

Key recommendations from the Regional Expert Meeting on social protection in Kampala, Uganda, 28 – 30 April:

On building political consensus for social protection:

- Establish appropriate legislative and policy frameworks for social protection where it does not exist
- Review and amend national constitutions and political manifestos to include the right to social protection
- Member states and African Union Commission to promote awareness of social protection among all stakeholders including parliamentarians and civil society at regional and continental fora.

On design and targeting of social protection programmes:

- Develop and implement a minimum package of social protection programmes that take into account the unique circumstances of each country, existing social security and humanitarian assistance measures and compliance with agreed regional and international conventions, treaties and undertakings
- Review and reform social protection programmes to expand their coverage progressively to all citizens while promoting the spirit of self reliance and human dignity
- Review and amend existing data systems to ensure that they are fully disaggregated and able to support effective impact assessment, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes.

On securing financing for social protection:

- Develop costed and prioritised national plans and strategies for social protection within the planning cycles of each country and establish specific budget lines for social protection that should not be less than 2 per cent of GDP
- Conduct review of existing social sector and microfinance expenditure and taxation revenue to identify scope for broadening the financial base and the freeing up of fiscal space to finance social protection programmes
- Coordinate with development partners to encourage provision of long term predictable harmonised funding
- Invite Ministers of Finance to the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development and African Union biannual meetings on social protection
- African Union Commission to raise social protection issues in international fora including the G8 and its preparatory conferences

- Include progress reports on issues of social protection on the agendas of relevant African Union Ministerial meetings including those of finance Ministerial meetings.

On strengthening capacity, coordination and communication:

- Put in place effective national inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral mechanisms to improve coordination and harmonisation of the roles of all stakeholders, including ministries of finance
- Build and invest in requisite technical, infrastructural and institutional capacities including South-South learning and the pooling of resources to improve social protection programmes in Africa
- Member states to monitor social protection programmes and advocate for them in collaboration with civil society, development partners, the media, the private sector and other stakeholders
- Member states, with the support of development partners, to invest in research in social protection and inter-country exchange
- African Union Commission to provide leadership to address social protection opportunities and challenges in Africa in collaboration with all stakeholders, and hold biannual conferences to assess progress on the implementation of social protection programmes.