



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

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GLOBAL EMPLOYERS ENGAGE WITH UNEP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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A report on *Green Jobs : Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World* was released today at an event held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and attended on behalf of the IOE by Ronnie Goldberg, IOE Regional Vice-President and Executive Vice-President, USCIB. Among other speakers were UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner; ILO Director-General, Juan Somavia; and Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the ITUC. The Report, authored by the Worldwatch Institute and Cornell University, was commissioned and funded by UNEP as part of the Green Jobs Initiative, a programme to mobilize governments, employers and workers to promote opportunity and equity and to engage in dialogue on policies and programmes leading to a green economy.

Speaking at the launch, Ms Goldberg underlined the importance of involving employers in the social and labour dimensions of climate change:

“Employers make an essential contribution to the pursuit of sustainable development. Employment creation provides not just livelihoods, but also the revenues, skills, technological solutions and other resources that are necessary to tackle the challenges ahead.” Noting that the Report recognizes the positive contributions that can be made by employers practising environmental stewardship, increasing energy efficiency and responding to the challenges of greenhouse gas mitigation and climate adaptation, Ms. Goldberg also cautioned about overly stark distinctions in the report between “green” and “non-green” employment. *“We should raise our sights so that all jobs become greener,”* she said.

“The challenges of climate change require the collaboration of all parts of society, and the engagement of business will be critical for workplaces and societies if they are to evolve to more efficient and sustainable lower carbon pathways”.

“This challenge will reflect all jobs and will necessitate a greening of all workplaces and work methods. Such transitions are best achieved where business is part of the solution. The International Organisation of Employers looks forward to making a substantive contribution to the future work of the Green Jobs Initiative”, she concluded.

Since its creation in 1920 the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) has been recognized as the only organization at the international level that represents the interests of business in the labour and social policy fields. Today, it consists of 146 national employer organizations from 139 countries from all over the world. The IOE has UNEP Accreditation and is a member of the Green Jobs Initiative.

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