



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

PRESS RELEASE

SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES AT THE CLOSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

Geneva, 15 June 2007 – The conclusion of the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva was marked by strong consensus and support for the three technical items under discussion.

First, the adoption of a new and consolidated International Labour Standard for the Fishing Sector not only recognized the diversity of global fishing but also – for the first time – provided a ‘progressive implementation’ procedure for developing countries to work towards the objectives of the Convention. Similarly, consensus was reached on the other key debates: “Sustainable Enterprises” and “Strengthening the ILO’s Capacity to assist its members”.

The debate on “Sustainable Enterprises” is a major employer-driven topic whose aim is to promote an appropriate environment for enterprise creation and development. Although a new business-oriented focus for the ILO, consensus was reached on the main principles required for creating such an environment thereby providing a clear and useful framework to guide policy at the national levels. The discussion was considered both timely and its key messages convergent with the conclusions emanating from the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm with regard to growth and responsibility in the world economy. Whereas the Heiligendamm conclusions addressed rather abstract policy goals, the resolution specifically addresses government, social partners and the ILO separately thereby clearly defining where responsibilities lie – a major strength.

“This Conference included topics that engaged the interests of employers and focused on real issues of concern to business,” said Daniel Funes de Rioja, IOE Executive Vice-President. “It sets a strong precedent for ensuring that further conferences sustain this relevance by selecting topics on which consensus can be built and which help the world of work in a significant and effective manner.”

“The ILO’s labour and social policy mandate has never been more important than now within the context of globalization. The conference agenda should underline and reinforce that relevance so that the world has a better understanding of the work and role of social partners and how tripartism can positively contribute to improving the lives of people in the world of work and society at large,” he concluded.

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