

# **2<sup>nd</sup> African Decent Work Symposium 2010**

**«Building a Social Protection Floor with the Global Jobs Pact»**

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## **Panel 4: The Financing and the Governance challenges**

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### **I. Introduction**

Job and social protection are two fundamental elements of the diary of the decent work. In this respect, the promotion of the decent work of which protection social is an important shutter appears as an essential vector of the economic and social development. This principle was reaffirmed repeatedly by ILO through its instruments and statements. One can quote as such statement of ILO on the social justice with the aim of a fair globalization, adopted by the 97<sup>th</sup> session of the Work International Conference in June, 2008.

Social protection is also recognized by the African governments as an important factor for the promotion of the human development, the social economic and justice and a way of fight against the poverty.

And so since the first conference of the African Union Ministers in charge of the social development held in Namibia in October, 2008, the African governments in front of the weak accessibility of the populations to social protection and of the weak level of the investment in social protection adopted a frame of African social policy.

This frame aims to promote the progressive implementation of mechanisms of social protection and Social Security to insure a more important accessibility of the populations to social protection. Besides, this frame incites the African countries to identify strategies of extension and social coverage adapted to their necessities and situations. These strategies take into account the necessity of supplying in the populations a social protection floor that is "*a certain minimum level of social protection, set basic social rights, services and facilities that every human being could enjoy*»

It will be a question then of raising these making challenges of the financing and the governance of these mechanisms of social protection, given that in most of the African countries less than 10% of the populations benefit from social protection.

## **II. The financing and the governance challenges**

For the African countries, in the field of the social policy, real challenge lies in the formulation and the implementation of suitable strategies to sit a social protection floor which takes into account political, financial and technical constraints.

### ***The Governance Challenges***

In this respect the question of the governance is essential. Indeed, good governance is the key of the efficiency of a social protection floor.

It requires commitment and political will of the decision-makers in favour of the promotion of social protection for all. It supposes a national participative dialogue implying the social partners, the civil society and the competent public institutions as well as an engaged support of public opinion. To realize this practice of governance, the existing management's structures should lean on strict ethical rules of control, transparency, accountability and credibility.

Engaging parties in this system of governance, governments and social partners will be represented in the management's structures. The attributions of these engaging parties must be defined well, they have to know their responsibility themselves and take capacities to assume their functions within the management's structures. Besides, the governments have to create a convenient frame to allow the engaging parties to assume their functions. They have also to endow them in necessary technical and financial means to make. Engaging parties have to inquire and form completely to assume their duties in this system of governance. In this process, parliaments and public opinions would be the organs of follow-up and evaluation of the mechanisms of social protection due to their capacity of questioning of the governments and the structures of management in place.

### ***The Financing challenges***

For the African countries, financing appears as a major bottleneck because in past, most of the African countries had not considered social protection as a real priority of development. Nevertheless, considering the important role of social protection to guarantee decent work and the reduction of the poverty, the African countries have to envisage various options of financing.

- First option has to consist in the intensification of the coordination of the various programs of social protection.
- The second should consist in the improvement of the efficiency of the collection of taxes.
- The third has to consist in the recovery of public spending in social protection.
- Beyond these mechanisms in resources and public spending, States have to open awareness programmes with the populations and the social partners (professional organisations of employers and employees) to identify suited mechanisms by social protection requiring the contribution of the beneficiaries on a fair base.