in further promoting inclusive growth and job creation for peace, stability and development of Africa.

Press materials and a package of photo and audio-visual materials will be available to the media. For more information or interview requests, please contact ILO Regional office for Africa, Tel: +251 911 21 81 15, guebray@ilo.org or + 251 911 21 81 13, rahel@ilo.org, the ILO Department of Communications (communication@ilo.org, Tel: +4122/799-7912).