ILO activities in Africa, 2000-2003

Tenth African Regional Meeting
Addis Ababa, December 2003

Report of the Director-General

International Labour Office

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Contents

Introduction **1**

1. Decent work: Priorities of the African region **3**

1.1. Introduction 3

1.2. New Partnership for Africa's Development 4

1.3. Emerging development frameworks. 5

1.3.1. The Comprehensive Development Framework . . . 5

1.3.2. Sustainable human development 5

1.3.3. Sustainable livelihoods 6

1.4. ILO priorities in Africa 6

1.4.1. Social dialogue and economic and social policies . . . 6

1.4.2. Post-crisis reconstruction 7

1.4.3. Regional integration 8

1.4.4. Poverty reduction 9

1.4.5. HIV/AIDS prevention at the workplace 10

2. ILO activities to promote decent work in Africa **13**

2.1. Introduction 13

2.2. Strategic Objective No. 1: Promote and realize standards and fundamental principles and rights at work 13

2.2.1. Standards and fundamental principles and rights at work 13

2.2.2. Combating child labour 17

2.3. Strategic Objective No. 2: Create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment and income 20

2.3.1. Employment policy support 20

2.3.2. The Jobs for Africa Programme 21

2.3.3. ILO support for the African Decade of Disabled People 25

2.3.4. Promoting youth employment 25

2.3.5. Reconstruction and employment-intensive investment 27
2.3.6. Enterprise and cooperative development 32
2.4. Strategic Objective No. 3: Enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all 33
2.4.1. Improving and extending social security coverage 33
2.4.2. The Global Social Trust 35
2.4.3. Migrant workers 36
2.4.4. HIV/AIDS and the world of work 36
2.5. Strategic Objective No. 4: Strengthen tripartism and social dialogue 39
2.5.1. Social dialogue and labour law reform 39
2.5.2. Employers' activities 41
2.5.3. Workers' activities 43
2.5.4. Sectoral activities 44
2.6. Cross-cutting issues 46
2.6.1. Gender 46
2.6.2. Development 48

3. Regional structure, technical cooperation and partnerships 55
3.1. Structure of the ILO in Africa 55
3.2. Strategic planning 56
3.3. Technical cooperation trends 57
3.4. Partnerships 58

Conclusions 61

Acronyms and abbreviations

ACT/EMP	Bureau for Employers' Activities (ILO)
ACTRAV	Bureau for Workers' Activities (ILO)
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
CAEMC	Central Africa Economic and Monetary Community
CDF	Comprehensive Development Framework
DWPP	Decent Work Pilot Programme (ILO)
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EIIP	Employment-Intensive Investment Programme (ILO)
GDP	Gross domestic product
HIPC	Heavily indebted poor countries
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICFTU-AFRO	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions African Regional Organisation
ICT	Information and communication technology
IFP/CRISIS	InFocus Programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction (ILO)
IFP/DIALOGUE	InFocus Programme on Strengthening Social Dialogue (ILO)
IFP/SEED	InFocus Programme on Boosting Employment through Small Enterprise Development (ILO)
ILO/AIDS	Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPEC	InFocus Programme on Child Labour (ILO)
JFA	Jobs for Africa programme (replaced by Jobs in Africa) (ILO)

LMIS	Labour market information system
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MULTI	Multinational Enterprises Programme (ILO)
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIDEC	Nigeria Declaration Project (ILO)
OATUU	Organisation of African Trade Union Unity
OAU	Organization of African Unity (now African Union)
PEC	Pan African Employers' Confederation
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SECTOR	Sectoral Activities Department (ILO)
SHD	Sustainable human development
SIMPOC	Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (ILO)
SLAREA	Strengthening of labour relations in East Africa (ILO)
SLASA	Strengthening labour administration in Southern Africa (ILO)
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
TBP	Time-Bound Programme on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ILO)
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USDOL	United States Department of Labor
WCSDG	World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization

Introduction

The Ninth African Regional Meeting was held in Abidjan in December 1999. Two Reports of the Director-General were discussed by that Meeting: *Decent work and protection for all in Africa* and *ILO activities in Africa 1994-99.* The report and conclusions of the Meeting were discussed by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office at its 277th Session in March 2000.[1]

This Report presented to the Tenth African Regional Meeting is intended to serve as a basis for an analysis that may shape future ILO activities in Africa. As the Report shows, the first four years of the new millennium did witness some improvements in the fortunes of Africa, although enormous challenges remain to be faced. During the period covered, modest social and economic progress was reflected, not only in terms of what was achieved, but also in the increased political will to make further progress, notwithstanding the challenges ahead.

Chapter 1 summarizes the conclusions of the Ninth African Regional Meeting and describes some of the development frameworks adopted during the period under review by the international community and the African region in response to the social and economic challenges facing the continent. The chapter identifies five major regional priorities: (a) social dialogue and economic and social policies; (b) post-crisis reconstruction; (c) regional integration; (d) poverty reduction; and (e) the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS at the workplace.

Chapter 2 describes how the ILO has responded to the emerging development challenges and priorities in Africa through the implementation of relevant activities within the framework of the Decent Work Agenda. It is structured around the four strategic objectives underlying the work of the ILO, which were endorsed by the Ninth African Regional Meeting, namely to promote and realize standards and fundamental principles and rights at work; create greater opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment and income; enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all; and strengthen tripartism and social dialogue.

[1] Document GB.277/4.

Chapter 3 presents information on the ILO structures in the African region which have been largely responsible for implementing ILO activities in Africa, and the reforms which have taken place during the period under review.

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