



MEDIA RELEASE

**HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE
EMPLOYMENT AND SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISES:
THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE
AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR TO THE G20 DEBATES
Johannesburg, 8 – 10 April 2010**

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Leaders from the most representative national employers' organisations in 30 African countries have been joined by South African government ministers Mr Membathisi Mdladlana, and Mr Ebrahim Patel at a high-level conference in Johannesburg this week to forge the contribution of the African private sector to the ongoing G20 process.

Under the auspices of the International Organisation of Employers, the Pan-African Employers' Confederation, the International Labour Organisation and Business Unity South Africa, the summit has been deliberating on innovative ways to promote sustainable growth and productive employment through policy developments that support sustainable enterprises in Africa.

High on the agenda were issues related to creating a fertile business environment; improving education and training to match skills with labour market needs; reforming regulation to ensure a pro-employment impact; supporting improved productivity, innovation and competitiveness; seeking ways to improve basic infrastructure and easing access to financing for SMEs. Particular attention was paid to addressing informality and HIV/AIDS, and attracting Foreign Direct Investment. The meeting concluded with a strong declaration to the G20 that promotes an economic recovery which, above all, brings sustainable growth to economies, enterprises and labour markets.

The unified message from the African private sector, which will be delivered at the business consultations with the G20 Labour Ministers' in Washington on 19 April by International Organisation of Employers' President, Prof. Wiseman Lumkile Nkuhlu of South Africa, is that African business stands ready as a fundamental partner in building global recovery through policy measures that ensure a job rich recovery underpinned by a solid foundation provided by sustainable enterprises.

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