

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

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SC20183/20227

**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION**  
**Twenty-Ninth Ordinary Session**  
**3 - 4 July 2017**  
**Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

Assembly/AU//Dec.642-664(XXIX)Rev.1  
Assembly/AU//Decl.1-4 (XXIX)  
Assembly/AU//Res.1(XXIX)

Original: French

**DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTION**



## ALGIERS DECLARATION ON INVESTMENT IN EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY FOR HARNESSING THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

**WE**, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Twenty Ninth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 3 to 4 July 2017;

**Expressing** our deepest gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Algeria, for hosting this event on the basis of his faith in African cooperation, his commitment and that of the Algerian Government since independence in favour of the continent's prosperity, and his conviction that "Algeria's stability is Africa's stability and its prosperity is that of Africa";

**Recalling** the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.601(XXVI) taken in January 2016 where in the Assembly devoted the theme of the year 2017 to "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in Youth";

**Aware** that the demographic dividend is not automatic and that the benefit can arise when a country has a relatively large proportion of working-age population, and effectively invests in their health, empowerment, education, social protection and employment through public action and private sector involvement;

**Noting** that about 46 percent of the 1.3 billion increase in Africa's labour force over the period 2015-2063 will be young people aged 15 to 34, averaging 12.1 million a year;

**Alarmed** that the youth account for more than 60% of all unemployed people in Africa; and **Mindful** of the need to address this high youth unemployment rates and the mismatch between the demands of labour market and educational qualifications in Africa;

**Convinced** that the investments made today in the youth, who represent Africa's greatest asset, will determine the development trajectory of Africa over the next 50 years and position the continent towards realizing the "Africa We Want," a strong, united and influential global player and partner as envisioned in Agenda 2063;

**Noting with appreciation** the adoption the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa by the Heads of State and Government in January 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

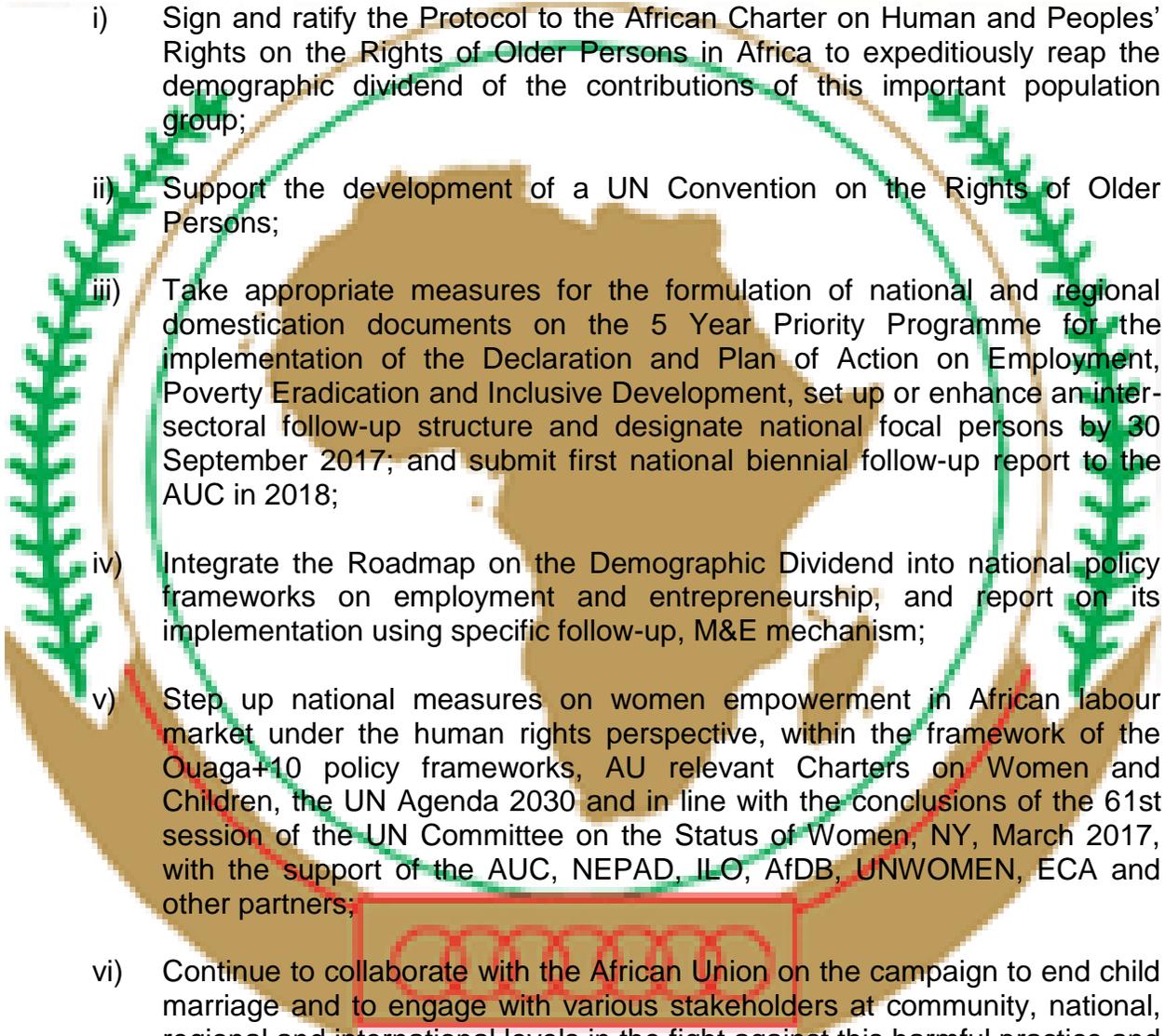
**Also Noting** of the biennial report on the progress of the AU Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa and the achievements made at the national level in ending child marriage within the framework of the campaign;

**Further noting** the ongoing efforts of the AUC, ECA, AfDB and ILO in the preparation and design of the Employment and Social Cohesion Fund;

**Concerned** that more than five (5) years after the closure of the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI), the former staff of the Institute have not been paid their entitlements;

**Mindful** of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, in particular its provisions on human security;

**1. COMMIT** ourselves to:

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- i) Sign and ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa to expeditiously reap the demographic dividend of the contributions of this important population group;
  - ii) Support the development of a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons;
  - iii) Take appropriate measures for the formulation of national and regional domestication documents on the 5 Year Priority Programme for the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development, set up or enhance an inter-sectoral follow-up structure and designate national focal persons by 30 September 2017; and submit first national biennial follow-up report to the AUC in 2018;
  - iv) Integrate the Roadmap on the Demographic Dividend into national policy frameworks on employment and entrepreneurship, and report on its implementation using specific follow-up, M&E mechanism;
  - v) Step up national measures on women empowerment in African labour market under the human rights perspective, within the framework of the Ouaga+10 policy frameworks, AU relevant Charters on Women and Children, the UN Agenda 2030 and in line with the conclusions of the 61st session of the UN Committee on the Status of Women, NY, March 2017, with the support of the AUC, NEPAD, ILO, AfDB, UNWOMEN, ECA and other partners;
  - vi) Continue to collaborate with the African Union on the campaign to end child marriage and to engage with various stakeholders at community, national, regional and international levels in the fight against this harmful practice and others negatively affecting children;
  - vii) Encourage and support RECs and Member States towards promoting free movement of people within regions, and support Member States to engage effectively in bilateral and multilateral negotiations with labour receiving countries with the aim of protecting the rights of African citizens working outside their country of origin; and commend the progress made in the

implementation of the AU-ILO-IOM-ECA Joint Programme on Labour Migration, calling for operationalization of the Labour Migration Advisory Committee.

**2. REQUEST** the African Union Commission to:

- i) Conduct a study with a view to gather experiences from member States and produce a compendium of good practices on Public Private Partnership (PPP); and support Member States in developing PPP projects, including with concrete initiatives by the Jobs for Africa Foundation in skills matching, agriculture transformation, ICT, entrepreneurship, social dialogue, etc.;
- ii) Engage with partners such as ECA, GIZ and ILO on the promotion of skills demand and supply forecasts, including developing a model for use by member states, and support capacity building in countries;
- iii) Work with ILO, FAO, ECA, UNDP and other partners to facilitate the extension of social protection and social security to workers in the informal economy and rural sector, while supporting transitioning from the informal economy to the formal economy through combined implementation of AU and ILO relevant policies and instruments;
- iv) Engage with the Secretariat of the CODEPA to extend social security/protection to artisans and workers in the handicraft industry where needed, through implementation of the AU SPIREWORK and incorporate the handicraft industry in its social and economic development policies with a dedicated structure;
- v) Develop the technical cooperation between Member States, within the framework of the Intra African Technical Cooperation Platform, and extend the South-South cooperation to other regions;
- vi) Elaborate an African Common Position on the “Future of Work” in Africa in collaboration with the ILO; and guide the coordination and harmonization of an African Common Position within the global process of the initiative on future of Work;
- vii) Complete the process of establishing the Employment and Social Cohesion Fund with AfDB, ILO and ECA and submit a framework to the STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs and Development Planning for consideration;
- viii) Review the implementation of the AUC/AfDB/ILO/ECA Joint Initiative on Youth Employment to be in line with the AU Roadmap on the Demographic Dividend and incorporate the new AfDB Strategy on Youth Employment in Africa.

3. **CALL ON** the remaining seventeen (17) ARI Member States to pay 15% of audited arrears in their contributions to ARI, in 2017 to facilitate the payment of the entitlements of former ARI staff;
4. **ENDORSE** the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for onward transmission to the STC on Justice and Legal Affairs and adoption by the Assembly of the Union;
5. **WELCOME** the offer of the Republic of Guinea to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the STC-SDLE in April 2019.

