



International Organisation of Employers  
Organisation Internationale des Employeurs  
Organización Internacional de Empleadores  
*The Global Voice of Business*



27 February 2017

### 41st Annual Meeting of East, Central & Southern Africa Employers' Organisations deliberates on Skills Development for Youth Employment in Walvis Bay, Namibia

The leadership of 13 employers' organisations from East, Central & Southern Africa came together in Walvis Bay, Namibia on 14 – 15 February to take stock of the state of play in developing skills for youth employment and entrepreneurship, to learn from successful experiences and to set out a declaration of commitment to urgently address the issue of youth unemployment in the region. The employers' organisation leaders were joined by representatives of the ILO, national and local skills training providers and private sector actors.

Graciously hosted by the Namibian Employers' Federation (NEF) and jointly organised with the IOE, the event, which has been taking place annually since 1977 in various locations in the region, was supported by Business Africa and the Jobs for Africa Foundation. Traditionally self-funded, it was on this occasion supported financially by the European Union to build employer organisation capacity.

#### COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

- [Botswana](#)
- [Democratic Republic of Congo](#)
- [Kenya](#)
- [Lesotho](#)
- [Madagascar](#)
- [Malawi](#)
- [South Africa](#)
- [Swaziland](#)
- [Tanzania](#)
- [Uganda](#)
- [Zambia](#)

#### ENTREPRENEUR PRESENTATIONS

- [Entrepreneurship Activator International](#)

#### ADDITIONAL INTERVENTIONS

- [Namibia's National Youth Service](#)
- [Mr Frederick Muja, International Organisation of Employers](#)

#### THE WALVIS BAY DECLARATION

- [Download the Declaration here](#)

#### IOE CONTACTS



*Mr Frederick Muia, IOE  
Senior Adviser for Africa*

*Ms Anetha Awuku, IOE-EU  
Projects Manager*

NEF's Secretary-General Mr Tim Parkhouse opened the Conference, capturing the urgency of the situation at the outset: "We cannot simply shrug our shoulders, sit back and do nothing...this is a call to action." The Honorable Cleophas Mutjavikua, Governor of the Erongo Region, and His Worship, Mr Immanuel Wilfred, Mayor of Walvis Bay, also extended the warmest of welcomes with words of encouragement and anticipation regarding outcomes. The Governor emphasised the need to elevate the status of apprenticeships and trades, calling for a "change of attitude" in this regard and commended the organisers for including successful young Namibian entrepreneurs in the programme. Pledging the support of his office, he also made a plea for the Blueprint for Jobs in Africa not to "gather dust on the shelf".

To read the full News Release, please click [here...](#)

*All available presentations, including country profiles, speeches and the Walvis Bay Declaration, may be downloaded via the links in the side panel or on the Africa page of the IOE website. A detailed report, as well as the fully finalised Declaration will be published in the very near future. If you have any questions or comments, kindly contact the IOE's Mr Frederick Muia or Ms Anetha Awuku, whose contact details may also be found in the side panel.*

## Blueprint for Jobs in Africa



## JOBS FOR AFRICA FOUNDATION WEBSITE

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### International Organisation of Employers

71 Avenue Louis-Casaï | 1216 Cointrin | Geneva | Switzerland

Tel. : +41 22 929 00 00 | Fax: +41 22 929 00 01

e-mail : [ioe@ioe-emp.com](mailto:ioe@ioe-emp.com) | [www.ioe-emp.org](http://www.ioe-emp.org) | Copyright © 2017