



PRESS RELEASE

Global Employers Support ILO Calls for Development of a National Health and Safety Culture

Geneva, 30 May 2007 – Building on the adoption of the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health, ILO Convention (N° 187), the General Council of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE¹) today added its voice to the need for developing a national health and safety culture.

Speaking following the adoption of an IOE statement on occupational health and safety IOE President, Abraham Katz, said that health and safety was not only an issue for employers, workers and governments but for society at large.

“We need to instil in our communities a culture of health and safety so that, when at work, that culture can reinforce efforts by employers to reduce occupational safety and health risks in the workplace.”

“The responsibility with which individuals engage in health and safety at a personal level is the basis on which employers’ efforts will meet with success or not. Only if people entering the workforce have an understanding of their own responsibility to be aware of the health and safety of others can employer efforts to reduce harm at work have any measure of success.”

“This does not mean that employers do not have any responsibilities,” he said, “they do, but these are most often laid down in national law and regulation. We all have a responsibility at a personal level to ensure that these measures are effective.”

“Employers can help governments and each other in helping to shape that culture and to share good practice and to promote to governments, workers and other concerned parties effective policies to minimize workplace accidents, injuries and disease.”

“As employers we have a responsibility to improve safety in the workplace and now have a useful ILO instrument that can help towards the realization of that objective around the world. We look towards society at large and the individuals themselves to help us in bringing about that cultural change,” he concluded.

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¹ The IOE is an international member-based organization founded in 1920 representing the business community social and labour policy. Its membership numbers 145 national employer federations in 138 countries.