RESOLUTION

The International Organisation of Employers, meeting in Geneva in a Special Session of its General Council on 5 June 2007 to examine the situation of the private sector in Venezuela, adopts the following Resolution:

The international business community, represented by the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) on behalf of 144 national employers’ organizations in 139 countries and in pursuance of its core mission to promote free enterprise and market economy:

(a) recognizes FEDECAMARAS as the representative organization of the private sector in Venezuela, and rejects the initiatives of the Venezuelan Government to set up parallel employers’ bodies, for the purpose of undermining the role of FEDECAMARAS at national and international levels;

(b) deeply regrets that the delegate nominated to head the employer representation at the International Labour Conference, Mrs Albin Muñoz, was prevented from leaving the country to carry out her official function at this Conference;

(c) condemns the violent attack on the premises of FEDECAMARAS by Government supporters, with the passivity of the authorities, and requests the Government to investigate the facts and to bring the authors of the acts to justice;

(d) reiterates the complaints presented since 2003 by the IOE to the Committee on Freedom of Association of the International Labour Organization against the Government of Venezuela (Case No.2254) and citing in particular:

- the setting up of parallel employers’ bodies, devoid of all legitimacy;
- the restriction of freedom of expression, aggravated by the non-renewal of the concession of Radio Caracas Television, leading to its closure;
- the absence of tripartite consultation and social dialogue;
- the harassment and attacks on business leaders and employer institutions;
- the violations of private property rights.
(e) deplores the problems being faced by the Venezuela private sector, especially the lack of legal security, and invites the Government of Venezuela to consider the Declaration of Caracas on “Sustainable Enterprise in Latin America”, adopted in Caracas by the Ibero-American business community in May 2007, and which proposes that governments, employers and workers work together in creating sustainable enterprises, thereby contributing to employment generation and the fight against poverty;

(f) offers its best efforts in the search for solutions and to establish genuine social dialogue between FEDECAMARAS and the Government of Venezuela.

Moreover, they request the International Labour Organization urgently to consider sending a High Level Tripartite Mission to Venezuela to examine the problems being faced by the employers and workers, as presented by them to ILO, with a view to establishing consensus and social peace in Venezuela.

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Geneva, 5 June 2007