Geneva, 6 February 2013

AMBASSADOR KATZ, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYERS, DIES IN NEW YORK, AGE 86

Abraham Katz, diplomat, champion of business and President of the IOE from 2006 – 2008, has died in his native New York City, age 86.

In a career spanning more than five decades, Ambassador Katz held various posts around the world. He spent 34 years with the US Foreign Service in senior roles, and undertaking special assignments. In the late 1950s he served on the President’s Committee on World Economic Practices; the mid-1960s found him in Moscow, as Counselor of Economic Affairs; in the mid-1970s and ‘80s he was in Paris, first as Deputy Chief of the US Mission to the OECD, then as US Representative to the OECD. He became President of the United States Council for International Business (USCIB) in 1984, a post from which he retired in 1999.

At the IOE General Council in May 2006, Ambassador Katz was elected President, leading an organisation then comprising 146 members from around the world. In this role, and as Employer member of the ILO Governing Body, he was a staunch advocate for the global business community in international forums. Ambassador Katz was an accomplished linguist, speaking French, Spanish, Russian and Hebrew, as well as English. He was also a respected author on political science and economics.

The honours and awards conferred on Ambassador Katz were many: in 1998 USCIB recognised his 14-year long contribution to the organisation, and bestowed on him the USCIB International Leadership Award. He was also the recipient of the Meritorious Service Award of the US Department of State, and the French honour of Grand Officier – Ordre national de Mérite.

Abraham Katz will be remembered as a consummate professional in all the roles he undertook. His humour and distinctive style endeared him to all who met and worked with him. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends and colleagues, and by the IOE’s 151 members around the world.