Draft Programme of Work

Theme: Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa

Monday, 29th March

9.30 – 11 a.m. Opening of the Conference

- Opening remarks by the Chairperson of the outgoing Bureau of the Conference
- Opening statement by Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Africa and High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- Opening statement by Mr. Abdoulaye Janneh, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa
- Opening statement by Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson, African Union Commission
- Opening address by His Excellency Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi and Chairperson of the African Union

11 a.m. – 11.15 a.m. Coffee/Tea Break
11.15 – 11.30 a.m. **Election of the Bureau and other organizational matters**

11.30 – 1 p.m. **Plenary Session I: Overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa**

1 p.m. – 2.15 p.m. **Lunch Break**

2.15 – 4.15 p.m. **Plenary Session II: Ministerial policy debate on the theme of the Conference: Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa**

- Introduction of the theme of the Conference by Mr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, AU Commission
- Panel I: Presentations and discussion on: *Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa*
- Panel II: Presentations and discussions on: *The impact of the global financial and economic crisis on employment and poverty reduction in Africa*

4.15 – 4.30 p.m. **Coffee/Tea Break**

4.30 – 6.30 p.m. **Plenary Session II (continued): Ministerial policy debate on the theme of the Conference: Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa**

6.30 – 8.30 p.m. **Reception**

**Tuesday, 30th March**

9.30 – 10.30 a.m. **Plenary Session III: Launching of the Economic Report on Africa, 2010 on the theme: Promoting high-level sustainable growth to reduce unemployment in Africa** (Brief remarks followed by a press conference by the Chairperson of AUC and the Executive Secretary of ECA on ERA 2010 and other topical issues)

10.30 – 10.45 a.m. **Coffee/Tea Break**

10.45 – 11.45 a.m. **Plenary Session IV: Ministerial policy dialogue on: Agriculture, food security and poverty reduction in Africa: Challenges and opportunities**
11.45 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.  Plenary Session V: Presentation of the Report of the Africa Commission by the Minister of Development Cooperation of Denmark

12.45 – 2 p.m.  Lunch Break

2 – 2.30 p.m.  Plenary Session VI: Consideration of the status report on the establishment of the pan-African financial institutions

2.30 – 3 p.m.  Plenary Session VII: Consideration of the report and major recommendations of the meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

3 – 3.15 p.m.  Coffee/Tea Break

3.15 – 4.15 p.m.  Plenary Session VIII: Consideration and adoption of the draft Ministerial Statement and draft resolutions

4.15 – 5 p.m.  Any other business

5 – 5.30 p.m.  Closing of the Conference

- Closing remarks by Mr. Abdoulaye Janneh, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa
- Closing remarks by Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the AU Commission
- Wrap-up and closing remarks by the Chair of the Conference