1st MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Eastern African countries hosted by the Government of Kenya

"Global Justice"

24 -26 February 2015, Hilton Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

Concept Note

1. Introduction and Background

The first MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Eastern African countries under the auspices of UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme will be hosted in February 2015 by the Government of Kenya, which represents Africa as Vice-President in the Bureau of the MOST Intergovernmental Council (IGC). The forum will be organized by the Government of Kenya through the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO in co-operation with UNESCO's Sector for Social and Human Sciences on the theme *Global Justice* under which several subthemes contributing to justice will be discussed.

The Forum is part of a series of MOST Forums of Ministers of Social Development, which constitute the flagship activity of the MOST Programme. Since the inception of the Programme, these forums have emerged as the core visible and high profile activity associated with MOST, across several geographical regions (Asia, Latin America, Caribbean, the Arab region, ECOWAS and now Eastern Africa). This paper outlines the background, a brief introduction to the theme from the programmatic perspective of the MOST Programme, information about agenda items, objectives and expected outcomes of the Forum.

The 1st MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Eastern African countries takes place at a very significant time, as Member States reflect on and develop the draft Post-2015 development agenda, to be adopted at the special UN Summit in September in New York, which will be the guiding development framework towards 2030. In the synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 agenda issued in December 2014 six essential elements for delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals are proposed, among them are "Dignity: to end poverty and fight inequalities" and "Justice: to promote safe and peaceful societies, and strong institutions".

This is very central to the MOST Programme which has a global justice approach to the eradication of poverty and reduction of inequalities within the context of aiming at research contributing to policies and through platform of exchanges among several stakeholders. This is a component of the approved workplan for the period 2014-2017, responding to the programmatic orientation of the Programme for UNESCO adopted by the 37th session of UNESCO's General-Conference (2013).

The MOST Programme's focus on this programmatic pillar, including activities implemented or foreseen, was also presented by the MOST Secretariat at the joint session of the IGC Bureau and the MOST Programme's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), June 2014, at UNESCO HQs.

At the end of the Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Eastern Africa it is expected that a Ministerial Declaration will be adopted with policy recommendations to contribute to "Justice" based on presentations and exchanges during the Forum in which the African Union, the East Africa Community secretariat, senior officials accompanying ministers, numerous researchers and members of the UN system are also invited to participate.

Prior to the Ministerial Forum (25-26 February), there will be a senior officials meeting on 24 February which, among others, will discuss proposed follow-up initiatives for sustainability of the outcome of the Forum, and prepare the draft Ministerial declaration.

The Forum will also contribute to focus on issues in the Social Policy Framework for Africa adopted at the first session of the AU Conference of Ministers in charge of social development, 27-31 October 2008, Windhoek, Namibia. The document adopted at the conference, stressed; "*The need for a Social Policy Framework for Africa is within the purview of the African Union's vision to build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, an Africa driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena and to achieve by 2025: A united and integrated Africa, **an Africa imbued with the ideals of justice** and peace, an inter-dependent and virile Africa determined to map for itself an ambitious strategy, an Africa underpinned by political, economic and cultural integration which would restore to Pan-Africanism its full meaning, an Africa able to make the best of its human and material resources, and keen to ensure the progress and prosperity of its citizens by taking advantage of the opportunities offered by a globalized world; an Africa engaged in promoting its values in a world in its disparities*".

In fact, as emphasized in the Report of the Secretary-General "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world" (E/CN.5/2015/3), "…*the social integration agenda of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action is rooted in social justice and respect for diversity and is elaborated as an objective and a process to realize a society for all, in which all persons, including members of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms and have opportunities to participate in civil, political, economic, social and cultural life*".

2. UNESCO's Programme on the Management of Social Transformations
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations System, with a multiple mandate and a constituency of 195 Member States. It was founded in 1945 with the core mission to "contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further **universal respect for justice**, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the UN". Africa and Gender Equality are in the current Medium-Term Strategy (2014-2021) for the Organization the two global priorities within this context.

In 1994, UNESCO launched the Programme for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST), with a view to strenghtening the dissemination of knowledge to Member States that would assist them in managing challenges emanating from the consequences of social transformations.. The objective is to accompany Member States in improving the quality of policy-making in the broad field of social development, by encouraging evidence-informed approaches through a sustained dialogue between researchers and policymakers.

The MOST Programme is governed by an Intergovernmental Council (IGC) which is currently chaired by the Minister of Social Development of the Republic of Argentina, Ms. Alicia Kirchner.

The IGC is composed of 35 Member States of UNESCO, elected by the Organization's General Conference. The Council convenes every two years and decides on overall policy direction, within the context of the approved Programme for the Organization, and handles the relations with governmental authorities. The IGC provides a unique platfrom that brings together researchers and policy-makers with the objective of contributing to that scientific research is applied in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies in the field of social development.

In addition to the MOST Ministerial Forums, discussed in more detail under section 3 below, MOST is carrying out other key activities consistent with an emerging draft strategy to further strenghten the Programme's delivery which participants will be informed about during the Forum.

Actions required to deliver the objectives of the MOST Programme in the Post-2015 context are structured around four pillars: a) **Research & Knowledge**; b) **Policy Development**; c) **Capacity Development**; and d) namely the **MOST Inter-Governmental Ministerial Forums**.

The "Research & Knowledge" pillar concentrates on the process of creation and use of the knowledge base arising from the application of social science research; the "Policy Development" pillar deals with the public policymaking function: how initial policy ideas are transformed into practical policy proposals informed by research which are feasible to be implemented; the "Capacity Development" pillar basically refers to the process that upgrades and brings into line the resources, including research, that are necessary to deliver superior policymaking. An example of the latter is the MOST schools for students, young researchers and senior officials.

The MOST Programme is co-operating closely, in addition to Member States, with the UN system, the International Social Science Council, regional research councils, individual researchers and the civil society, in implementing its' activities.

When the Director-General of UNESCO in 2013 addressed the IGC on the MOST Programme and its contribution to the future of the Post-2015 agenda, she stressed that, in these moments of change and deep social transformations, new opportunities for exchange and dialogue are opening. UNESCO's unique mandate, coupled with the fact that the MOST programme is the only inter-governmental social science programme in the United Nations, puts UNESCO at the crossroads of these transformations. For sustainability is not only economic; social equity and justice must be built on dialogue and mutual understanding. The Director-General further confirmed the central role of the social sciences as reaffirmed in the Rio+20 Outcome Document and in the United Nations Commission for Social Development on the Post-2015 global development agenda

3. The Regional and Sub-regional Forums of Ministers of Social Development
The Regional and Sub-regional Forums of Ministers in charge of Social Development enable Ministers to meet and exchange their experiences on social development issues, as well as to dialogue with researchers and other important stakeholders in social development, particularly the UN system and civil society. The goal of this process is to facilitate and support social policy formulation and enhanced capacity for integrated development planning. In view of the trend towards cross-border cooperation and the growing expectations about the role of the state in the field of social development, the Forum of Ministers is highly relevant in supporting Member State responses to adress major social challenges, through evidence-informed policy-making.

The Forums of Ministers of Social Development thus provide:

- A space for regional dialogue at Ministerial level, and with the participation of social scientists, on regional social policy strategies;
- A platform enabling the exchange of experiences and succesful practices in national policies;

- Opportunities for co-production of knowledge through presentations by, and discussions among, several key stakeholders;
- Opportunities to influence international debate and policy formulation.

The 1st Forum of Ministers in charge of Social Development took place in Ecuador in 2001 for the Latin American region. The MOST Forum of Ministers for Latin America was first institutionalized in 2004 in Peru. Since 2006, the Forums of Ministers created in Latin America have been spread to other regions. In Africa, the first Forum of Ministers of Social Development took place for the ECOWAS countries in Bamako in 2006 thanks to the initiative of the Government of Mali. The most recent forum in the Africa region took place in Accra, Ghana, for the ECOWAS sub-region, in December 2013. A full list of MOST Ministerial Forums is provided in the appendix.

MOST has also initiated interregional dialogue in these areas. The Government of Kenya and the MOST programme co-organized a successful event in Nairobi in 2007 entitled "From Research to Policy to Action" gathering Ministers from several world regions, researchers, the UN system and civil society representatives.

4. The theme of Global Justice in the context of the MOST Forum of Ministers
Global Justice could be considered as an overall umbrella including North-South relations, international trade agreements, climate change, inequalities between regions and countries etc.

This Ministerial Forum takes place only some days after the World Day of Social Justice, which was for the first time observed in 2009, following the decision at the sixty-second session of United Nations' General Assembly, in November 2007, to proclaim 20 February as the World Day of Social Justice. It is this component of "Justice" the Forum will address, while recognizing the holistic interrelated setting impacting social challenges and policies.

The Resolution 62/10, is ''*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1005, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond; achieving social development for all in a globalized world" held at Geneva from 26 to 1 July 2000; *Recalling* the commitment to promote national and global economic systems based on the principles of justice, equity, democracy, participation, transparency, accountability and inclusion; *Recognizes* that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among nations and that, in turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms; *Further recognizes* that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities through trade, investment and capital flows and advances in technology, including information technology, for the growth of the world economy and the development and improvement of living standards around the world, while at the same time there remain serious challenges, including serious financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality within and among societies and considerable obstacles to further integration and full participation in the global economy for developing countries as well as some countries with economies in transition; *Recognizes* the need to consolidate further the efforts of the international community in poverty eradication and in promoting full employment and decent work, gender equality and access to social well-being and justice for all; *Invites* all Member States to devote this special day to the promotion, at the national level, of concrete activities in accordance with the objectives and goals of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly".

The Report of the Secretary-General of the UN "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world" (E/CN.5/2015/3), prepared for the Fifty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, 4-13 February 2015, UN, New York, provides an assessment of progress

made in fulfilling the commitments of the World Summit for Social Development: "*It is shown that 20 years later, the commitments to poverty eradication, full employment and social integration remain acutely relevant and are largely unfulfilled, given that progress has been unequal and fragmented*".

As the report shows "…*while there has been progress in reducing poverty, the world is far from eradicating it. Unemployment is pervasive and a majority of workers still lack access to social protection. Social exclusion continues to affect many, in particular members of some social and population groups. In addition, inequalities remain high across and within countries. More than half of all countries with available data experience an increase in income inequality between 1990 and 2010. They are home to 70 per cent of the world's population. Disparities in human development also remain large. Growing inequalities hinder progress towards poverty eradication and other social development goals. The impact of economic growth on poverty is undermined by high or rising inequalities. Disparities in health, education and other dimensions of human development, which reflect unequal access to basic social services, make it even harder for people to break the cycle*".

The Report of the NGO Committee to the United Nations Commission for Social Development in 2014 stressed that "*extreme inequality contradicts the most fundamental principles of social justice, starting from the notion, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights*".

The quest for a globally just world where all human beings can fully exploit their potentials is as illustrated far from being achieved. In fact, it is an ideal that many advocates of global social justice continue to aspire towards. At the global level, the process geared towards the adoption of a new set of sustainable development goals, to succeed the current MDGs, is couched in the language of justice and fairness.

Regionally, the African Union, in its *Agenda 2063*, which has been described as a forward looking "blueprint" for the continent's transformation, emphasizes the need for a "*fair and just Africa that is at peace with itself*". Sub-regionally, countries in Eastern Africa are currently grappling with challenges of building "*just, fair, and socially cohesive*" states, because they reckon that the alternative would be a disaster. All the efforts, aimed at integrating regional economies, while at the same time taking steps to create better opportunities at the national level for citizens, are geared towards addressing the imbalances that are quite evident in the demographic configuration of the countries.

While a lot of progress has been made towards building peace in the region, unresolved structural challenges, and socio-economic inequalities in society, have contributed to marginalization and social exclusion, consequently sometimes producing violence, and generalized insecurity.

UNESCO's Strategic objective 6 of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 reads "*Supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue for the rapprochement of cultures and promoting ethical principles*". This concerns specifically the Sector for Social and Human Sciences.

The Strategy, under this objective, reads: "*With a view to contributing to the post 2015 development agenda, UNESCO will seek to develop a future-oriented understanding of the dynamics at work, based on the approach of sustainability science, to assist countries in the design and review of inclusive evidence-based public policies. **At stake is the management of social transformations to support the universal values of peace, justice, non-discrimination and human rights**. Strengthening UNESCO's role in promoting the social dimension of sustainable*

development will help to harness new opportunities for inclusive social progress in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information".

In April, 2014, in collaboration with the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the MOST Programme organized an Expert Group meeting on "*Global Justice, poverty and inequality in the post-2015 development agenda*''. Experts from different regions gathered to reflect on how to achieve global justice by using knowledge that is already available, and how to empower excluded people with the aim of eliminating poverty, inequality and injustice.

The experts agreed that the lack of justice is a tragedy in many parts of the world. It is crucial to understand how poverty, inequality and injustice are created and perpetuated, to the detriment of vast sectors of the population.

MOST has also implemented other activities within the context of justice which will be briefly reported on during the Ministerial Forum.

The persistence of poverty and inequality are themselves manifestations of the absence of social justice and equality as indicated in the Report of the Secretary-General for the Commission of Social Development.

These issues will be central to the discussions at the Ministerial Forum, alongside issues such as skills development and family planning as contributing to reduction of inequalities and poverty and thus to social justice.

5. Forum Agenda
Any high level gathering such as the First MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Eastern Africa that brings together decision makers, researchers, members of the UN-system and other stakeholders, to reflect on the important subject of *global justice*, within the context of Eastern Africa, should approach the discussion keeping an holistic approach (economic, political, social, environmental) in mind as mentioned in section 4. However, given that this is Forum of for Ministers in charge of the Social Development portfolio, and in view of the objective to adopt at the end of the Forum focused social policy recommendations, supported by research findings, this meeting will focus as specific targeted agenda items as per the preliminary programme.

Below is a brief descriptive overview of the agenda items during the Ministerial Forum (24-25/2):

- **Official ceremony**

In the official opening ceremony high-level dignitaries from the host Government and UNESCO will talk about the theme of the Forum from their perspective, the rationale for organizing the 1st MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for the East African region, and provide expectations on what to be achieved. The Chief speaker will be the Honourable Deputy President, Republic of Kenya, Hon.William Ruto EGH.

- **Keynote speech**

The keynote speech will be delivered by Mr Pierre Sané, President/CEO Imagine Africa Institute. Imagine Africa is a think tank dedicated to the strengthening of research policy linkages in Africa and on Africa in order to improve the quality of public policies. Mr Sané's past experience includes; Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO, Secretary-General, Amnesty International, and Regional Director (West and Central Africa) of the International Development Research Centre in Canada.

- **Panel on Poverty, inequalities and justice in the post-2015 agenda**

This panel is expected to be one of the key panels in view of the forthcoming United Nations High-level Summit to adopt the Post-2015 development agenda, 25-27 September 2015, United Nations New York.

The agenda for the post-2015 agenda is currently being elaborated through informal consultations of the UN General Assembly. The President of the General Assembly has appointed two Co-facilitators to lead those informal consultations.

The process of arriving at the post-2015 development agenda is Member State-led with broad participation from Major Groups, the UN system Task Force, and civil society stakeholders. There have been several contributions to the agenda, especially a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 accompanying targets which was proposed by an open working group of the General Assembly. SDG 1 reads "*End poverty in all its forms everywhere*" and SDG 10 reads "*Reduce inequality within and among countries*".

Res.A/68/L/61 "Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established pursuant to GA resolution 66/288": "*Decides* that the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained in the report shall be the basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing fully that other inputs may also be considered in this intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly".

The General Assembly called upon the Secretary-General of the UN to synthesize the full range of inputs and to present a synthesis report before the end of 2014 as a contribution to the intergovernmental negotiations in the lead up to the Summit. Participants in the MOST Ministerial meeting might wish to consult the report "*The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet: Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda*". As indicated by the Secretary-General, the report is designed to help guide negotiations by framing and bringing clarity to the post-2015 development agenda through six essential elements: dignity, people, prosperity, planet, justice and partnership.

As States embarked upon negotiation of the agenda's final parameters, Mr. Ban said in January 2015 that "…*it was clearly necessary that it should include a compelling and principled narrative, based on human rights and human dignity, and that the Sustainable Development Goals should be at its core*".

Many have already expressed the hope that the agenda will be transformative. To quote the Report of the Secretary-General on "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world "*Guided by the principle of social justice, a socially transformative agenda should bring about greater equality and promote the inclusion and active participation of all individuals in economic, social and political life*".

The presentations and discussions in this panel will center on the issues of eradication of poverty and reduction of inequalities within the context of justice and the future Post-2015 agenda from a mainly regional, and national perspective.

UNESCO will present from a global perspective, its approach and some of the related activities implemented, or to be implemented, by the MOST Programme.

The implications of social science research will also be discussed.

- **Presentation of the International Social Science Council's World Social Science Forum (WSSF) 2015, 13-16 September 2015, Durban, South Africa: "Transforming Global Relations for a Just World" and the future World Social Science Report (WSSR) 2016 to focus on inequalities**

The ISSC's WSSF will be organized by the Pretoria based Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and the Dakar based Council for Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), in cooperation with a consortium of South African universities and research centres. under the patronage of UNESCO.

The organizers will explain the concept of the Forum and encourage policy makers and researchers to participate in this event and possibly propose sessions to be organized.

MOST will organize an MOST interregional plenary ministerial debate on a *"Just World"* during the Forum.

During the presentation about the forthcoming 2016 edition of the WSSR, with a focus to be determined by the Reports' Scientific Advisory Committee and editorial collective, Ministers will be asked which inequalities they consider it important to focus on from their perspective in the Report, and which social science research they need to contribute to find answers and contribute to face the challenges they as decision-makers have to find responses to in the context of inequalities and social injustice. During the discussion time the Ministers will be provided with the opportunity to give their reflections.

- **Ministerial panel: Sharing of national experiences in policies and and/or projects contributing to justice**

The key panel of the Forum will be this Ministerial panel in which Ministers will share their national experiences in successful policies and/or projects contributing to justice. This will allow learning from each other and contribute to determine best practices and policy recommendations, from the perspective of the sub-region, which could be included in the Ministerial declaration to be adopted. Each statement should be no longer than 7 minutes in order to allow time for discussion.

Following this policy agenda item the Forum of Ministers will have two, above all, research focused panels which will present research based policy findings/recommendations. The intention is to following the presentations have an interactive debate with/reaction from the Ministers.

- **Special Panel: Implications of Population, Reproductive Health and Economic Well-Being: Policy Implications of Research from East Africa**

Women and girls are among the more vulnerable groups in many communities as seen in their lower levels of education, poorer health, and lack of political power. Improving their outcomes is key to sustainable economic development. Results from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's Population and Poverty Research Initiative (PopPov) show that women's reproductive health has economic implications for individuals, households, and ultimately for national economic growth.

East African researchers and their collaborators have identified productivity and income gains from family planning at the national level as well as improved educational and employment outcomes for individual women and girls who limit early childbearing. They also point to saved lives, improved quality of life, and medical savings associated with access to quality reproductive health care services. The panel will present results and policy implications from PopPov-supported projects focused on countries in the East Africa. Panelists will share research findings and engage the audience in a discussion about opportunities for policy action to improve reproductive health outcomes for the poorest and least educated women.

This panel will hopefully also be a contribution to implement the AU Social Policy Framework for Africa in advancing the social and human development agenda. In the Social Policy Framework, there are 18 key thematic social issues and others that deserve attention and will need to be realized. Among these thematic areas are ''Population and development''.

- **Panel on Youth unemployment, entrepreneurial promotion and skills development**

Due to the high unemployment among youth in Eastern Africa, and its negative effect on poverty and reducing inequalities, social inclusion, violence etc., this panel, largely sponsored by the IDRC, will focus on key issues of importance to social policies. This panel is also relevant to the African Social Policy Framework and its thematic issues ''Labor and employment'', ''Education'' and ''Children, adolescent and youth''.

The needs and aspirations of youth are central concerns to UNESCO. Young people carry the greatest burden of change across the world, especially young women. They are also setting the pace for key social transformations.

UNESCO's operational youth strategy's axis 2 concerns "Capacity development for the transition to adulthood" in which it is stressed "Member States capacities in TVET will be further developed, including in addressing youth unemployment and supporting transition from school to work, career guidance, qualifications, curriculum development, teacher training and gender mainstreaming. Entrepreneurial and cultural management skills will be introduced in higher education programs and entrepreneurship training will be provided for young cultural practitioners, in particular through targeted partnerships".

- **Presentations by Ministers from Ecuador and Ghana, Presidents of the Tenth MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Latin America, and the Third MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for ECOWAS respectively**

Participants in the Forum will have the privilege to also learn from the discussions and outcome of the Tenth MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Latin America, 3-4 October 2014, Quito, Ecuador, and from the Third MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for the ECOWAS region, 16-17 December 2013, Accra, Ghana.

Her Excellency, Ms. Betty Tola, Minister of Economic and Social Inclusion, Government of Ecuador, current President of the Latin American Forum of Ministers of Social Development, will present the outcome of the Forum which focused on "Overcoming inequality in Latin America: social change and public policy". The Quito Declaration adopted contains three concrete follow-up initiatives.

Her Excellency Nana Oye Lithur, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana, President of the current Forum of Ministers of Social Development for the ECOWAS countries, will be represented in the meeting by Hon. Della Sowah, Deputy-Minister.   She will present the outcome of the MOST Forum which focused on "Societal Vulnerability-the Social Inclusion Challenges of Global Environmental Change". Participants in the Forum will also be informed that in January 2015, Ministers of Women's Affairs, ECOWAS, adopted the decision to have the Accra Declaration from the MOST Forum of Ministers to be placed on the Agenda of ECOWAS Heads of State meeting this year.

- **Discussion, adoption and signature of Nairobi Ministerial Declaration**

Based on a first draft declaration prepared at the senior official meeting, and the presentations and discussions taken place during the Ministerial Forum, there will be a discussion, among Ministers about the draft Nairobi Ministerial declaration. The declaration from the 1st MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for the Eastern African region is expected to be adopted and signed by all Ministers participating.

Ideally there should also be a reference to the next host of the MOST Ministerial Forum in the Declaration. Member States may consider in advance of the 1st MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for the Eastern African region whether they might be interested hosting the 2nd Ministerial Forum for the region.

- **Closing ceremony**

The Forum will be closed by High-level representatives from the Government of Kenya and UNESCO.

6. Expectations and outcome of the Forum

The main outcome of the Forum will take the form of a written Ministerial Declaration as referred to above. The Declaration will provide:

- An overview of the key policy concerns and priority issues in terms of the theme of the Forum;
- Succinct policy recommendations for follow-up action.

The follow-up of the recommendations of the Forum of Ministers it is crucial to ensure that the political commitment, informed by research, is translated into tangible action and results.

Included in the Declaration it would be recommended that there would also be initiatives to ensure the sustainability of the Forum of the results of the Forum, such as e.g. the establishment of a network of senior officials to contribute to ensure the follow-up and the establishment of a webpage to share information.

The Forum is also expected to provide space for:
- A review of the social science state of the art on the theme of the Forum and specific linkages with key policy concerns, thereby sharing experience and enhancing capacity for all participants.

The follow-up of the Forum is to be coordinated by the President of the Forum of Ministers of Social Development for East Africa (the current host of the Forum) until the subsequent Forum.

The recommendations of the 10th session of the MOST Intergouvernemental Council (March 2011, UNESCO HQ) stress the importance of enabling a co-production of knowledge. In line with these recommendations, the Forum of Ministers will provide a platform for a constructive dialogue between Ministers, researchers and other stakeholders that will identify research and policy trends, gaps and priorities for the region. The outcome of the Forum will be transmitted to the next session of the Intergovernmental Council of MOST, provisionally scheduled for May/June 2015.

Through the IGC and UNESCO's participation in the Commission for Social Development, the outcome of the Forum will be made available to other regions, with a view to enriching their perspective and potentially impacting on related policies and enabling inter-regional co-operation in areas of common interest.

Ministers may use also the Declaration to strengthen certain advocacy messages they believe in within the context of the Post-2015 development agenda.

Appendix: MOST Forums of Ministers of Social Development so far organized

[1] Latin America
2014, Ecuador ''Overcoming Inequality in Latin America: social change and public policy''
2013, Argentina ''Social Inclusion and Youth''
2011, El Salvador "Social Policies for Youth and Social Inclusion"
2009, Ecuador "Social Policies"
2007, Argentina "Social Policies"
2004, Peru "Social Policies"
2003, Chile "Social Policies"
2002, Brazil "Social Policies"
2002, Mexico "Social Policies"
2001, Ecuador "Social Policies"

Caribbean
2012, Trinidad and Tobago "Promoting Equity and Social Inclusion"
2010, Jamaica "Social Development Strategies for the Caribbean Youth in the context of the global crisis"
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Economic Community for the West African States
2013, Ghana ''Societal Vulnerability- The Social Inclusion Challenges of Environmental Change''
2008, Côte d'Ivoire «Social Policies »
2006, Mali « Social Policies »
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Arab States
2008, Jordan "Corporate Social Responsibility"
2007, Morocco "Social Policies"
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South-Asia
2011, Sri Lanka "Social Protection"
2008, India"Transparency, right to Information and Social Development"
2006, Pakistan   "Public Accountability in the improvement of social sector service delivery in Asia"