



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

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STATEMENT

ILO JOBS SUMMIT

June 2009

Over the last few weeks, this Conference has been discussing the jobs crisis in some detail.

We have heard from a wide variety of experts and advocates about the cause of the crisis and its impacts.

Our Global Jobs Pact will be the ILO' s contribution and response to that debate.

As spokesperson for the Employers during the drafting committee stages of the Pact, I am perhaps a little closer to the process than many and I want to take this occasion to say a few thanks and to make a few points.

I should note that we had these discussions over the last few weeks because the Employers proposed it. We saw the possibilities of a new relevance of the ILO to the world of work and to constituents. I am pleased that the Conference has been a successful catalyst for that.

Taking that into account, I would like to thank the Workers on the Drafting Committee, who were, in my view, highly constructive and worked with a real sense of shared purpose throughout.

Having seen through the birth of our shared document, can I make a few points about its relevance, at least as far as I am concerned.

First, it should be a forward-looking document. We certainly tried to draft it that way. It should give us some concrete ideas about the way ahead and our role on that pathway.

Second, the document is short on paradigms and high-flown language and long on ideas and practical policy approaches. It is supposed to be a resource for constituents. Yes, it speaks to the world and that is important; but the people we listened to here, over the last few weeks, wanted to know how they should respond in their own national contexts, and the Pact will hopefully help them to do that.

Third, it calls for more engagement between this house and other organizations. But, I hasten to add that, at least from our perspective, it is important that the ILO works out very clearly what it and what we bring to the table. It would be very unhelpful for us to arrogantly tell the rest of the world how to run their affairs. Instead, we should actively and openly bring our expertise to the table and add that to the greater whole. We should, above all, listen a lot and contribute constructively when we have something to say. And we do have something to say. It is in the Pact.

Fourth, we should recognize that workers and the enterprises that employ them have been damaged by what has gone on, some of them very seriously. And it is our job, all of our jobs, to ensure that they are bought back to health and prosperity as soon as possible. That suggests that we need to put enterprises at the heart of our response. Workers are employed by enterprises. And sustainable enterprises are those from the private sector whose wealth creation is critical, not only to workers but also to communities and to the

greater good. Enterprise creation and growth, as well as entrepreneurship that enables people from all backgrounds to start enterprises and to employ others, is critical for getting people back in work and keeping them there, respecting their rights and enabling them to meet their potential.

So I appeal to all here to think about jobs as a key issue in the growth story that we must help write for the future. But ask yourselves how those jobs are created: it is only through enterprise and entrepreneurship. Our Pact makes that point and I am pleased that it does.

Fifth, the Employers are very pleased that, through this Conference, we assisted in bringing a new immediacy and relevance to the work of this house. Now, it is over to the ILO. Our Pact gives it some ideas and guidance but it will be over to the leaders and staff of the Office to take it forward. I hope that they will do so in the spirit of the conversation: constructive, practical and aimed at ensuring the success of constituents. The speeches will soon be over; now let the work begin.