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**SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE SPECIALISED
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (STC-SDLE-6)**

27TH -31ST July 2026

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

STC-SDLE-6/DRAFT/MIN/RPT

***Theme: “INVESTING, STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING SOCIAL PROTECTION
SYSTEMS IN AFRICA: CRITICAL ENABLERS FOR INCLUSION, RESILIENCE
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE”***

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE MINISTERS’ MEETING
30TH – 31ST JULY, 2026.**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Ministers' Meeting of the Sixth African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour, and Employment (STC-SDLE-6) was held in Windhoek, Namibia from 30th - 31st July 2026. The meeting was held under the theme: ***"Investing, Strengthening and Expanding Social Protection Systems in Africa: Critical Enablers for Inclusion, Resilience and Social Justice"***.

ATTENDANCE

2. The Ministerial Meeting was attended by delegates from the following AU Member States: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ghana, The Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Republic of the Congo, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Tunisia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
3. The meeting was attended by the following social partners: Business Africa, ITUC-Africa, Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), and the Trade Union Congress of Namibia
4. The following AU Organs, Regional Economic Communities(RECs), Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations and cooperating partners were represented: Governmental Organizations and cooperating partners were represented: ACALAN, ACERWC, ACHPR, AUDA-NEPAD, STATAFRIC, Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Africa Social Security Association (ASSA), African Development Bank, African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC), Pan African Productivity Association (PAPA), Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO), Womens Legal Resources Centre (WOLREC), The World Bank, Government Council for Social Innovation (GCSI), HelpAge International, GIZ, Plan International, Statistics Sweden, World Vision International, ILO, IOM, UNECA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) and Strathmore University.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING CEREMONY

5. In her intervention, Honourable **Dr. Emma Kantema**, Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare of the Republic of Namibia, welcomed delegates to the STC-SDLE-6 and reaffirmed Namibia's commitment to advancing social justice, inclusion, and sustainable development. She underscored the strategic importance of investing in, strengthening, and expanding comprehensive social protection systems as critical enablers of resilience, inclusive growth, and the realization of Africa's demographic dividend. Drawing on Namibia's experience in implementing social protection programmes, she called for strengthened domestic resource

mobilization, expanded coverage, particularly for workers in the informal economy, and sustained political commitment to mainstream social protection within national development frameworks to advance Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. The Secretary General, Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), **Mr. Areski Mezhoud** in his opening remarks, emphasized that social protection is a fundamental right and an essential foundation for dignity, inclusion, resilience, social justice and peace. He called for universal, sustainable and context-responsive systems supported by innovative and equitable financing. He urged governments, employers, workers and partners to strengthen institutions, expand coverage to vulnerable groups, promote tripartism and empower workers' organizations. He concluded by calling for united action to translate continental commitments into tangible outcomes and advance a democratic, equitable and cohesive Africa.
7. On behalf of Business Africa Employers Federation, **Mr. Stephen Obiro**, in his opening remarks, underscored the unique role of the STC-SDLE as Africa's only continental platform for high-level tripartite social dialogue on labour, employment and social development. He called for Africa to negotiate labour matters from a united common position. He further emphasized that Africa's persistent development challenges are also opportunities for industrialization and stressed the urgency of empowering the continent's youthful population through decent work, skills development and social protection reforms. He concluded by calling for stronger social accountability, strengthened policy frameworks, timely ratification and domestication of AU protocols, and robust tracking and reporting mechanisms.
8. On behalf of the Child parliamentarians, **Ms. Uxolo Jane Phiri**, Speaker of Namibia's Children's Parliament emphasized that social protection enables children to access education, healthcare, nutrition, safety and dignity. She urged policymakers to engage children as present-day partners in shaping decisions affecting them. Highlighting persistent poverty, violence, harmful practices, exclusion and online exploitation, she called for child-centred social protection, stronger protection systems and institutionalized child participation. She concluded that investing in children strengthens families, communities, democracy and Africa's progress towards Agenda 2063. In his opening remarks.
9. The ILO Director-General, **Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo**, in his opening remarks, reaffirmed the longstanding AU–ILO partnership in advancing decent work, social justice and inclusive development in Africa. He underscored that social protection is a strategic investment for resilience, productivity and inclusive growth, and called for accelerated implementation through stronger institutions, sustainable financing and expanded coverage. He further reaffirmed the ILO's commitment to supporting Member States in strengthening labour institutions, promoting employment and advancing the aspirations of Agenda 2063.'
10. In his opening remarks, **Mr. Symerre Grey-Johnson**, Director, Human Capital and Social Development at AUDA-NEPAD, highlighted that with declining international aid, Africa must prioritize domestic financing and institutional ownership to build resilient social protection systems, as only one in five people currently has access to such benefits. He added that AUDA-NEPAD is developing the Comprehensive African Social Protection Framework

(CASPF) to address these gaps by promoting integrated delivery systems, extending coverage to informal workers, and strengthening domestic resource mobilization.

11. In her statement, **H.E. Amb. Amma A. Twum-Amoah**, welcomed participants and thanked the Government and people of Namibia for hosting the Sixth session of the STC SDLE. She emphasized that social development, labour and employment are interconnected pillars of Agenda 2063 and essential to people-centred development. She further highlighted Africa's demographic, economic, technological and climate-related transitions, and underscored that social protection is a fundamental investment in inclusion, resilience and social justice. Urgent issues include addressing inequality and climate impacts, while fostering resilient systems. She called for systems that reach children, persons with disabilities, informal workers, displaced families, rural communities, women, young people and other vulnerable groups. The Commissioner urged Ministers to make bold, evidence-based decisions on financing, governance, partnerships and accountability, while recognizing children as stakeholders in Africa's future. She reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to supporting implementation and called for decisive action to ensure that no child, worker or community is left behind.
12. In Chad's capacity as Chairperson representing the outgoing Chairperson of Bureau STC-SDLE-5, **Honourable Abdoulaye Mbodou Mbami**, Minister of Public Service and Social Dialogue, Republic of Chad, reported notable progress since STC-SDLE-5 in advancing Africa's social development, labour and employment agenda. He highlighted the key achievements in his tenure including strengthened labour migration governance and migrant worker protection; expanded continental coordination on social protection; promotion of the social and solidarity economy and implementation of youth employment initiatives. He also highlighted progress in ending harmful practices, enhancing online child safety and child participation, promoting disability inclusion, and protecting the rights of older persons. However, slow ratification and domestication of AU legal instruments, limited social protection coverage, and persistent violence and harmful practices affecting children remained major concerns. The Chairperson urged Member States to translate continental commitments into national action plans and thanked the Commission, RECs, social partners, civil society and development partners for their support.
13. On behalf of **H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**, President of the Republic of Namibia, **Honourable Fillemon Wise Immanuel**, the Minister of Justice and Labour Relations of the Republic of Namibia, in his official opening statement welcomed delegates to Windhoek and reaffirmed Namibia's commitment to African solidarity, multilateral cooperation and the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals. He emphasized that social protection is not merely a safety net, but a strategic investment in human capital, inclusive growth, resilience, social cohesion and social justice. He called for greater investment in education, skills, productive employment and comprehensive life-course social protection to harness Africa's demographic dividend. He further highlighted the need to address informality, unemployment, inequality, climate change, labour migration and technological transformation. He noted that the recommendations of the Experts were welcomed as an evidence-based foundation for expanding coverage, strengthening labour-market governance, protecting vulnerable groups and developing adaptive, digitally enabled and climate-responsive systems. He outlined Namibia's ongoing social protection reforms and urged strengthened continental cooperation, sustainable financing and effective

partnerships. He concluded by calling for tangible improvements in people's lives and officially declared STC-SDLE-6 open.

14. The Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture, Republic of Namibia, **Honourable Dr. Sanet Steenkamp**, in her vote of thanks, conveyed the appreciation of H.E. the President of Namibia, to the Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Member States, the African Union Commission Secretariat, development partners, and all stakeholders for their valuable contributions to the successful opening of the STC-SDLE-6. She underscored that the deliberations reaffirmed continental commitment to strengthening labour governance and advancing inclusive, resilient social protection systems across Africa. She further recognised the contributions of the organising committees, interpreters, technical teams, protocol officers, and media personnel in ensuring the effective coordination, accessibility, and visibility of the event.

AGENDA ITEM 2: PROCEDURAL MATTERS

15. In conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the STC-SDLE, the representative of the Legal Counsel presented the elected Members of the STC-SDLE6 Bureau. The Ministers' endorsed the Bureau for the STC SDLE-6 as proposed by the Experts' Meeting.

Chairperson	Government	Southern Africa	Zambia
1 st Vice Chairperson	Government	North Africa	
2 nd Vice Chairperson	Employers	West Africa	Senegal
3 rd Vice Chairperson	Workers	East Africa	South Sudan
Rapporteur	Government	Central Africa	Chad

16. The Ministers adopted the Agenda and Programme of Work.

AGENDA ITEM 3: MINISTERIAL PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE STC-SDLE-6 THEME

17. The panel moderator, **Ms. Hopolang Phororo**, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Namibia, introduced the panelists and opened the discussion on the theme.
18. In her Keynote address, **H.E. Amb. Amma A. Twum-Amoah**, Commissioner for HHSD, AUC, underscored that social protection is not merely a safety net, but a fundamental human right, an economic necessity and a catalytic investment in Africa's human capabilities. She emphasized its central role in advancing Agenda 2063 by promoting inclusion, strengthening resilience to demographic, economic and climate-related shocks, reducing inequality and upholding human dignity. While acknowledging the AU's comprehensive normative and policy frameworks, the Commissioner identified domestication, sustainable financing and effective implementation as critical challenges. She called for bold political leadership and practical action to expand coverage, mobilize domestic resources, harness technology and strengthen community-led delivery systems. She urged the panel to generate concrete, country-driven solutions that bridge the gap between continental commitments and meaningful improvements in people's lives.

19. Thematic contribution:

- i. In her intervention, **Honourable Minister Pamela Charlette**, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Equality, Republic Of Seychelles, highlighted Seychelles' commitment to strengthening child online protection through legislative reform, implementation of the National Cybersecurity Strategy (2024–2028), enhanced reporting and referral mechanisms, digital literacy, and collaboration with digital service providers. She underscored the role of the 116 Child Helpline in facilitating access to protection services and emphasized a whole-of-society approach involving government, communities, and faith-based leaders. The Minister further acknowledged persistent challenges, including rapidly evolving technologies, cross-border online offences, under-reporting, limited specialised support services, and the need to strengthen institutional coordination, capacity, and alignment with African Union frameworks on child online safety.
- ii. **Honourable Abdoulaye Mbodou Mbami**, Minister of Public Service and Social Dialogue of the Republic of Chad, highlighted the country's efforts to strengthen social protection system through high-level political commitment and institutional reform. He noted the establishment of a High Council for Social Protection, attached to the Prime Minister's Office, to enhance policy coordination and strategic oversight, supported by a Permanent Secretariat responsible for technical implementation. As an innovative approach to sustainable financing, he highlighted the creation of a National Solidarity and Support Fund for Vulnerable Persons, financed through a dedicated levy on fuel, as well as a National Agency for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities with financial autonomy. While acknowledging the challenges posed by the predominance of the informal economy and continued reliance on external financing, he emphasized ongoing reforms to expand social protection coverage beyond the formal sector. He also presented the development of a simplified electronic social registry as an innovative tool to improve the identification of vulnerable households and enable timely responses to climate-related and other shocks.
- iii. **Honourable Edgar Moyo**, Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Republic of Zimbabwe, In his intervention, Honourable Edgar Moyo of Zimbabwe underscored social protection as a strategic instrument for poverty reduction, inclusive development, and resilience building. He highlighted Zimbabwe's life-cycle approach to social protection, anchored in the Constitution, Vision 2030, and the National Development Strategy 2, with interventions targeting vulnerable children, older persons, persons with disabilities, women, and drought-affected communities. He stressed the importance of strengthening adaptive and shock-responsive social protection systems capable of addressing the impacts of climate change, pandemics, economic shocks, and informality. He further called on Member States to expand integrated social assistance programmes, strengthen household resilience, and promote sustainable financing through enhanced domestic resource mobilisation, disaster risk financing, and long-term budgetary planning to ensure the sustainability of social protection systems.
- iv. **Honourable Judith Nemadzinga Tshabalala**, Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour, Republic of South Africa, emphasised the transformative role of social protection in advancing employment, skills development, and inclusive economic participation. She highlighted constitutional and policy reforms, social grants, labour activation measures, the Social Employment Fund, the Presidential Economic Stimulus, and future-oriented

skills initiatives as key responses to unemployment, informality, exploitation, migration pressures, and climate-related challenges. She called for strengthened measures to formalise the informal economy through simplified registration, enhanced labour protections, and support to small enterprises. She further recommended integrating social protection with education, health, enterprise development, and resilience programmes, while expanding pathways to decent work through apprenticeships, job placement, digital literacy, artificial intelligence, green economy skills, and technical training.

- v. **Honourable Fatou S. Kinteh**, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare of the Republic of The Gambia, highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in strengthening social protection systems to address cross-border vulnerabilities affecting women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. She noted that The Gambia has aligned its national social protection reforms with African Union and ECOWAS frameworks through the adoption of a life-cycle, adaptive and shock-responsive National Social Protection Policy, the establishment of a National Social Protection Agency, and the development of a national social registry. She further emphasized the country's close collaboration with ECOWAS, the African Union, neighbouring countries and development partners to strengthen cross-border referral mechanisms, child protection systems and coordinated responses to gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, trafficking in persons, migration, displacement and humanitarian crises. She also highlighted ongoing efforts to improve preparedness and resilience through adaptive social protection, early warning systems and coordinated support for migrants, refugees, returnees and other vulnerable populations.
- vi. **Madame Nour Elamarti**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Enterprise, Employment and Skills of the Kingdom of Morocco, highlighted persistent challenges affecting social protection systems across Africa, including limited coverage of informal workers, fragmented social protection and pension schemes, and financing constraints. Morocco has responded through an ambitious social protection reform launched in 2021 to progressively universalize coverage and strengthen social inclusion. Built on four pillars—mandatory health insurance, family allowances, expanded pension coverage, and unemployment benefits—the reform has increased mandatory health insurance coverage from 42% of the population in 2021 to 88% in 2025. She further emphasized integrating social protection with employment, skills development and entrepreneurship policies, while promoting equitable access to social protection for all populations, including migrants and refugees, as part of Morocco's broader commitment to inclusive human capital development.

20. The Ministerial Panel RECOMMENDED that Member States:

On Social Protection Systems

- i. Strengthen integrated, rights-based, and inclusive social protection systems anchored in dignity, solidarity, and social justice, with expanded coverage for all categories of the population across the life course.
- ii. Establish sustainable financing mechanisms for social protection through increased domestic resource mobilisation, including dedicated funds, ring-fenced budget allocations, fiscal space expansion, and innovative financing approaches to reduce dependency on external resources.

- iii. Enhance institutional capacity, coordination, and data systems through cross-ministerial mechanisms, strengthened social registries, digital platforms, and shock-responsive approaches to improve targeting, interoperability, and rapid response to crises.

On Child Protection and the Elimination of Harmful Practices

- i. Strengthen child protection systems and legal frameworks, including measures to prevent and respond to violence against children, harmful practices, and emerging risks affecting children in digital environments.
- ii. Modernise legislative and policy frameworks on Child Online Protection (COP) by addressing digital offences, including online grooming, cyberbullying, image-based abuse, and other forms of online exploitation with greater accountability of technology providers.
- iii. Strengthen regional and cross-border cooperation to prevent and eliminate harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation, while enhancing coordinated child protection responses and safeguarding vulnerable children.

On Labour, Employment and Skills Development

- i. Position social protection as a productive investment by integrating it with employment creation, active labour market policies, skills development, and pathways towards decent work and economic inclusion.
- ii. Expand investment in future-oriented skills development including digital skills, artificial intelligence, green economy competencies, technical and vocational education and training (TVET), and lifelong learning to address evolving labour market demands.
- iii. Strengthen labour market resilience and inclusion by formalising informal employment, expanding employment protection, and improving access to health coverage, pensions, unemployment protection, and other labour-related social protection measures.

On Interlinkages: Regional Integration, Migration and Resilience

- i. Strengthen regional coordination and policy harmonisation through collaboration with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to enhance cross-border social protection mechanisms and portability of benefits for migrant, refugee, and displaced populations.
- ii. Establish climate, disaster, and conflict sensitive social protection systems and early warning mechanisms to enable adaptive, shock-responsive, and timely interventions during emergencies.
- iii. Promote peer learning, knowledge exchange, and continental cooperation among Member States to share good practices, strengthen implementation capacity, and advance inclusive and resilient social development systems.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PRESENTATION ON YOUTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

- 21.** The World Bank made a presentation on Youth and Social Protection which highlighted that the demographic bulge which could be a dividend or challenge if not accompanied by jobs. Early action would lower long-term social and fiscal costs. The presentation highlighted that by 2050 Africa is the only continent with a positive growth rate. The presentation indicated that despite the fact that other continents have declining populations while Africa's population is growing, Africa should then train its youth for Employment.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS OF THE STC-SDLE-6

22. The Report of the Experts' meeting of the STC-SDLE-6 was presented by the Rapporteur of the STC SDLE-6.

23. The Ministers considered the Report of the Meeting of Experts and endorsed the recommendations therein.

SECTORAL SESSIONS OUTCOMES- SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

On Child Protection and Ending Harmful Practices

24. The Ministers **ENDORSED**

- i. The Common African Position on Ending Violence Against Children (CAP-EVAC).
- ii. The AU Model Law on Child Online Safety and **REQUESTS** its submission to the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs for further consideration.

25. The Ministers **TOOK NOTE** of:

- i. The AU Child Protection and Ending Harmful Practices Programmes - Country Monitoring Missions (2025 – 2026).
- ii. The Progress in the Implementation and Operationalisation of the AU Accountability Framework on the Elimination of Harmful Practices in Africa.
- iii. The Development of the Compendiums of Exemplary Practices on Eliminating Ending Harmful Practices Across Africa.
- iv. The AU Champion's Report on Ending Child Marriage (2025).
- v. The Outcomes and Recommendations of the Fourth African Girls' Summit.
- vi. The Thematic Report on Harmful Practices Affecting Children in Africa.
- vii. Guidelines on Ending Violence Against Children in Africa.
- viii. The AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG)

26. The Ministers **CALLED UPON** Member States to:

- i. Facilitate the AU country monitoring missions on child protection and harmful practices
- ii. Strengthen the implementation of the AU Accountability Framework on the Elimination of Harmful Practices.
- iii. Accelerate commitments to end child marriage and support the advocacy efforts of the African Union Champion on Ending Child Marriage.
- iv. Participate in the African Girls' Summit and utilize the platform to advance commitments on the rights, protection, empowerment, and meaningful participation of girls and boys.
- v. Expedite the ratification, domestication and implementation of the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG).
- vi. Promote strategic public–private partnerships to support resource mobilization and coordinated interventions for child protection and the elimination of harmful practices.

On Ageing, Family, Disability Inclusion and Rights-Based Social Protection

27. The Ministers **CALLED UPON** Member States to:

- i. Strengthen legislative, policy, and institutional measures to promote accessibility, inclusive communication, and the full and meaningful participation of persons with hearing disabilities.
- ii. Recognize and promote national sign language(s) as official or legally recognized language(s), in accordance with national constitutional, legal, and policy frameworks.

28. The Ministers **FURTHER**:

- i. **REQUESTED** the African Union Commission to undertake an assessment of the legal, technical, operational, and financial implications of enhancing the recognition and use of Sign Language within the AU institutional framework.
- ii. **URGED** Member States and the African Union Commission to promote the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence-enabled sign language technologies to advance accessibility and inclusion, in line with the AU Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy.
- iii. **RECOMMENDED** for consideration by the Assembly, the **appointment** of H.E. the President of the Republic of Namibia as the AU Champion on Social Protection and Disability Inclusion.

29. The Ministers **TOOK NOTE** of the:

- i. Status of Ratification of AU Protocols on Social Protection and Social Security, the Rights of Older Persons, and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- ii. Status of the Implementation of the Common African Position on Long-Term Care Systems for Africa.
- iii. Implementation of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Disability Inclusion Focal Point Model.
- iv. Status of the Appointment of the African Union Special Envoy on Albinism.
- v. Pan-African Dialogue Series on Ageing and Development.
- vi. Proposal for the development of a Common African Position on Ageing.
- vii. Report of the Technical Dialogue on the Status of implementation of the Plan of Action on the Family
- viii. Proposed Development of the AU Plan of Action on Disability Rights and Inclusion.
- ix. Member States' Commitments on Disability Inclusion arising from the 2025 Global Disability Summit.
- x. Comprehensive African Social Protection Framework (CASPF).

30. The Ministers **REQUESTED** the Commission to:

- i. Review and update the Common African Position on Long-Term Care Systems for Africa in line with relevant AU legal instruments and emerging priorities.
- ii. Develop an AU Plan of Action on Disability Inclusion and Rights.
- iii. Develop a Common African Position on Ageing by leveraging the Africa Ageing Conference for stakeholder consultation and validation.
- iv. Review and update the AU Plan of Action on the Family to address emerging social and demographic priorities.

- v. Expedite the implementation of Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1063(XXXV) on the appointment of a Special Envoy on Albinism without additional financial implications.

31. The Ministers CALLED UPON Member States to:

- i. Accelerate the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Protocols on the Rights of Older Persons, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security.
- ii. Strengthen the implementation, monitoring and reporting of commitments on social development and disability inclusion, in line with the Doha Political Declaration, the Amman–Berlin Declaration and relevant AU frameworks

32. The Ministers REQUESTED Member States, RECs, the African Union Commission and development partners to:

- i. Strengthen Disability Inclusion Focal Point functions and **DIRECTED** the African Union Commission to develop operational guidelines for its implementation.
- ii. Support the Pan-African Dialogue Series on Ageing and Development as a continental platform for advancing ageing policy and implementation.

33. The Ministers

- i. **DIRECTED** AUDA-NEPAD, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities and Member States, to expedite the development of the Comprehensive African Social Protection Framework (CASPF) and to advance the implementation of the Strengthening National Institutions Supporting Vulnerable Communities (SNVC) Programme as the continental mechanism for strengthening institutional capacity and accelerating the implementation of inclusive, integrated and shock-responsive social protection systems across Member States.
- ii. **CALLED UPON** the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD and Member States to accelerate the integration of the care economy into national social protection systems by developing and implementing national care strategies, strengthening sustainable financing mechanisms, including gender-responsive budgeting, and advancing measures to recognise, reduce, redistribute, reward and represent paid and unpaid care work, with a view to promoting gender equality, decent work, social inclusion and sustainable development across the continent.

SECTORAL SESSIONS OUTCOMES- LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

34. The Ministers ENDORSED the following documents:

- i. Guidelines on the Development of a Model Migrant Welfare Programme/system.
- ii. African Union (AU) Guidelines and Toolkit for the collection and utilization of quality administrative data for labour migration statistics in Africa.
- iii. AU Guidelines On Private Sector Engagement To Advance Regular Pathways.
- iv. Terms of Reference for the African Labour and Employment Council (ALEC).
- v. Terms of Reference for the AU Special Rapporteur on the Eradication of Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Africa.

35. The Ministers TOOK NOTE of:

- i. Progress Report on the AU-ILO Youth Employment Strategy for Africa (YES-Africa).
- ii. Progress Report on Labour Migration Governance in Africa – Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP).
- iii. Progress report of AU Ten-Year Social and Solidarity Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan (2023-2032).
- iv. Status, Implementation, and Revitalization of SPIREWORK.
- v. Report on the AU-ILO Joint Programme on the Informal Economy (2019–2024).
- vi. Report on the ILO Social Protection Strategy for Africa (2021–2025).
- vii. Report on the African Social Security Institutions Coordination and Cooperation Forum (ASSCCF).

36. The Ministers REQUESTED the Commission to:

- i. Submit the Draft Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers to the STC SDLE-7.
- ii. Advance the revitalization and implementation of the Social Protection Plan for the Informal Economy and Rural Workers (SPIREWORK), in collaboration with AU Member States and relevant stakeholders;
- iii. Develop, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, a new AU–ILO Joint Programme to support the transition from the informal to the formal economy in Africa.
- iv. Develop the Africa Social Protection Strategy (2026–2030), aligned with Agenda 2063.
- v. Support the implementation of the Model Migrant Welfare Programme/System through pilot initiatives, technical guidance, monitoring, and biennial reporting to the STC on progress, challenges, and lessons learned.
- vi. Advocate for the effective application of the AU Guidelines on Bilateral Labour Agreements and provide the necessary technical assistance and capacity-building support to Member States.
- vii. Develop an implementation plan, technical assistance and capacity building to Member States and RECs for effective implementation of the AU Guidelines and Toolkit for the Collection and Utilization of Quality Administrative Data for Labour Migration Statistics in Africa.
- viii. Support the establishment and strengthening of interoperable data systems to facilitate secure data exchange, integration and reporting across institutions at all levels.
- ix. Monitor continental productivity trends and provide Member States with evidence-based policy guidance, technical assistance and capacity-building support to improve productivity and advance inclusive and sustainable economic transformation.

37. The Ministers CALLED UPON Member States to:

- i. Establish and strengthen comprehensive migrant welfare programmes aligned to their national context.
- ii. Implement transformative economic and employment policies that stimulate productive investment, enterprise development and economic diversification.

- iii. Strengthen and harmonize administrative labour migration data systems in line with African Union and international statistical standards.
- iv. Adopt and apply the AU Guidelines and Toolkit for Administrative data across relevant institutions, strengthen national coordination mechanisms for labour migration statistics.
- v. Promote regular labour mobility, skills matching, labour market information exchange, and ethical recruitment practices.
- vi. Strengthen national systems and institutional capacities for the prevention and elimination of child labour, forced labour, modern slavery, and trafficking in persons.

38. The Ministers FURTHER REQUESTED Member States to:

- i. Strengthen the implementation of youth employment policies and programmes by promoting employment-centred development strategies, investing in skills development, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, and creating pathways for young Africans to access productive and decent work opportunities in line with YES-Africa priorities.
- ii. Strengthen labour migration governance through improved policy frameworks, migrant worker protection measures, social protection portability, skills recognition, and enhanced labour migration data systems.
- iii. Establish SSE legislation or where partial frameworks exist, strengthen and harmonise them in line with the AU Ten-Year SSE Strategy.
- iv. Strengthen measures to support the formalization of the informal economy.

39. The Ministers URGED Member States to:

- i. Promote the formalization of the informal economy through policies that advance decent work and expanded social protection.
- ii. Strengthen national legal and policy frameworks and progressively expand social protection coverage for workers in the informal economy and rural sectors.

40. The Ministers FURTHER:

- i. **REQUESTED** the AUC, in collaboration with Member States and partners, to mobilize technical and financial support for the revitalize and implementation, monitoring and reporting of SPIREWORK.
- ii. **CALLED UPON** Member States and partners to strengthen cooperation and resource mobilization to advance decent work, productivity and social protection.
- iii. **URGED** Member States and social security institutions to strengthen cooperation through the African Social Security Institutions Coordination and Cooperation Forum (ASSCCF) to enhance social security systems across Africa.

41. The Ministers REQUESTED the AUC in collaboration with ILO to:

- i. Develop a successor programme to support the transition from the informal to the formal economy.
- ii. Finalize the Africa Social Protection Strategy (2026–2030) in alignment with relevant AU and international frameworks and report on progress in the implementation of the Strategy to the STC-SDLE-7.

AGENDA ITEM 6: BRIEFING BY GENEVA AFRICA GROUP**42. The Ministers DECIDED:**

- i. To await the outcome of the review of the list of countries of chief industrial importance, in anticipation that the review would result in an inclusion of new members who have already ratified the 1986 amendments.
- ii. To challenge the outcome and refer the matter to the International Labour Conference for decision in the event that the review would not change the status quo.

43. The Ministers **TOOK NOTE** of the ongoing ILO reforms and **REQUESTED** the experts to continue advocating for African interests and ensure that the reforms do not disproportionately affect Africa.

44. The Ministers **ENDORSED** the candidature of Mr. Gilbert Houngbo for a second term as ILO Director General as the sole candidate representing Africa, in line with the decision taken by the 49th Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council.

45. The Ministers:

- i. **APPROVED** the nominations into the ILO Governing Body for the period 2027-2030 for the following countries: -
 - 1. North Africa – Egypt (Deputy member)
 - 2. Southern Africa – Mozambique (Titular), South Africa (Deputy member), Zambia (Deputy member), Zimbabwe (Floating seat)
- ii. **TOOK NOTE** that consultations for nominations from Eastern Africa, Central Africa and Western Africa are yet to be finalized and **URGED** the respective regions to submit nominations to the AU Commission by the 358th Session of the ILO Governing Body in November 2026.

46. The Ministers TOOK NOTE of :

- i. The accession of Palestine to the status of Non-member Observer State granted by the 113th Session of the International Labour Conference.
- ii. The report on the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Right to Strike asserting that the right to strike is enshrined in ILO Convention 87.

47. The Ministers **WELCOMED** the adoption of ILO Convention 193 concerning Decent Work in the Platform Economy by the 114th session of the International Labour Conference and **ENCOURAGED** Member States to ratify and implement Convention 193.

AGENDA ITEM 6: DATE AND VENUE OF THE 7TH MEETING OF THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

- 48.** The Ordinary Session of the 7TH Meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment will be held in 2028, on dates to be agreed in consultation with the STC SDLE Bureau, the host country and the Commission.
- 49.** The Ministers took note of the offer from South Sudan to host the STC-SDLE-7. The final decision on hosting the SCT SDLE 7 will be taken in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the STC SDLE.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following issues were raised as any other business.

- 50.** The Representative from the Republic of Togo expressed his governments' appreciation to the Ministers and heads of delegations for the support of the candidature of Mr. Gilbert Hounbo for a second term as ILO Director General as the sole candidate representing Africa.
- 51.** The Secretary General of OATUU reiterated the agreed principles of tripartism within the STC-SDLE and stressed the importance of their full implementation.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF MINISTERS' REPORT OF THE STC-SDLE-6

- 52.** The Ministers Endorsed the report of the STC-SDLE 6.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSING SESSION