SADC SPECIAL MINISTERS' MEETING FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

RECORD

CAPE TOWN SOUTH AFRICA, 27TH NOVEMBER 2004

1.   **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

        Ministers considered and adopted the Agenda (SADC/SMMSD/1/2004/1) presented by the Secretariat.

2.   **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC): COPENHAGEN + 10**

        Ministers considered the document (SADC/SMMSD/1/2004/2) presented by the Secretariat, which formed the basis for discussion, in particular, the following:

2.1   The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is pursuing a broad integration and sustainable developmental agenda that goes beyond trade liberalisation. This approach accords the opportunity to prioritise social development in view of its crucial role both as a factor and as a more comprehensive measure of development. To this end, policies, programmes and strategies have been put in place in the relevant priority areas of human resources development, education, health, social protection, nutrition, water supply, employment/income generation, culture, gender equality and empowerment of women. Most importantly, the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which was launched in March 2004, has covered social and human development as one of the core areas of cooperation and integration.

2.2   At continental level, SADC Member States have played an active role in establishing the African Union and the Pan African Parliament. For the first time this provides a forum where representative delegates can discuss and monitor issues and programmes pertaining to the governance, economic and social development of African people. Recently, closer working relations between SADC and NEPAD have been established, which will lead to more effective coordination of programmes. At the country level, policy initiatives include the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) processes.

2.3   Consequently, the region as a whole has been able to attain the level of human development of a medium category. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Africa Report shows that a number of SADC countries especially Botswana, Mauritius, Mozambique and Tanzania have achieved sustained annual GDP growth rates close to the 7 to 8% that is critical for meeting the poverty target.

2.4   However, the region as a whole is not on track to meet the MDGs targets. While internal structural factors and policy implementation constraints provide part of the reason there have also been a wide range of other factors involved including the humanitarian crisis, the limited success of policies and strategies advocated by multilateral agencies and shortfalls in external support.

2.5   It is against this background that a number of key stakeholders in the SADC region have come forward to address the above-mentioned challenges. These include SADC Ministers responsible for social development, who in 2000 issued a Statement of Intent for Social Development to the UN Commission for Social Development (Also know as Copenhagen + 5) in Geneva 2000. The 2000 SADC

Position on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development outlined both global and regional challenges and priorities for social development. Subsequently, Council at its meeting in Arusha, Tanzania 2004 approved that one meeting of SADC Ministers of Social Development be held to prepare for the 2005 UN Session on Social Development.

2.6   Social and Human Developmental Challenges in SADC

Ministers noted that the SADC region is facing a number of challenges, which the 2000 Ministerial Statement outlined as follows:

- Poverty;
- HIV and AIDS;
- Employment;
- Social integration;
- Gender equity;
- Human development (education, health, skills development and capacity building);
- Children and youth;
- Monitoring mechanisms.

2.6.1   **Poverty**

2.6.1.1   With regard to poverty, Ministers noted that poverty and inequality are seen as the major over-arching challenges facing social development in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, with negative impacts on many other areas of social development.

2.6.1.2   Poverty is not simply due to low income levels but is the result of a wide range of social, economic, political and locational factors. The SADC 2002-3 Annual Report notes that poverty in the region affects about 50% of the population and is reflected in poor indicators on life expectancy, adult literacy rate, access to safe water and health services, and the percentage of children under five who are underweight for age. About 70% of the population in the region lives below the poverty line of US$2 a day with about 40% below the US$1 a day absolute poverty line. Poverty in the SADC region is particularly acute among various vulnerable groups such as the rural vis a vis urban population and households headed by old persons and children, that are now on the increase due to the impact of HIV and AIDS pandemic.

2.6.1.3   There is a growing move towards a rights based approach to development. Among these human rights principles are: universality and inalienability; indivisibility; interdependence and interrelatedness; non-discrimination and equality; participation and inclusion; accountability and the rule of law. The SADC RISDP recognises that poverty in all its dimensions is one of the major development challenges facing the region.

2.6.1.4   With regard to human poverty, this varies among Member States and has shown some fluctuations in the last decade. The levels range from the highest figure of about 54.7% of the population affected by human poverty to the lowest index of 11.6 %. The greatest deprivation is mainly in the area of low access to

safe drinking water and child malnutrition. Almost half of Member States' indicators on these two components of human poverty are below the regional average.

2.6.1.5   Ministers noted that poverty eradication is one of the over – arching objectives in the RISDP which will be addressed in all the priority areas of intervention including that of social and human development.

2.6.2   HIV and AIDS

2.6.2.1   Ministers noted that since the mid 1980s there has been a rapid increase in the prevalence of HIV and AIDS in the region, with some Member States recording the highest levels of infection in the world.

2.6.2.2   Factors contributing to the spread of the disease include, 'poverty, gender inequality, intergenerational sex, illiteracy, stigma and discrimination, alcohol abuse and lack of communication about the disease due to cultural barriers.' An estimated 1 million people died as a result of AIDS in the region in 2001.

2.6.2.3   The pandemic has had a direct impact on child and adult mortality rates and, as it mainly affects the age group that is most central to household and economic activities, it is likely to undermine socio-economic development efforts in SADC countries and worsen poverty. Poor households have to divert scarce resources away from basic needs to pay for medicines, care and funerals. Lack of access to safe water and sanitation increase the danger of infections that can accelerate the progression of the disease. Negative impacts are also being felt in education, particularly the enrolment of girls, food security, loss of skilled personnel in the public and private sectors, decline in savings and investment, overburdened health care systems and an increase in orphans and child-headed households.

2.6.2.4   In response the SADC has revised and strengthened its Multi-sectoral HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework and Programme of Action 2003-2007, moving to a multi-sectoral, participatory approach that aims to strengthen partnerships with civil society organisations, faith based organisations, business, labour and international cooperating partners. In July 2003 the Special Summit on HIV and AIDS in Maseru identified five priorities:

- Prevention and Social Mobilisation.
- Improving care access to testing and counselling services, treatment and support.
- Accelerating development and mitigation the impact of HIV and AIDS.
- Intensifying resource mobilization and
- Strengthening institutional monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

2.6.2.5   As a follow-up to the Special Summit, a special HIV and AIDS Unit under the office of the Chief Director has been established at the SADC Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of the SADC HIV and AIDS Programme.

2.6.2.6   The SADC region has recognised the importance of nutrition in improving the quality of life of people living with HIV and AIDS and boosting their immune system. In addition, the significance of traditional medicine in addressing major

health challenges, particularly HIV and AIDS has been acknowledged and mechanisms aimed at promotional research on safety, efficacy and use of traditional medicine in addressing major diseases and nutritional supplements.

2.6.2.7 Meanwhile, measures and programmes continue to be implemented to prevent and control other major communicable diseases especially TB and Malaria have also been put in place.

2.6.2.8 Ministers urged Member States to implement the Maseru Declaration on combating HIV and AIDS in the SADC region and to operationalise the SADC HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework 2003 – 2007.

2.6.3 Employment

2.6.3.1 Ministers noted that employment levels and labour productivity trends in the region were generally low.

2.6.3.2 Although it is difficult to quantify the employment levels due to lack of data, available information indicates that there has been a general decline in formal sector employment in the majority of Member States. The low employment levels in the region are largely due to a combination of factors leading to low levels of economic growth. These include distortions in factor prices and the short-term negative effects of structural adjustment programmes.

2.6.3.3 The use of capital-intensive techniques of production in some sectors of the economy that have the potential for employment generation has further aggravated the unemployment problem. As a consequence, a large proportion of the growing labour force is absorbed in the informal sector, which currently is characterised by low levels of incomes and underemployment. The youth and women are the most affected by unemployment and underemployment.

2.6.3.4 In order to systematically address unemployment and underemployment in the region, SADC adopted in 2003, a policy document on Policies, Priorities and Strategies on Employment and Labour. The policy document has outlined strategies aimed at:

- Strengthening tripartite cooperation in the formulation of policies in the region which reflect common concerns between Member States

- Promoting equity and protection of vulnerable groups such as the youth, women, people with disabilities and retrenches,

- Increasing the labour intensity of production and enhancing labour absorption capacity of the economy,

- Promoting productivity and sustainable development through a regional strategy taking into account capacities of individual Member States,

- Promoting Small scale and Medium enterprises and special job creation and retention schemes

- Strengthening national and regional institutional capacities of the ministries and departments responsible for employment and labour issues.

2.6.3.5 Ministers noted that an Extraordinary Summit of the African Union (AU) on employment and poverty reduction met in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in September 2004, and adopted a Declaration placing employment at the centre of development strategies and endorsed an 11-point Action Plan to achieve this goal. The introduction of follow up mechanisms at national, regional and continental levels including precise timetables for implementation, will make it possible to monitor the process at all levels.

2.6.3.6 Ministers urged Member States to implement the SADC Policy Document on Employment and Labour and Ouagadougou Declaration on Employment and Poverty Reduction.

2.6.4 Social Integration

2.6.4.1 Ministers noted that there was limited information available at regional level on the social integration of refugees, older persons and people with disabilities into society. This points to a need to improve information gathering in this area. Relevant issues here include issues of employment in both formal and informal sectors, safety nets and the promotion of an inclusive human rights culture.

i) Refugees

2.6.4.2 Although some of SADC Member States are host to refugees, the region has recorded a decline in the number of refugees due to the overall political stability that has been attained over the years. However, there are emerging challenges with regard to the problems of human trafficking, economic migration and the brain drain outside the region. These challenges are being addressed by the relevant structures of SADC.

ii) Older persons

2.6.4.3 In 2002 the UN's International Plan of Action on Ageing was drawn up at a meeting in Madrid. The Madrid plan of action sets out to secure the full realisation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all older people. To this end it recommends a series of priorities for action that include, training, improved conditions for older people in rural areas, equality of opportunity, intergenerational solidarity, improved care, and eradication of poverty.

2.6.4.4 A regional workshop held in October 2003 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, reviewed the evidence on ageing and poverty across Africa and developed recommendations for governments, international financial institutions, development agencies and civil society for the incorporation of ageing into national poverty strategies, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and the MDGs. The workshop drew up ten recommendations aimed at ensuring that policy responses addressing the situation of older people are integrated into future poverty and development processes. The recommendations are also aimed at ensuring that budgetary resources are made available to address older people's situation and provide safety nets.

2.6.4.5   Ministers urged Member States to implement the recommendation of the Dar Es Salaam Workshop and to conclude consultation on the Draft SADC Code on Social Security which aims to address issues related to social integration.

2.6.5   Gender Equality

2.6.5.1   Ministers noted that in SADC was acknowledged that greater equality between women and men contributes to economic growth, the reduction of poverty and overall human development. In this regard, there has been progress in achieving greater representation for women in government and intergovernmental structures in some countries in the region, in regional institutions, a few Member States especially South Africa have surpassed the minimum target of at least 30% women's representation in parliament and cabinet by 2005.

2.6.5.2   However, there are still challenges in the promotion of gender equality. Women who constitute the majority of the poor in the region have lesser access to, and control over productive resources such as land, livestock, credit and modern technology. In addition, laws exist in most Member States, which restrict women's legal capacity, and have a direct bearing on women's income earning capacities. Moreover, women have limited access to adequate health facilities, formal education and employment, and are over represented in the informal sector where returns are extremely low and unreliable.

2.6.5.3   A number of countries in the region are not on track to meet the MDG target for gender parity. In contrast to the other MDGs, which have a target date of 2015, the target date for achieving gender parity in primary and secondary school enrolments is 2005.

2.6.5.4   In order to address the above-mentioned challenges, SADC has adopted a number of policy instruments. These include the 1997 SADC Declaration on Gender and Development (GAD), its Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children, and the Plan of Action for Gender in SADC. Furthermore, strategies have been put in place that include gender mainstreaming, which covers all sectors, as clustered into the Directorates; coordination and outreach; and monitoring the implementation of the SADC GAD Declaration and Addendum, as well as other regional, continental and global gender equality instruments.

2.6.5.5   Ministers noted that Summit re-affirmed its commitment to gender equality, and raised the target in the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development from 30% to 50% women's representation in political and decision-making structures. This measure will be in line with the African Union target, of which SADC Member States are members.

2.6.5.6   Ministers recognised the target set by Summit and pledged their support in achieving the target. However, they acknowledged that there are practical problems being experienced to achieving even the previous minimum target of 30% representation of Women in political and decision-making positions.

| 2.6.5.7 | Ministers urged Member States to strive to attain at least the minimum 30% target. |

2.6.6 Children and Youth

| 2.6.6.1 | Ministers noted that although there was lack of up-to date information and data on children and youth in the region, there are a number of challenges facing this category of the population. These include lack of access to social services such as health and education. In addition, there has been an increase in the number of orphans largely due to the impact of HIV and AIDS. |

| 2.6.6.2 | Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for nearly 40% of the children in the world who are not in school. These children are particularly vulnerable to exploitative labour and other forms of abuse. Longer term investments in children and younger people need to start with the recognition that a focus on children is essential for sustainable human development, that human development takes place in families and communities supported by the wider society and public sector and that it cannot be left to economic growth alone. It also needs to recognise that democracy, human rights and development go together. |

| 2.6.6.3 | Ministers urged Members States to develop strategies and action plans within the framework of the RISDP to strengthen families and communities, ensure basic services, address gender inequality and discrimination, leverage resources for children, secure legal rights, harness mass communication and information technology, secure learning, innovation knowledge networking and participation in development. |

2.6.7 Monitoring Mechanisms

| 2.6.7.1 | Ministers noted that there was a problem with capacity to gather and analyse data in the region. As countries move towards a culture of evidence based policy making, the lack of comprehensive and reliable data becomes a particular concern. Developing the capacity to collect and analyse data is crucial both for setting targets and for measuring progress towards attaining them. While conventional capacity is important the experiences of the poverty observatory in Mozambique are an important example of an alternative approach that was able to cover a wide area in a short space of time with limited resources, involving local organisations in the process of data collection and in analysing the findings and developing proposals for action. |

| 2.6.7.2 | Ministers also noted that the Secretariat would ensure that planning for programmes and projects would include provision for information gathering and analysis and action is also needed to build capacity at national and regional level. Monitoring and evaluation of regional programmes is the responsibility of the SADC Secretariat. At national and programme level a range of bodies are involved including national committees, member states, cooperating partners, technical committees, steering committees, stakeholder representatives, implementing agencies and contractors. |

| 2.6.7.3 | Ministers noted that UNESCO had offered to explore ways and means of collaborating with Member States in strengthening capacity in this area. |

2.7   Regional Remedial Responses and Complementary Development Initiatives

2.7.1   Ministers noted that the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) that was launched in March 2004, provides SADC Member States, with a coherent and comprehensive development agenda on social and economic policies over the next fifteen years. The ultimate objective of the RISDP is to deepen the integration agenda of SADC with a view to accelerating poverty eradication and the attainment of other economic and non-economic development goals. In view of the need to monitor and measure progress; the RISDP sets targets that indicate major milestones towards the attainment of agreed goals.

2.7.2   The Plan has been further elaborated into three Five Year Plans as well as into Operational One Year Frameworks and Business Plans. The RISDP also provides the Secretariat and other SADC institutions with clear guidelines on SADC's approved social and economic priorities and policies, and, therefore, enhances their effectiveness in discharging their facilitating and coordinating role.

2.7.3   Ministers also noted that SADC Member States were also committed to the ideals of the AU and its Programme, the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). The NEPAD strategies on social and human development are being taken into account and harmonized in the RISDP. The first step involved the exchange of key strategy documents between the Directorate of Social and Human Development and Special Programmes and the relevant NEPAD Contact Points. In addition, Project Proposals were submitted to the NEPAD Secretariat for funding.

2.7.4   It is important to note that all the major priority areas identified in 2000 Ministerial Statements are fully covered in the various chapters and frameworks of the RISDP. Issues of poverty, HIV and AIDS and Gender are treated as crosscutting areas, under specific chapters.

2.7.5   Ministers further noted that there was a Chapter that is dedicated to Social and Human Development and a Framework that provides more details of the major intervention areas dealing with developing human and sustaining human capabilities, developing positive cultural values, attitudes and practices and utilisation of human capabilities including availability and access to information.

2.7.6   Ministers urged Member States to develop implementation plans at the national level to operationalise the goal, strategies and targets of the RISDP in the area of social and human development

2.8   Institutional Arrangements for Addressing Social Development Challenges

2.8.1   Ministers noted that the implementation of the RISDP including addressing the major social and human developmental challenges require the existence of an appropriate and effective institutional framework. To this end, sets of principles and potential implementation constraints as well as the required instructional structures have been identified and agreed upon.

- Additionality. Only programmes that add value to regional integration, or enhance the capacity to achieve SADC objectives will be implemented as priorities.

- Broad Participation and Consultation. This will involve engaging as many stakeholders as possible, to create ownership for the outputs and ensure sustainability of the intervention.

- Subsidiarity. Programmes and activities will be undertaken at levels where they can be best handled. The involvement of institutions, authorities, and agencies outside SADC structures to initiate and implement regional programmes using their own generated resources will be promoted and encouraged.

- Variable geometry. A group of Member States could move faster on certain activities and the experiences learnt replicated in other Member States. The bottom line in prioritising programmes should be their potential contribution towards poverty eradication.

2.8.2   In terms of institutional framework, Ministers noted that the RISDP would be implemented through the new SADC structure that was approved by the Summit in 2001. The main features of the structure include the following:

a)   Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM), which took the place of the Sectoral Committee of Ministers;

b)   Four Directorates, which replaced the Sector Coordinating Units. These Directorates, together with Units on crosscutting issues such as gender, statistics, ICT, and environment, constitute the Department of Strategic Planning, Gender and Development and Policy Harmonisation.

c)   SADC National Committees have been set up to coordinate SADC programmes/ projects and the implementation of the RISDP.

2.8.3   Ministers noted that the implementation framework had been divided into three major categories as follow:

a) **Political Level**

At the political level, the key institutions that will provide policy direction and oversight to the implementation of the RISDP are the SADC Council of Ministers through the Integrated Committee of Ministers (ICM). The ICM shall, among other things, oversee the activities of the core integration areas and create permanent or ad-hoc sub-committees as may be necessary for cross cutting issues.

b) **Operational Level**

At the operational level, management and coordination of the RISDP during implementation is primarily the responsibility of the Secretariat. At the core of this responsibility will be the four Directorates, including the Directorate of Social and Human Development and Special Programmes under which the issues being considered at this special meeting are coordinated. In addition, the Secretariat is responsible for resource mobilisation and strengthening capacities for the implementation of the Plan.

c) **Programme Level**

At the Programme level, the key structures in the implementation of a particular programme will include Cooperating Partner/s; Technical Committees and Sub-Committees; Programme Steering Committees; Member States participating in the programme; SADC National Committees; Other Stakeholders.

2.8.4   Ministers urged Member States to participate in the above-mentioned structures and frameworks by ensuring that they are involved in the work of the sub committees on social development under the SNCs structures that would link them to the Directorate of Social and Human Development and Special Programmes at the Secretariat.

3.   REPORT ON ADDITIONAL ISSUES AND GAPS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE SADC REPORT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC): COPENHAGEN +10

3.1   Ministers noted that the Report on Additional Issues and Gaps to be addressed in the SADC Report on Social Development in the Southern African Development Community (SADC): Copenhagen +10. These include the following:

i)   The document will provide the basis for social development within SADC and also for interaction with the UN system and other Cooperating Partners.

ii) The Ministers of Social Development will take the lead in implementing the issues that are raised in the document.

iii) Strategies must be supported by elements/mechanisms for sustainability both at national and regional level in line with Member States' constitutional imperatives.

iv) Mobilisation of financial and other resources both at national, regional and international should support capacity building and achievement of social development goals.

v) Policy oriented research and development on the impact of HIV and AIDS, social support system needs to be highlighted and captured to reflect its importance.

vi) There is need to popularize the SADC structures in order to improve linkages between the Secretariat and SADC National Committees so as to enhance participation of all relevant stakeholders

vii) There is need to syncronise the Copenhagen declaration with MDGs and World Summit on Sustainable Development given the limited resources in the Member States

viii) Development of norms and standards for social development are necessary for effective collection and analysis of data in assessing the regional implementation process of various development initiatives on social issues.

ix) There is need for capacity building for effective monitoring and evaluation of implementation of declarations and outcomes of international conferences.

x) There is need to address issues related to the prevention and control of illicit drugs and substance abuse.

3.2 Ministers noted that the Secretariat would incorporate these issues in the revised report and circulate to Member States by the first week of December 2004.

3.3 Ministers urged Member States to submit their comments by the second week of December 2004 to enable the Secretariat to finalise the Report and SADC Position Paper for submission to the Chairperson of this meeting for transmission to the Chairperson of Council of Ministers.

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORUM FOR MINISTERS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Ministers noted that a Proposal has been submitted for the establishment of a Forum of SADC Ministers responsible for Social Development to address social development challenges confronting the SADC Region. The initiative of establishing the forum should also be seen in the context of various resolutions and agreements of the UN Special Sessions on social development. For instance, the 24 Special Session of the General Assembly agreed to the need to

create an environment that would assist Africa and the Least Developed Countries to integrate into the global economy. In addition, the 41st session of the Commission for Social Development adopted a resolution for the implementation of the social dimension of NEPAD.

4.2 The proposed Forum intended to be a building block towards an Africa Network. The main aims of the Network would include:

- The promotion of sharing of experiences and best practices in the area of social development.

- Strengthen ties and cooperation between African leaders and its people.

- Facilitate harmonisation of social development policies as well as move towards a more united Africa when engaging with the global community.

4.3 The Network would draw lessons from the Latin America and the Caribbean Forum of Social Development Ministers, which UNESCO assisted in establishing in 2001.

4.4 Ministers noted that with regard to the structure, the Chairmanship and the Secretariat of the proposed forum would be rotating among Member States coordinating the forum. The country hosting will take care of the logistics for the meeting. The SADC Secretariat will service the meeting of the Forum.

4.5 Ministers also noted that UNESCO was willing to assist SADC in establishing the Forum using the experiences of Latin America.

4.6 Ministers considered that the Proposal for the establishment of a Forum be examined within the context of the existing SADC structure and the SADC Council directives on facilitation of meetings of line function Ministers. In this regard, Ministers are invited to note that Council approved that one meeting of SADC Ministers of Social Development be held to prepare for the 2005 UN Session on Social Development.

4.7 Ministers recommended to the ICM to approve the establishment of a Forum for SADC Ministers responsible for social development. This would be in line with the amended SADC Treaty Article 12 (paragraph 2.f) which mandates the ICM to "create such permanent or ad hoc committees as may be necessary to cater for cross-cutting sectors."

4.8 Ministers also recommended to the ICM to approve that SADC make a Proposal for the establishment of a Forum of African Ministers responsible for social development.

4.9 Ministers mandated the Chairperson to present these Proposals to the ICM at its meeting in June 2005

5. **SADC POSITION FOR 43RD SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COPENHAGEN +10)**

5.1 Ministers noted that the 43rd Session of the UN Commission on Social Development would be held in February 2005 to review the implementation of the Copenhagen +10. Ministers also noted that Council at its meeting in Arusha, Tanzania in March 2004 approved that a meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Social Development be convened to form a SADC position in readiness for the above meeting.

5.2 Ministers approved the draft SADC Position Paper for the 43rd Session of the UN Commission on Social Development (Review of Implementation of the Copenhagen +10 (SADC/SMMSD/1/2004/4).

5.3 Ministers urged Member States to submit their comments by the second week of December 2004 to enable the Secretariat to finalise the SADC Position Paper for submission to the Chairperson of this meeting for transmission to the Chairperson of Council of Ministers.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

6.1 Ministers noted that the 2nd African Union Ministerial meeting on Drug Control will be held in Pointe Aux Pitment, Mauritius from 14-17 December 2004.

7. **VENUES AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Ministers noted that consultations on the venue will be held between Member States and Secretariat and information will be communicated accordingly.