



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

PRESS RELEASE

FREE TRADE ESSENTIAL FOR JOB CREATION AND DECENT WORK

Geneva, 26 March 2007 – IOE President Abraham Katz speaking at a joint ILO/WTO panel on trade liberalization and employment stressed that the success of the currently stalled Doha trade talks was critical to ensuring future economic and social development.

“Trade creates jobs and works towards the realization of decent work in both developed and developing countries. Without the free trade that the Doha round represents, we threaten the fundamental means to improve global living standards,” he said.

“Those that oppose the completion of the round or who look to impose conditionality by imposing labour standards through trade threaten the true realization of Decent Work – a global goal of both the ILO and the UN Development agenda. The risks of failure or the consequences of that failure on development have never been higher,” he continued.

Mr Katz reminded participants that this current phase of globalization had helped to bring hundreds of millions out of the worst poverty and was the only proven means of continuing this trend. Anti free trade proponents would condemn them to continued misery.

He concluded by underlining the importance of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work as a vital vehicle for workers’ rights and for tackling issues such as Freedom of Association, child labour, forced labour and discrimination saying that focus needed to be brought back to the realization of this Declaration.

Contact: Marc Richter, Communications Adviser

The IOE is an international member-based organization founded in 1920 representing the business community in all areas of social and labour policy. Its membership numbers 144 national employer federations in 138 countries.