



International Organisation of Employers  
 Organisation Internationale des Employeurs  
 Organización Internacional de Empleadores  
*The Global Voice of Business*



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## IOE urges for agricultural transformation to create jobs for youth in Africa

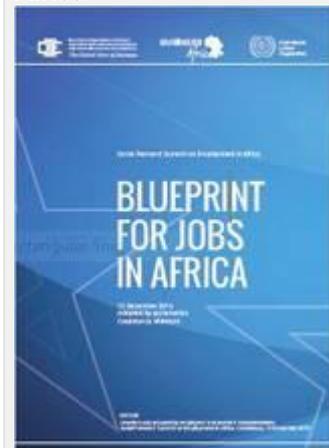
A panel discussion held during the International Labour Conference in Geneva, focused on creating jobs for youth in agriculture in Africa, paying specific attention to agricultural transformation. The discussion served to re-launch the Blueprint for Jobs in Africa, an initiative of the African Employers' Taskforce on Employment and Employability.

Making her opening remarks, IOE Secretary General, Ms. Linda Kromjong underscored the importance of sustainable enterprises in job creation and the importance of employers' organisations in helping create an enabling environment for enterprises. Recalling her recent visit to Kenya and Tanzania, she underlined the importance of the agricultural sector in Africa and the need to boost production by facilitating intra-African trade.

The CEO of OCP Africa Mr. Tarik Choho called for transformation of agriculture throughout the value chain. To him, agriculture should be transformed to include supply of seeds, fertilizers, extension services, storage, post-harvest handling, warehousing, marketing and exports, going beyond "just farming".

Mr. Jamal Belahrach, Vice- President of the Employers' federation of Morocco (CGEM) and Chairman of the African Employers' Taskforce while launching the blueprint indicated that the work of the taskforce was over. "The Taskforce now ceases to exist and will give way to the

## Blueprint for Jobs in Africa



### USEFUL LINKS

[Background information on the "Creating jobs for youth in Africa" panel discussion](#)

[Watch the video of the panel discussion \(in English and French\)](#)

[Visit the OCP Africa website](#)

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establishment of a foundation for employment and employability in Africa", he added.

The Secretary General of UNCTAD, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi called for better policies to promote trade in agricultural commodities by farmers in regional economic blocs particularly those that engage in cross-border trade. It was a pity to see farmers in border communities being arrested for smuggling of agricultural produce whereas their counterparts in cities running export companies were being feted for promoting intra-African trade. "Regional integration should benefit all", he added.

The panel discussion was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 6 June 2016, during the 105th session of the International Labour Conference. The event was sponsored by OCP Africa, a Moroccan phosphates mining company that manufactures and sells fertilizers throughout the African continent.

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