Historic Declaration signed at GES in Bahrain gives impetus to business commitment to the global development goals

Under the auspices of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the International Organisation of Employers has joined forces with its member the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry to organise the first Global Employers' Summit in Manama.

More than two hundred delegates from the world of business, employers’ organisations and international agencies came together on 6 and 7 October around an agenda that addressed many of the most critical issues for business as it looks to the future.
Organised around seven panel sessions, high-level speakers led the interactive debates on several topics including the free movement of workers, trade and jobs, global youth unemployment, and business and human rights. Also high on the agenda was an exploration of how business can contribute to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recently adopted by the UN General Assembly in New York.

The Summit concluded with the signing of the Bahrain Declaration by BCCI Chairman, Khalid Abdurrahman Almoaymed, and IOE President, Daniel Funes de Rioja, reflecting the concrete commitment of the global employer community towards:

* Fostering job creation
* Creating labour market opportunities for young people and women
* Ensuring employment is safe and occurs in the formal economy
* Making labour migration a win-win situation
* Strengthening implementation of international commitments

The Declaration acknowledges in particular the role of business in contributing to the concerted global effort towards achieving shared progress and prosperity. It further reinforces business support for the SDGs, and represents a clear expression of readiness to cooperate at national and international level to reach the global development targets. It goes on to mark a renewed commitment to engage with trade unions and all other stakeholders to contribute to more and better jobs, growth and prosperity, and provides reaffirmation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as well as the ILO MNE Declaration, as a means to guide businesses as they seek to respect human rights throughout their operations.

In addition to contributions as speakers and moderators at the Summit, delegates from the International Organisation of Employers, led by its President Daniel Funes de Rioja, met in private session with HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to discuss the key role of business in the economic and social development of Bahrain.

Please see the links in the side panel for the text of the Bahrain Declaration as well as the official photo gallery from the event. For further information, please contact Mr Matthias Thorns at thorns@ioe-emp.org