



## Background note:

The 106<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference will take place from 5-16 June 2017. Taking advantage of the presence in Geneva of our 155+ employer organisation affiliates from every continent, the IOE is organising a forum for members, partners, and representatives of other relevant institutions, on the theme of *Diverse Forms of Employment*.

Previous IOE-organised events during the ILC have attracted upwards of 100 participants and have provided a venue for an exchange of updates, perspectives and best practices, as well as policy recommendations and responses, between IOE members, entrepreneurs, think tanks, policymakers and other institutional actors from the advanced economies, as well as from the developing world, including the LDCs.

The *IOE Forum on Diverse Forms of Employment* will explore the challenges, but also the immense positive potential, of new and diverse forms of work for social security systems, employment, business models and industrial relations; aim to address the outdated distinction between “standard and non-standard” forms of employment; and seek to identify how employers’ organisations will need to adapt their services to meet the needs of their membership in an ever-evolving employment landscape.

### Questions arising from the reality of new and diverse forms of employment include:

- Is there growing evidence that new forms of employment will increase with the gig/collaborative economy?
- How to ensure that informality does not increase in the new world of work?
- How to channel and boost the opportunities afforded by new IT apps so that more people can take advantage of the increased access to different forms of employment?
- How to ensure that individuals are adequately equipped for a future in which there may no longer be one permanent job for life?
- What kinds of support mechanism are needed to facilitate transitions between different forms of employment and “in-and-out of work”? Who should be responsible for providing these – employers? individuals? the state?

The 14 June event will build on the outcomes of the IOE's recent *Global Employers' Workshop on the Future of Work* which took place in Madrid, and inform the global employer community's contribution to the Future of Work debate in the ILO, the G20/B20 employment work stream, the OECD and other national, regional and international-level forums.

It will also shape ongoing IOE guidance, training and publications aimed at building the capacity of employer' organisations in their role as key contributors to the social and economic development of their nations in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

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