

**Summary Recommendations from L2 process 'Investing in social protection in Africa' to be presented to AU ministerial conference on social development, 27-31 October 2008 Windhoek Namibia**

**Building Political consensus**

- Recognising that social protection is a state obligation, provision for it must be embedded in national legislation and the state constitution as a right, and social protection programmes developed according to the local African context
- Social protection should be included in National Development Plans and Poverty Reduction Strategy Processes, with links to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) outcomes and processes
- The African Union Commission should promote awareness on social protection among Member States and take the social protection agenda forward.

**Design and Targeting**

- Existing Social protection programmes should be expanded, and new programmes developed to ensure progressive and wider coverage of all citizens with a special focus on those in the informal sector and in marginalized groups
- Governments should promote collection and use of age as well as sex disaggregated data, including research, to support effective impact assessment, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes
- Governments should prioritize the collection and use of improved accurate, evidence-based and reliable data for service providers and policy makers, and for monitoring the impact of good practice

**Finance**

- Costed national plans for social protection based on the concept of a "minimum package" should be developed to consist of cash transfers to children, older people and persons with disabilities and access of these groups to healthcare
- Long-term funding for social protection should be guaranteed through a mix of national resources and development partners' support
- Governments, through engagement with Ministries of Finance, should ensure that their state budgets provide finances for social protection programmes taking into account available resources and estimated costs of the 'minimum package' and have specific and transparent budget lines for social protection.

## **Capacity building, Communication and Coordination**

- Social protection programmes should be developed and coordinated through inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral coordination bodies at the highest level of government
- Priority should be given to enhance the technical, infrastructural, and institutional capacities of Africa in developing social protection programmes, through existing good practices and South-South learning
- Civil society and government should work together and use all available means to raise awareness on and campaign for social protection.

