

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

The Fourth (4th) Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment (STC-SDLE-4)

INVITATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

What: The Fourth (4th) Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment (STC-SDLE-4) under the theme: “Building forward Better Well Being and Living Standards in Africa”

When: The STC on Social Development, Labour and Employment will convene virtually from 6 - 10 December 2021:

- Experts Meeting: From 06-08 December 2021. Experts/officials from Member States will consider relevant documents and expert panellists’ views and make appropriate recommendations for the Ministers’ consideration and approval.
- Ministers Meeting: From 09-10 December 2021. The Ministers will consider the Report of the Experts’ Meeting and endorse the Draft policy frameworks and guidelines in its agenda.

Who: The STC on Social Development, Labour and Employment will be hosted by the African Union Commission Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs & Social Development (HHS). The meeting will be preceded by Senior Officials meeting and later on with the Ministerial session on the last two days. The 4th Meeting of the STC SDLE will break into Sectoral Meetings to consider agenda businesses for Social Development and Labour and employment respectively.

Why: The Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment is one of fourteen (14) STCs, defined as an Organ of the African Union in accordance with Article 5 (1) (g) of the [AU Constitutive Act](#). The STC on Social Development, Labour and Employment meets once every two (2) years. It is set as a ‘tripartite organ composed of Ministers in charge of Social Development, Labour and Employment or such other Ministers or Authorities duly accredited by the Governments of Member States, and the Representatives of the most representative Employers and Workers’ Organizations at national, regional and continental levels. The Fourth Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment (STC-SDLE-4) is scheduled to take place virtually from 06- 10 December 2021 under the Theme: “Building Forward Better Well Being and Living Standards in Africa”. This theme is opportune in light of the COVID-19 health crisis which already affected the well-being and the living standards of the African populations, negatively impacting the indicators of the relevant targets of the [Aspiration 1](#) of the [First Ten Year Implementation Plan \(2014-2023\)](#) of the AU Agenda 2063, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Objectives: The overall objective of the STC-SDLE-4 is to consider and adopt strategies and policy measures at regional and continental levels to enhance the resilience of the society and the labour market in the continent against the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the view of policies at national and regional levels towards social development through empowering the vulnerable and marginalized groups to improve their access to livelihood opportunities. The STC will also consider a concrete roadmap in line with the strategies of the Harmful practices portfolio, including the [AU Campaign to End Child Marriage](#) and the [Saleema Initiative](#) to eliminate female genital mutilation, providing clear recommendations on reducing the different levels of vulnerabilities that young girls and women are exposed to including in humanitarian, emergency and conflict settings. Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) will be offered the opportunity to shape the debate ahead of the meeting. In order to provide to Member States and RECs the opportunity to engage in the theme of the 4th Ordinary Session, the Commission will engage with them in order to account for their policy perspectives recovering from the pandemic.

Participants: The Fourth Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Social Development, Labour and Employment (STC–SDLE-4) will bring together Ministers in-charge of Social Development, Labour and Employment, Government Experts responsible for the concerned sectors, the social partners, Regional Economic Communities, and organizations with observer status r such as the Pan African Productivity Association, the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and International Organizations, including UN agencies, working in the areas of concern will also be invited.

Media representatives are invited to attend and cover the Fourth (4th) Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Social Development, Labour and Employment (STC-SDLE-4).

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