



INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYERS  
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES EMPLOYEURS  
ORGANIZACION INTERNACIONAL DE EMPLEADORES

---

**DANIEL FUNES DE RIOJA**

**EMPLOYERS SPOKESPERSON**

**Closing Statement**

**ILO JOBS SUMMIT**

**June 2009**

It is a pleasure to speak again at the end of this Summit, with the benefit of the debates and the conclusions of the Committee of the Whole.

Let me now say a few words in Spanish, as I wish to thank many of the people who participated in this debate.

I wish to thank the governments and especially the eminent personalities who joined us for having contributed to our analysis with their views, their guidance and their vision and, in particular, I would like to thank Ambassador Rapacki, Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole and of the Governing Body.

I would also like to express my own appreciation for my counterpart, Mr Roy Trotman, who I have been fortunate enough to work shoulder to shoulder with once again. I also have to extend my thanks to the Workers' group and to the two champions we had in the drafting group, Ms Sharan Burrow and my colleague Mr Phil O' Reilly. I believe that the support of both groups and the consensus achieved with the Government group were key.

I also have to acknowledge the work performed by the Office, which was ongoing and constructive and never interfered with our work; in fact, it helped achieve the consensus that we needed. It was clear that it would not be straightforward to hold the thematic debates, hear the views of the chairpersons and the panels and complete the specific task before us, which is why I would really like to move a strong vote of thanks.

As the Director-General pointed out in his opening remarks, at the Governing Body meeting in March, we all agreed on a number of things.

First, we agreed to place the current financial and jobs crisis at the centre of the work of this session of the Conference, which is what we did.

Second, when we agreed to address the most pressing global issue of our time, which is having a negative impact on the real economy in all countries, in all regions and at all stages of development, we all – employers, workers, governments and the ILO – accepted a challenge.

This challenge was threefold: to make a real contribution to addressing a current global crisis and to take action in real time; to have the ILO operate as a part of a coordinated global effort by a wide range of actors, many with an economic, rather than an employment, focus; and, in doing so, to have the ILO operate differently and not adopt a “business as usual” approach.

The G20 entrusted the ILO with just such a role at its London meeting in early April. We are pleased to stand here with an outcome document that responds to these challenges. It is not perfect, but it is based on the collective wisdom of the participants in this Organization, building consensus at this critical, historic juncture.

However, our work on this document also has a wider context, which includes the 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, 1998, and, in particular, the 2007 resolution concerning the promotion of sustainable enterprises.

So, where have we reached and what contribution has the ILO, through this unprecedented process, made to meeting the foremost challenge of our times? From our point of view, the Pact that we will formally approve in a few hours' time sets out the principles for effective action to combat this crisis and bring it to an end. These principles are based on promoting sustainable enterprises, open markets and free initiative, by ensuring the effective regulation of financial markets and an efficient regulatory environment which enables enterprise creation and promotes freely chosen and productive employment.

In addition, the Pact will promote more open trade, without the protectionism that is so damaging, and respect for core labour standards and measures to protect workers against breaches of these principles during this difficult time. There is a clear commitment in this regard from the Employers themselves.

Other principles include: active labour market policies, skills development and social protection, focusing on maintaining skills and human resources development and giving special attention to social protection needs with improving efficiency; continued support for social dialogue, working together for an effective, sustained and productive recovery; and coordinating ILO activities at the global, regional and national levels with those of other multilateral organizations.

Only with coordinated efforts can we be effective in addressing the crisis. Policy coherence needs to be at the heart of such activity.

Therefore, the Employers strongly support the conclusions of the Committee of the Whole and the document Recovering from the crisis: A Global Jobs Pact. This Global Jobs Pact presents us with a challenge, which will have to be taken up at the national level. After we finish our work here, the spirit and contents of the Pact will need to be applied, taking into account national circumstances. But it is also up to the ILO to get the most out of what has been agreed here and to address the economic crisis in real time, in the context of the G20 mandate and in the framework of the 2008 Declaration.

On the basis of revised financial regulation, fair markets and ongoing environmental improvements, the way forward is to be found in a number of areas. First, in excellence and relevance in the various activities identified in the resolution, including employment policy, human resources development, labour market regulation and social dialogue. Continuous monitoring and improvement are also critical. Second, in a better information base and, in particular, the active promotion of measures at what-ever level which actually work and may be relevant to other countries. Third, in reorienting ILO work by prioritizing technical assistance and targeted relevant responses which make a difference on the ground.

Fourth, in providing practical and rapid assistance which offers practical solutions such as helpdesk contact points, reviewing and revising Decent Work Country Programmes and reflecting the change of focus in the ILO' s operational budgeting. And finally, in proper resourcing of ILO efforts and proper use of partnerships and synergies with other organizations.

The next step in this process should be to get a clear indication of how the ILO intends to adjust budgets, priorities and workplans, to ensure that progress is made in implementing the initiatives agreed on within this Conference.

We look forward to rapid progress on this issue, which should include budgetary and operational proposals for discussion at the November session of the Governing Body.

Again, and finally, we fully support the proposed resolution – the Global Jobs Pact – and we look forward to ensuring that it becomes a realistic and useful contribution to meeting the pressing global challenge of our times. Now, we can say that we are very proud to see the ILO with such a timely and targeted response.