

# 2013



## Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP)



**Report of the Annual Delegates Conference  
31st and 1st November 2013  
Harare, Zimbabwe**

***Theme: Grassroots Participation in Social Protection***

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# Annual Delegates Conference

## 31<sup>st</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013

### Harare, Zimbabwe



**Group photo of the delegates in Harare, Zimbabwe**

## **Day 1**

### **Introduction**

The Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP) Annual Delegates Conference was held in Harare, Zimbabwe on **31<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013** and was organized in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Social Protection Platform (ZSPP) and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The annual event brings together government, Civil Society Organisations (CSO), National Social Protection Platforms, international development partners and intergovernmental organisations to reflect on APSP's past and future prospects as well as the progress made in promoting Social Protection in Africa.

## **Theme for the Year: Grassroots Participation in Social Protection**

This year's theme is based on the premise that there is a gap in the participation of citizens and Civil Society Organizations in Social Protection development and implementation processes in Africa. Though several national and regional frameworks on Social Protection provide for the participation of both CSOs and citizens, their participation has been constrained by lack of capacity, skills and knowledge. CSOs create awareness and monitor the implementation of Social Protection programmes thereby enhancing efficiency in the delivery of these programmes. Similarly, citizens who are right holders and entitled to Social Protection provisions, have an important role to play in ensuring that these programmes and funds allocated, reach the intended beneficiaries and address their specific needs in a manner that is both reflective of their concerns and what they require.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the Delegates Conference were three fold:

- To explore opportunities for increasing citizens' participation in the development and delivery of Social Protection programmes as a strategy for enhancing transparency and accountability, and building local ownership of Social Protection initiatives.
- To provide an opportunity for participants to share experiences, lessons and best practices at the country and regional levels in the involvement of citizens in Social Protection processes.
- To come up with a joint communiqué on the participation of citizens in the development and delivery of Social Protection programmes for the African continent.



***Women beneficiaries of the Village Savings and Loan Programme in Malawi share their experience with government officials***

## Opening Ceremony

### Conference Facilitator – Mr. Edmond Odaba

The conference started with a round of introductions from participants who spoke of their expectations to learn, share and network with other Social Protection practitioners from the continent.

### MC for the Session – Dr. Tavengwa M. Nhongo

### Zimbabwe Social Protection Platform – Jane Maponga

The presentation by Ms. Jane Maponga started off on a welcome note and proceeded to share a brief history of the Zimbabwe Platform for Social Protection (ZSP) detailing achievements which included engagement with government, development of a Platform constitution, installment of a National board and registration of the Platform with the relevant authorities.

Turning her focus to the meeting, she highlighted how important the Delegates Conference is in regard to building on



**Mrs. Jane Maponga (right) – ZSP, flanked by Mr. Ebenezer Adjetey-Sorsey – Board Member of APSP (centre) and Dr. Tavengwa M. Nhongo – Executive Director of the APSP (far left)**

networks among National Platforms and also with other stakeholders working on Social Protection around the continent. ZSP urged participants to seize the opportunity to articulate regional issues which was a way of enhancing dialogue among platforms. *“There is work to be done by all, and it takes both cooperation and collaboration to move the Social Protection agenda forward”*, she concluded.

### APSP Board Member – Ebenezer Adjetey-Sorsey

The Vice-Chairperson of the APSP began by pointing out the growing prominence of Social Protection and how it has featured prominently in various party manifestos and national elections across the continent.

However, with continued growth it has come to light that there is a gap in the participation at the grassroots and therefore a deliberate effort to include those at the grassroots in design, delivery and implementation is critical.

Unfortunately, lack of involvement of those targeted in Social Protection programmes means that poor design of programmes is a reality that is reflected all the way down to implementation. In addition, this lack of participation means that access becomes a challenge because the lack of involvement means a lack of awareness and poor participation and uptake of services. The trickle-down effect of these is of poor impacting programmes exacerbated by limited resources and wastage during implementation. There should therefore be a concerted effort to bring on board the grassroots in Social Protection design, delivery and development by providing clear channels and space for meaningful participation.



**Mr. Ebenezer Adjetey-Sorsey –  
Vice Chairperson APSP**

### **Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare – Laxon Chinhengo**



**Mr. Laxon Chinhengo - Ministry of Public Service,  
Labour and Social Welfare**

Mr. Chinhengo began by apologizing for the absence of Hon. Nicholas Goche, Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare in Zimbabwe, who had to attend to other unavoidable state functions. Mr. Chinhengo proceeded to read out the Minister's speech stating that the idea of participation of the grassroots is not just a good idea but essential to the effective machinations

of any Social Protection programme. *"We are united by the idea that we are to consult with the intended beneficiaries in order to realise maximum benefits of the investment in people that is made through SP programmes,"* he said.

*We are united by the idea that we are to consult with the intended beneficiaries in order to realise maximum benefits of the investment in people that is made through Social Protection programmes*

Social Protection is a key policy tool to cushion the poorest from shocks and stresses not just on the local scale but globally. There is a sustained commitment by government both in the short and long term in investing in Social Protection, he declared. The government is going beyond being recipients to partners in developmental programmes which entrenches ownership of the programmes. There is continued appreciation on the role being played by community based organizations in identifying interventions that address challenges specific to the particular community and this cannot be discounted in the overall scheme of addressing poverty needs at the grassroots. It is important then that collaboration by all stakeholders is fostered to enable synergies among practitioners to best benefit vulnerable communities.

### **Grassroots Participation in Social Protection - Dr. Tavengwa M. Nhongo**

Dr. Nhongo painted the landscape that is the continent of Africa and Social Protection interventions therein. A weakness of Social Protection in Africa is largely based on a lack of ownership by many countries who perceive development agendas as being pushed from top-down and therefore hinders participation in the programmes.

This has resulted in weak programmes which are poorly grounded and therefore poorly utilized.

An excellent programme without buy-in is nothing, he asserted. The ideal of a strong Social Protection programme has to encompass three main components:

- Demand from the top
- Government action and buy in
- Demand from the grassroots

The mix of the three gives the essential concoction that is required for a comprehensive Social Protection approach that delivers maximum benefits to vulnerable groups and communities.



***Dr. Tavengwa M. Nhongo - Executive Director APSP***

## Government of Liberia - Gabriel Fernandez

Social development interventions are reliant on contextual analysis of continents, regions or



*Mr. Gabriel Fernandez*

nations drawing realities of prevailing circumstances which ascertain peculiar needs of different peoples. It is no doubt that vulnerability in itself has to be contextualized to accommodate a varying range of challenges in order to design appropriate intervention mechanisms. A lapse in this stage results in interventions that are pre-destined to deliver poor impacts. Consequently, development policies and programmes have to be designed around these peculiarities cognizant also of the fact that a large proportion of people working in the informal economy, and do not have access to formal social security benefits.

### **Therefore how do we move forward?**

- Reinforce capacity of the grassroots; to advocate and empower them to engage effectively in development processes. These can push for the entrenchment of accountability mechanisms that look at service delivery, in addition to building evidence around programming.
- Building national partnerships between state and CSOs; crucial in enhancing spaces for participation and involvement of all stakeholders in the design and development of programmes and policies.
- Support a social contract agenda; this should be rights based approach which entrenches inclusion of the grassroots, builds on the legitimacy of the state and fosters high level political support.

## **What are the engagement opportunities?**

- Parliamentary level debates on legislation
- National budget development processes
- Partner engagement; development partners policy
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR); private sector engagement
- Development strategies and plans, and Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS)
- National and local elections processes
- Regional engagement; ECOWAS, SADC, EAC, COMESA
- Global linkages; post-2015 debate etc.

## **Update on East and Central Africa – Boniface Nakwageleni**

This was a recap of activities carried out by the APSP during the course of year. East & Central Africa Exchange Visit started off the presentation having taken place in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania on 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August, 2013, with representatives from ten (10) countries from both government and CSO present at the meeting. The Platform of the Republic of Congo hosted a coalition building workshop where a national coordinator was elected to head the Platform. In Tanzania, the Social Protection Platform convened to expand its membership to strengthen the reach and activities of the Platform. The Uganda Social



**Mr. Boniface Nakwageleni**

Protection Platform (USPP), held an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in which secretariat members were elected under the facilitation of the APSP. In Kenya, an advocacy campaign

dubbed Nistiri was launched by the Platform running on both print and electronic media. The campaign is aimed at creating awareness on Social Protection in the country it is currently being sustained by a presence on Social Media. The Platform has also been working with government to better engage with the Social Assistance Bill of 2012 and is currently planning to roll out a budget analysis on the Persons with Disability Cash Transfer (PWDCT) programme. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Platform has sated a meeting for November 2013 in Kinshasa to concretise plans to enhance grassroots participation within the country, this will be followed by a regional conference scheduled to take place in February 2014 to discuss issues pertinent to members within the Central African Region.

### **Update on the Southern Africa Region – Mr. Ronald Mtonga**

The updated started with an update from the Southern Africa Exchange and Learning Event held in Mbabane, Swaziland on 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013. The meeting came up with country plans to enhance grassroots participation in Social Protection with the full detail available in the Exchange Visit report

available from the APSP secretariat. Malawi is currently setting up its National Platform with the Council of Non-governmental

organizations in Malawi (CONGOMA) elected to host the Platform.

Zambia Platform for Social Protection (ZPSP) is working on a grievance mechanism for Social

Protection programmes to

be rolled out with the aim of enhancing communication between beneficiaries and government. This will enhance efficiencies in the delivery of programmes. The Mozambican Platform has been able to successfully diversify donor funding, undertake monitoring and evaluation activities on government run Social Protection programmes, lobbied for the increase in budgetary allocations in Social Protection programmes. The Platform has also been incorporated as a member of a working group that includes government and development partners.



**Mr. Ronald Mtonga**

## Update on Western Africa Region – Mr. Samaila Namadou



**Mr. Samaila Namadou**

Niger held a workshop for leaders and decision makers to create awareness and to advocate for the working of the policy on Social Protection which was recently adopted. During which, the APSP and the Platform organized a series of meeting with high level government and development partners to push forward the Social Protection agenda in the country. The Gambia is in the process of organizing a National Congress on Social Protection which will see the election of a National Executive Committee and also look to build a wider network of members. Burkina Faso's Platform and government will host the West Africa Peer Exchange and Learning Event come November 2013.

## Reflections

How do we define grassroots? It is probably prudent to push for a glossary of definitions for key terms on Social Protection especially from an African perspective. National Platforms need to stock take and start again as an integral component of the approach towards efficient and effective Social Protection programming and policy development. As Social Protection is rolled out Africa's wealth has to be looked at as a resource that can be tapped into to contribute to the sustainability of programmes and build



**Thomas Ongolo Board Member for the APSP makes a point**

ownership of the same over a long-term plan. Political will is important to this process so as to ensure that the Social Protection is supported by key decision makers and push for its implementation. This needs to be complemented by empowerment of the



**Delegates discussing the presentations**

grassroots and of CSOs to demand for services and programmes. This should be outlined by clear roles for their engagement and space that allows for effective engagement.

### **Participation of Informal Sector workers in Social Protection in Rwanda – Mr. Thaddee Karekezi**

The government of Rwanda continues to invest in Social Protection and more so through the country's poverty reduction strategies which feeds in to several development programmes targeting a diverse number of vulnerable groups. Several programmes have been rolled out to ensure that coverage of Social Protection extends to the informal sector which employs a majority of individuals a reality for most African countries as many of those working in the informal sector often get left out of formal Social Protection provisions. Some of the programmes being rolled out include:



**Mr. Thaddee Karekezi**

1. Community based health insurance
2. Free basic education to all through a capitation grant by government
3. Access to housing
4. Vision 2020 *Umurenge* programme; public works programme, direct support to most vulnerable grants, micro-finance at low interest rates
5. *Ubudehe* Programme; one extremely poor household is provided with a grant to run an income generating activity (IGA) every year, chosen at the lowest administrative unit
6. Genocide Survivors and Assistance Fund
7. *Girinka*; a dairy cow is provided to a poor household for milk, meat and manure
8. The Rwanda Demobilization and reintegration fund; targeted at ex-combatants and disabled persons (due to the civil conflict)

9. Fund for vulnerable group including; persons with disability, orphans and vulnerable children.

The programmes listed above show Rwanda's efforts to expand the threshold and scope of coverage of Social Protection programmes. The right mix to reduce vulnerability is based on analyzing contextual realities that shape the day to day lives of individuals as well as facilitate buy-in from intended beneficiaries. Interestingly, Rwanda's *Girinka* programme has its roots on traditional safety net measures that were in place. Although a lot of thinking has to go into the design of any programme looking at the intended benefits against risks that might be encountered, it is evident that there is a case for traditional safety net measures which can complement contemporary approaches, especially as a means of getting buy-in.

Substantive efforts are required to support the informal sector and Rwanda's vision for the long-term is to build a comprehensive Social Protection system that increases participation of the informal sector.

### **Development & Application of Mechanisms to Facilitate Grassroots Participation in Social Protection – Mrs. Joyce Laker**

The participation of the grassroots is integral to the effectiveness and efficiency of any social protection programme and policy this requires that the appropriate spaces and mechanisms are in place to ensure that the grassroots participate. This participation should be based on quality input that interrogates different facets of Social Protection policies and programmes.



**Mrs. Joyce Laker**

#### **What are the spaces that exist for participation?**

- **Closed spaces** – parliament, development partners, executive and technical committees
- **Invited Spaces** – decentralized planning, open councils, consultative meetings
- **Under utilised spaces** – decentralized planning, open and closed spaces (lack of awareness)

- **Claimed spaces** – social movements, citizen’s parliaments and advocacy & lobbying forums

### **What Kind of Participation**

This question can be answered by examining what mechanisms exist for participation among the grassroots. The kind of participation can be based on: information sharing, consultations, involvement, collaboration and empowerment/transformation distinguished by the level and substantiveness of engagement. The level of engagement can be looked at with respect to igniting interest and then spurring action in Social protection. Participation goes beyond design but right through to the implementation of programmes which reflect prescriptions from all relevant stakeholders. This should be underpinned by the social contract that prescribes obligations, duties and responsibilities on both the part of the government and citizens.

### **Moving Forward**

- Strengthen social contract through legislative provisions, together with commitments on institutional funding and long term planning



***Participants follow proceedings of the conference keenly***

- Integrating Social Protection into economic and social policies
- State led initiatives to widen grassroots participation
- Sustained grassroots mobilization and consensus building through awareness creation
- Facilitation of citizen led interventions in Social Protection
- Continuous strengthening of grassroots participation

## Privacy of Personal Information in SP – Ms. Carly Nyst

### ***Why is privacy important for SP advocates?***

More and more technologies are being introduced into Social Protection programming including; mobile money, cloud systems to store information, biometric systems for identification and registration of beneficiaries etc. Because of the advancement of technology, Social Protection programmes are now beginning to collect substantive amounts of information. This information once collated provides very specific profiles for individuals and becomes quite risky especially in countries with no data protection laws. This raises questions of data privacy and data protection. Privacy of information is a human right

endorsed by about 75% of states across the world and adopted as such by many constitutions. The risk of violations occurring and exclusion become apparent as more and more technology is employed in Social Protection programming. As much as technology aims at increasing efficiencies related to



***Ms. Carly Nyst - Privacy International***

programming one cannot overlook the unintended risks that are presented by the continuous use of technology in programmes. It is not an issue of discarding the use of technology all together that presents a quagmire but rather the putting in place appropriate legislation and policies to safeguard the privacy rights of individuals and application of the same to ensure that intended beneficiaries of Social protection programmes are not plunged deeper into vulnerability.

The APSP with support from Privacy International, and in conjunction with the Government of Kenya, is carrying out a research in Kenya looking at the privacy of personal information in the Older Person's Cash Transfer (OPCT) programme. The research seeks to establish practice in the collection, storage, access and use of information within the Government run programme.

## Reflections



*Madam Theresa Minja elaborates on a point during one of the reflection sessions*

Participation is a long term process and results are not immediate, it depends on the vision for participation with regard to what level of participation is envisioned and the quality of that participation. It has to be noted that changes, with respect to grassroots participation, can only be observed over time and require clear documentation. The substantive nature of participation would be the end goal with a focus on empowerment and transformation.

## Day 2

### MC – Dr. Abiola Tilley-Gyado

The morning session was kicked off with reflections from participants on the previous day's activities. Participants tried to capture specific concepts that stuck out during the session paving the way for the day's deliberation.

### Role of Government in Facilitating in Grassroots Participation – Mr. Herbert Barayebwa

The grassroots should be brought on board right from the start of any Social Protection intervention. There is need for collaboration with stakeholders in Social protection to enrich the process by bringing in varied expertise and creating synergies from partnerships in programme delivery and development. A clear plan of implementation has to be drawn reflective of strategic objectives including, coverage and enrollment goals. This will allow for clear structures of engagement with grassroots to be developed and adopted e.g. in Uganda, Parish Chiefs are the main interface between SAGE and communities. Programmes are also designed to reflect contextual realities of the community. Spaces for participation in the SAGE programme include:

- Opening up communication channels with government
- During the identification of beneficiaries
- Grievance and redress mechanisms
- Government has also provided some funds for the participation of CSOs in monitoring and evaluating programmes being rolled out.



*Dr. Abiola Tilley-Gyado*



*Mr. Herbert Barayebwa – Government of Uganda*

### **Government of Zimbabwe – Laxon Chinhengo**

Participation demands that a clear understanding of programmes be addressed with respect to target groups and how these various groups can be incorporated. The Government of Zimbabwe has tabled a proposal to develop a Social Protection Forum that is high level and feeds into an interlinked system that goes all the way down to the community to involve all stakeholders.

The Government in fostering participation of the grassroots will look at:

- Enabling legislative and policy environment; looking at different vulnerable groups where they can come in to participate at what level and how.
- Strengthening of community structures; funding, creating space and access to structures for participation e.g. enhancing traditional structures,
- Coordination of different partners working on Social protection



***Mr. Laxon Chinhengo - Government of Zimbabwe***

### **Government of Niger – Mme. Koffi Namata Mariam**

The national policy of Niger explicitly mentions the participation of the grassroots and goes ahead to ensure that clear structures for engagement are in place at different levels of

programme design and implementation. The philosophy of engagement is based on increasing the access of vulnerable groups to services that are available, and which mitigate the effects of poverty on them. The policy has created space for specific objectives and strategies of enhancing the participation of the grassroots backed by constitutional provisions and linked to national development plans to ensure long term sustainability. This is coupled with capacity building at the community level to ensure that quality of participation is of the



***Madam Koffi Namata Mariam - Government of Niger***

essence. A key feature of participation includes competent management of the process at every level.

### **Government of South Sudan – Cosmas Abu Abolou**

Given the history of South Sudan, and its current efforts to develop a Social Protection policy; lessons on grassroots participation were drawn from existing practice highlighted through country presentations. For South Sudan, the development of Social Protection policies and programmes needs consultations and learnings from preexisting systems and practice. The country is presently working with development partners and carries out visits



***Mr. Cosmas Abu Abolou - Government of South Sudan***

to member states to ensure that it picks up lessons which it can then model to suit its country context. The rights based approach is at the centre of the policy development. A holistic approach will build in community participation and ownership of policies and programmes, to ensure that the policy is both comprehensive and sustainable.

## Harare Communiqué

The development of the Harare Communiqué started off in plenary with participants articulating key issues that should be covered in the document before a secretariat was nominated from all the regions to work on a final draft. The secretariat reconvened and proceeded to read out the draft report which after a few amendments was adopted by the Delegates. *For more details refer to Annex 2.*

## Way Forward

This session involved participants outlining key issues that came up during deliberations and which could form strategic direction for APSP's work. The following were the suggestions put forth for the way forward:

### For Governments

- Evidence generation for the scale-up of Social Protection advocacy needs to be undertaken
- States should find alternative and innovative ways to fundraise to ensure sustainability of programmes and national ownership of the same
- States to recommit to the principles of investing and owning Social Protection programmes



***Delegates discuss the way forward and make recommendations for future engagement***

### For National Platforms

- National Platforms to diversify sources of funding to ensure sustainability
- National Platforms to increase advocacy at the grassroots and engagement with members of the Platforms
- National Platforms to promote the adoption of national and regional Social Protection policies

- National Platforms to advocate for increased budgetary allocation for Social Protection
- National Platforms should come up with Strategic Plans, Fundraising plans and Advocacy Plans to ensure better rollout of their own programmes

**For APSP**

- APSP to continue to build the capacity of National Platforms based on needs
- Studies on traditional/indigenous Social Protection mechanisms should be undertaken and documented by the APSP
- The APSP should continue to build web linkages among National Platforms to enhance and promote communication among Platforms
- Development of a Glossary of Terms for Social Protection



***Ms. Caroline Kariuki a board member of APSP keen on the proceedings on the way forward***

**Closing Remarks**

**MC – Mr. Alfred Nuamanya**



**Zimbabwe Social Protection Platform (ZSPP) – Mr. Simon Nhongo**

The chairman of ZSPP wound the meeting by intimating how eye opening the meeting was, praising the quality of the presentations and participation by delegates which remains invaluable. *“It is without a doubt that the results of this meeting will resonate far and wide across the continent,”* he asserted.

***Mr. Simon Nhongo - ZSPP***

## **Government of Zimbabwe –Mr. Lovemore Dumba**

The Platform has an important mandate to play in reminding government of the critical role it play with regards to poverty alleviation and especially when addressing poverty of the most vulnerable.

*“CSOs have to push for the participation of the grassroots right from the design and this should implicate all stakeholders,”* he concluded.



**Mr. Lovemore Dumba - Government of Zimbabwe**

## **Vote of Thanks – Mr. Alfred Nuamanya**



**Mr. Alfred Nuamanya**

The final vote of thanks came from Alfred Nuamanya who is the chairperson of the USPP. Mr. Nuamanya appreciated the organizers of the conference, the ZSP and the government for hosting the event. He wound up by appreciating the participants whose active participation and contribution to deliberations was invaluable. He wound up by imploring National Platforms to keep their channels of communications open especially to each other to ensure that information freely flowed among themselves.

## **Conclusion**

The Annual Delegates Conference for 2013, saw the first ever Communiqué developed by delegates and makes a resounding call for the prioritization of Social Protection on the continent as well as in the participation of the grassroots in all facets of Social Protection. The goal is to entrench ownership and accountability of systems and mechanisms in Social Protection programmes.

## Annex 1

### THE HARARE COMMUNIQUÉ

#### **"ENHANCING GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL PROTECTION" AFRICA PLATFORM FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION DELEGATES CONFERENCE, 2013**

**We**, the representatives of twenty-one<sup>1</sup> (21) National Social Protection Platforms from across the continent of Africa and five<sup>2</sup> (5) African Governments and three<sup>3</sup> (3) International Non-governmental Organisations (INGOs), convened in Harare, Zimbabwe, under the auspices of the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP), from 31st October to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013 to reflect and discuss on the theme "**Grassroots Participation in Social Protection.**"

**Acknowledge** that since the African Union (AU) Ouagadougou Summit of 2004, a number of African countries are implementing Social Protection initiatives, which are helping to address poverty and vulnerability on the continent;

**Cognisant** of the fact that while countries in Africa are among the fastest growing economies in the world; poverty, food insecurity, man-made and natural disasters, the effects of HIV/AIDS and conflict, continue to increase the vulnerability of many individuals;

**Recognise** the pivotal role of grassroots participation in the promotion and roll-out of Social Protection policies and programmes to alleviate poverty in Africa;

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<sup>1</sup> Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Kingdom of Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

<sup>2</sup> Liberia, Niger, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe

<sup>3</sup> Concern Worldwide, HelpAge International and Privacy International

**Submit** that governments, Civil Society Organisations (CSO's), the private sector and other stakeholders are partners in enhancing grassroots participation and should work together to:

- a. Enhance awareness and knowledge to stimulate demand for Social Protection as part of the social contract;
- b. Advocate national Social Protection Policies and strategies (where they do not already exist);
- c. Ensure the participation of all the citizens in shaping the debate on Social protection including, policies, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation to increase transparency and accountability;
- d. Develop and implement universal Social Protection schemes, to ensure that vulnerable groups are covered;
- e. Ensure that Social Protection interventions are nationally owned and contextualised for relevance, ownership and sustainability where the grassroots are empowered to participate;
- f. Research and document evidence of what works and what does not work – and share widely;
- g. Advocate increased national budget allocation and corporate social responsibility to ensure sustainability of comprehensive Social Protection systems;
- h. Ensure that grassroots participation in Social Protection explicitly includes the active participation of all vulnerable groups

***Harare, Zimbabwe, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2013***

**Organisations Represented**



*Gambia Social Protection Platform*

*Tanzania Social Protection Platform*



*Nigeria Social Protection Platform*



*Republic of Congo Social Protection Platform*



*DRC Social Protection Platform*

*Lesotho Social Protection Platform*



*Zimbabwe Social Protection Platform*



*Malawi Social Protection Platform*



## Annex 2

### **Opening Remarks by Hon. Nicholas Goche Minister for Public Services, Labour & Social Welfare**

***31 November 2013***

Ladies and gentlemen it is indeed a great honor to address this very important workshop, which seeks to solicit ways to enhance participation of citizens and Civil Society Organizations in Social Protection policy dialogue, development and programming. We gather here today from a variety of different backgrounds, but united by one very powerful idea: that if we are to make a difference in the lives of people, we need to involve them throughout the planning and programming process and guarantee that the resources we are investing reach out to the intended beneficiaries.

Social protection has over the last decade come out as an important social policy instruments that can improve resilience by helping people insure against drops in well-being from different types of shock, and also as a way of promoting equity by reducing poverty and destitution and promoting equality of opportunity.

Across Sub Saharan Africa, well-designed social protection systems are emerging which are building human capital and asset base, promoting access to jobs, and allowing households to make productive investment thus opportunities for strengthened risk management. Of late, we have also seen social protection coming out as a key policy tool in cushioning vulnerable groups against the effects of global economic shocks. The challenge has always been to design and deliver a coherent set of programs that addresses the varied vulnerabilities of the population. This requires strengthening the design of programs; increasing harmonization across programs; strengthening administration; and ensuring policy coherence and a sustained fiscal commitment.

However, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is important to note that evidence is now showing that if the different social protection policy objectives are to be met, the social protection policy frameworks should recognize and build upon community initiatives and in the process strengthen grassroots structures.

Zimbabwe among other countries has started working on strengthening community planning, implementation and monitoring processes through various programmes. One modality which I can highlight is the strengthening of community Child Protection Committees as an extension of the Department of Social Services.

Through these committees, my Ministry has been able to connect with the communities and allow the communities to identify social and child protection issues affecting them, draw up solutions and refer to the Social Services Department cases that are beyond their capability, particularly on child protection issues.

Similar structures have been created through the Ministry of Health and Child Care, which are the Community Health Promoters, as well as community structures to promote awareness and response on HIV and AIDS. All in all, this is in an effort to transform communities from being beneficiaries to being agents of change recognised as partners in development.

Ladies and gentlemen, in managing community mobilization and active participation of communities in social protection also relies heavily on Private Voluntary Organisations as agents that work directly with the communities on a daily basis. Let us continue to foster strong working relationship between the Government and Civil Society organisations. We are working towards the same national goals and should not be competing against each other but complement each other and in the process pool resources for effective and efficient social protection. This kind of platform provides us with an opportunity to interact and help clear some misconceptions and mistrust that maybe stalling joint programming between governments and civil society. I also applaud the Africa Platform for Social Protection for bringing up dialogue and keeping grassroots social protection initiatives on our radar.

As you discuss this important topic and seek to foster this tripartite partnership among Government, Civil Society and Communities in planning and programming social protection interventions, I also urge you to reflect on the post 2015 development agenda and how social protection can be elevated as a priority from an African perspective. This is our chance to remodel sustainable development goals in a manner that reflects the aspirations and values of our countries, our values and principles as Africa.

With these few remarks, Ladies and gentlemen, I now have the honour to declare this workshop officially opened and I wish you fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.

## Annex 3

**SPEECH BY MR EBENEZER ADJETEY – SORSEY, VICE CHAIRMAN, AFRICA  
PLATFORM FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION  
4TH APSP DELEGATES' CONFERENCE  
HOLIDAY INN  
HARARE, ZIMBABWE  
31st OCTOBER AND 1ST NOVEMBER, 2013**

- Mr. Laxon Chinhengo, representing the Hon Minister for Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
- Senior government officials from outside Zimbabwe and those from Zimbabwe
- The African Union (yet to arrive)
- The Representatives of development partners
- Ms. Jane Maponga, the Vice Chairman, and Board of the Zimbabwe Social Protection Platform
- APSP Board members
- Representatives of APSP Member Platforms
- Colleagues and friends

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to start by giving my heartfelt thanks to the government of Zimbabwe, for allowing this meeting to take place in this very beautiful country. We have representatives from all the corners of the African continent, except North Africa, and all but one, have managed to come into the country. A representative from South Sudan was turned back early this morning for not having a visa. Thank you so much, colleagues and friends for making it to this meeting. We appreciate it immensely.

I would like to register our appreciation for the work that has been put in by the Zimbabwe Social Protection Platform, through their member organisation, HelpAge Zimbabwe, in doing the leg work for all the logistics for this conference. Their support is something that we cannot quantify, but it demonstrates the possibilities that exist at the country level when there is a willingness to share and collaborate.

It is now without doubt that the social protection debates initiated by civil society organisations such as ours and some development partners, among others has resulted in an increased awareness of social protection in Africa. We are witnessing some progress in terms of governments making efforts to develop and implement programmes.

I come from Ghana where social protection featured strongly during the elections and this was followed by the establishment of a Ministry whose title includes social protection, with a new, very dynamic Minister. I know that the same trend took place in the Kenyan elections as well as in other countries. That trend can only mean that there is some awareness and commitment about the importance of social protection as a tool in addressing some issues of

inequality and inequity in our societies.

Be that as it may, ladies and gentlemen, we see a gap. We see a gap in the level of understanding, appreciation and hence, participation of those on the lower ranks of society in social protection. We submit that currently, that lack of involvement at the grassroots levels results in basically three things.

1. It leads to the development of fairly weak social protection programmes. Those that have not been fully interrogated by those that use them and hence, programmes that do not address the express needs of the beneficiaries
2. It excludes the intended beneficiaries of the programmes from accessing them. So basically, even in situations where governments have really tried to put programmes in place, people are not able to fully access these because they do not know about them. The government of Zimbabwe has introduced the BEAM programme to cater for the education needs of poor children. We read that the programme has supported thousands of kids, and has been sustained, even during the harshest economic down-turns. However, impressive as it might be, if the intended users do not know about it, then it remains largely unhelpful. Likewise, the Kenya government has recently introduced a programme for pregnant women to be seen for free in public hospitals – a big relief to many. Still, if this is not known by the majority of women, then it will not effectively and adequately reach its target group.
3. The final result - It limits the impact that those programmes can make in terms of addressing the needs of the intended beneficiaries. That then may mean wastage of resources – and certainly, limit our achievements in terms of poverty alleviation.

In answer to all these, the APSP proposes that there must be concerted efforts by all to increase awareness, understanding and therefore, the participation of the grassroots in social protection programmes. This is the theme of this conference and hence, the focus of the work we will be carrying out in the next year or so.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me conclude by saying that if we are talking about inclusion of all our people in efforts to drive out poverty out of the continent, then we all have to ensure that we direct our efforts to see it happen on the continent.

I believe this is our pledge, hence leaving our respective countries and other equally important engagements to gather here for this few days to see to achieve this objective, which is also our duty to the marginalized and excluded in our societies.

Thank you very much

## **Annex 4**

### **4<sup>TH</sup> APSP CONFERENCE IN ZIMBABWE ON 31ST OCT AND 1ST NOV. 2013. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS**

Representatives of the Hon Minister and Director for Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe,

Senior government officials from Zimbabwe and other Countries

Chairman of the ZSPP

BOARD of APSP

Platform representatives

Colleagues and friends

I am sure you will agree with me that this conference has gone very well - very rich presentations, active and productive participation in discussions by all present, etc. This has resulted in the adoption of the richly worded HARARE COMMUNIQUÉ and keys action points to guide our works in the new year.

You will also agree with me that we have learnt a lot of new relevant lessons/strategies that can help us to push the social protection agenda forward in our respective countries, continent and occupied positions

All these have been made possible by the generosity of the government of Zimbabwe which, allowed us into the country. Please join me to thank the government for this.

The key theme and focus emanating from this conference for our activities in our respective countries and on the continent in the new year is to work towards Grassroots Participation in Social Protection. This we all agree is key to the delivery of effective and efficient social protection programmes. Ladies and gentlemen this requires both a posture and minimum level of capacity if we are to effectively accomplish this. We have to assure our governments and respective development partners that the type of PARTICIPATION we are asking for is for all at relevant levels and intended primarily to add value to the process and not to give them unnecessary sleepless nights and make them unpopular in the eyes of the populace. We also need to work towards enhancing our capacities and that of other marginàlised target groups to make the PARTICIPATION effective - and this can be in the area searching

and taking advantage of already existing opportunities for participation as indicated in the presentations of some of the government representatives at this conference, as well as policy and programmes issues in social protection in our respective countries, and on the continent where need be. I believe strongly that the APSP secretariat is now ready than ever before to support country Platforms in this regard.

Ladies and gentlemen, you will agree with me that the ZSPP deserves both our praise and gratitude for its immense support in organising this successful conference - Mr Chairman and Board, we are grateful.

HelpAge Zimbabwe (HAZ), a member of the ZSPP, has provided all the logistics for the conference - sorting out venues, visas, transport, etc. They even provided us with a vehicle that we have used for various APSP runs. Priscilla, we say a big Thank You to HAZ

Ladies and gentlemen, all these efforts and learning will come to nothing if we do not put them into practice. Jointly, with our respective governments and other stakeholders, we can increase the level of Grassroots Participation in the social protection process, and by implication the level of protection of our citizens from poverty and vulnerability.

Let us start now - we can make a difference.

I wish you safe journey as you travel back to your respective stations and countries and hope that we will continue to explore existing opportunities to interact on relevant issues till we meet again in a forum like this next year.

Thank you very much for coming.

## Annex 5

### List of Participants

No.	NAME	COUNTRY	EMAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
1.	THERESA MINJA	TANZANIA	<a href="mailto:teminja@yahoo.com">teminja@yahoo.com</a>	+255754874424
2.	SIMON NHONGO	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:nhongo48@gmail.com">nhongo48@gmail.com</a>	+263772970778
3.	MASAYA HENRY	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:henry.masaya@gmail.com">henry.masaya@gmail.com</a>	+263775642217
4.	JOANA D. KYEREMATENG	GHANA	<a href="mailto:jodoak@swebfoundation.org">jodoak@swebfoundation.org</a>	+233203739633
5.	COMPAORE GABRIEL	BURKINA FASO	<a href="mailto:gabriel.compaore@gmail.com">gabriel.compaore@gmail.com</a>	+22670051229
6.	SAMUEL OBARA	KENYA	<a href="mailto:sobara@helpage.co.ke">sobara@helpage.co.ke</a>	+254722476379
7.	JABULANI CHISIPO	MEDIA	<a href="mailto:Jabuchi72@yahoo.com">Jabuchi72@yahoo.com</a>	0773211244
8.	CHIVAKO MUNYORO	MEDIA	<a href="mailto:munyoho@yahoo.com">munyoho@yahoo.com</a>	0736258423
9.	GRACE YEANAY	LIBERIA	<a href="mailto:womsudliberia@yahoo.com">womsudliberia@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:graceyeanay@yahoo.com">graceyeanay@yahoo.com</a>	+231886533526
10.	WINSTON MATABELA	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:Winston@zcdt.org.za">Winston@zcdt.org.za</a>	0772278005
11.	RONALD MTONGA	MALAWI	<a href="mailto:ronald_mtonga@yahoo.com">ronald_mtonga@yahoo.com</a>	265888868744
12.	JOYLYNE MOYO	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:jolynemoy@gmail.com">jolynemoy@gmail.com</a>	0772387154
13.	BALLA MUSA JOOF	THE GAMBIA	<a href="mailto:bmjoof@gmail.com">bmjoof@gmail.com</a>	+2203993045
14.	SAMAILA NAMADOU	NIGER	<a href="mailto:ondphid@yahoo.fr">ondphid@yahoo.fr</a> <a href="mailto:protecsoniger@yahoo.fr">protecsoniger@yahoo.fr</a>	-

15.	CAROLINE KARIUKI	KENYA	<a href="mailto:ckariuki@osiea.org">ckariuki@osiea.org</a>	+254722750896
16.	CLARENCE MAKUNI	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:Clarence@cendelangb.zw">Clarence@cendelangb.zw</a>	0772757951
17.	GABRIEL FERNANDEZ	LIBERIA	<a href="mailto:gfernandez@mopea.gov.lr">gfernandez@mopea.gov.lr</a>	+231880511544
18.	KELLY LONDONI	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:klondoni@yahoo.com">klondoni@yahoo.com</a>	+263772394588
19.	KAREKEZI THADDEE	RWANDA	<a href="mailto:karekezith@hotmail.com">karekezith@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:rwandacsplatform@gmail.com">rwandacsplatform@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:info@psprwanda.org">info@psprwanda.org</a>	+250788424039
20.	SERGIO FALANGE	MOZAMBIQUE	<a href="mailto:Secretariadopscm.ps@gmail.com">Secretariadopscm.ps@gmail.com</a>	+258824619100
21.	MUTALE WAKUNUMA	ZAMBIA	<a href="mailto:coordinato@pspzambia.org">coordinato@pspzambia.org</a> <a href="mailto:mutalew@yahoo.com">mutalew@yahoo.com</a>	+260977794187 +260211847861
22.	THOMAS ONGOLO	SOUTH AFRICA	<a href="mailto:ongolo@africandecade.co.za">ongolo@africandecade.co.za</a>	+27127541350- ext270 +27727982874
23.	BONIFACE DEAGBO	DR CONGO	<a href="mailto:boednakua@yahoo.fr">boednakua@yahoo.fr</a>	+243998447272
24.	EDMOND ODABA	KENYA	<a href="mailto:eodaba@africapsp.org">eodaba@africapsp.org</a>	+254722961963
25.	ROBERT MWANYUMBA	KENYA	<a href="mailto:rmwanyumba@africapsp.org">rmwanyumba@africapsp.org</a>	+254733832612
26.	DJERMAKOYE IDE	NIGER	<a href="mailto:ondphid@yahoo.fr">ondphid@yahoo.fr</a>	+22796995930 +22720723862
27.	COSMOS ABU ABOLOU	SOUTH SUDAN	<a href="mailto:caabolou@hotmail.com">caabolou@hotmail.com</a>	+211956786266

28.	TAKU FUNDIRA	SPII/RSA	<a href="mailto:taku@spii.org.za">taku@spii.org.za</a>	+27118330161
29.	PAT SEWE	KENYA/SPAF	<a href="mailto:plsewe@spactorsforum.org">plsewe@spactorsforum.org</a>	+254720276164
30.	AMACODOU DIOUF	SENEGAL	<a href="mailto:amacodou1@orange.sn">amacodou1@orange.sn</a>	+221776330478
31.	JOYCE LAKER	KENYA	<a href="mailto:Joyce.Laker@actionaid.org">Joyce.Laker@actionaid.org</a>	+254731333774
32.	SIPHO COSMAS SIBANDA	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:newleasezim@gmail.com">newleasezim@gmail.com</a>	+263(04)772458 948
33.	MARTIN MBUVI	KENYA/APSP	<a href="mailto:mmbuvi@africapsp.org">mmbuvi@africapsp.org</a>	+254722679886
34.	JANE T. MAPANGA	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:jane.tendai@yahoo.com">jane.tendai@yahoo.com</a>	077348898
35.	MARION OUMA	KENYA	<a href="mailto:mouma@africapsp.org">mouma@africapsp.org</a>	+254722686495
36.	I. MUDELA	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:mudekai@msu.ac.zw">mudekai@msu.ac.zw</a>	0776433031
37.	CARLY NYST	UK	<a href="mailto:carly@privacy.org">carly@privacy.org</a>	-
38.	S MUCHAKA	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:s_muchaka@yahoo.com">s_muchaka@yahoo.com</a>	0737791184
39.	ALFRED NUAMANYA	UGANDA	<a href="mailto:a.nuamanya@ngoforum.or.ug">a.nuamanya@ngoforum.or.ug</a>	+256702465299
40.	ADONIS FAIFI	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:afaifi@helpage.co.zw">afaifi@helpage.co.zw</a>	072813549
41.	BARYAYEBWA HERBERT	UGANDA	<a href="mailto:baryaherbs@gmail.com">baryaherbs@gmail.com</a>	+256772593920
42.	ALISTAIR SHORT	LIBERIA	<a href="mailto:alistair.short@concern.net">alistair.short@concern.net</a>	+231886642557
43.	MUKWATA OSCAR	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:omukwata@gmail.com">omukwata@gmail.com</a>	0774002896
44.	CHAKA NTSANE	LESOTHO	<a href="mailto:chaka@tlmail.co.ls">chaka@tlmail.co.ls</a>	+26658068359
45.	LOVENESS SIBANDA	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:sibandalo@yahoo.co.uk">sibandalo@yahoo.co.uk</a>	+2630712870128

46.	EBENEZER ADJETEY.SORSEY	GHANA	<a href="mailto:adjetey_sorsey@yahoo.com">adjetey_sorsey@yahoo.com</a>	+233244517069
47.	PRISCILLA GAVI	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:pgavi@helpage.co.zw">pgavi@helpage.co.zw</a>	+263773057548
48.	GOMA REGINE	CONGO		
49.	ANITA MOYO	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:anitamoyo@gmail.com">anitamoyo@gmail.com</a>	+263773848907
50.	LAXON CHINHENGO	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:chinhengo@sdf.org.zw">chinhengo@sdf.org.zw</a>	+2634794564
51.	DR. ABIOLA TILLEY GYADO	NIGERIA	<a href="mailto:abiolatee@gmail.com">abiolatee@gmail.com</a>	+2347038606751
52.	ELLIOT HUNGWA	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:ehungwa@gmail.com">ehungwa@gmail.com</a>	0772914052
53.	STANLEY MKULUCHI	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:mkuluchi@gmail.com">mkuluchi@gmail.com</a>	0772152061
54.	NME KOFFI MARIAMA NAMATE	NIGER (NIANEY)	<a href="mailto:Mariama.cofi@yahoo.com">Mariama.cofi@yahoo.com</a>	+22796888261 +22790572123
55.	CLARENCE MAKONI	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:clarence@cendelagb.co.zw">clarence@cendelagb.co.zw</a>	+231880511544
56.	DR. TAVENGWA M. NHONGO	KENYA	<a href="mailto:tnhongo@africapsp.org">tnhongo@africapsp.org</a>	+254725775158
57.	PRINCE BENGHA NGOCHIA MARTIN	CAMEROON	<a href="mailto:recewapecorq11@yahoo.com">recewapecorq11@yahoo.com</a>	+23774213511 +23777414780
58.	LOVENOME DUMBA	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:ltumba@zimnapavc.co.zw">ltumba@zimnapavc.co.zw</a>	0772440124
59.	DR. EVERLYNE ONGOLO	SOUTH AFRICA	<a href="mailto:evelynesong@gmail.com">evelynesong@gmail.com</a>	+27722470948

60.	THOMAS ONGOLO	SOUTH AFRICA	<a href="mailto:ongolo@africandecade.co.za">ongolo@africandecade.co.za</a>	+27727982874
61.	MAKANYANGOI DON	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:donmakanyanga@gmail.com">donmakanyanga@gmail.com</a>	0734987221
62.	MARUNYA K	ZIMBABWE	<a href="mailto:kundai@hararenews.co.zw">kundai@hararenews.co.zw</a>	+263735023720