

Message from the Minister of Labour & Social Development on
the 90th Anniversary of the International Labour Organization

This year marks the 90th Anniversary of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Founded in 1919, the ILO has been a guiding light in the struggle for worker's rights and safety. As such, the International Labour Organization has played a key role in rebuilding the economies of various countries after two World Wars, helped to end apartheid and tried to ensure that the globalization process is fair to all countries and people. Indeed, the organization's central principle is that social justice is the foundation of universal peace. The theme for the 90th Anniversary is "90 Years Working for Social Justice." The Director-General of the ILO, Mr. Juan Somavia has said, "Working For Social Justice is more than just the theme, it is our assessment of the past and our mandate for the future."

Here in The Bahamas, we have upheld the standards of the ILO and incorporated them into our labour laws. We have also led the region by being the first country to sign onto the Decent Work Country Programme which is an initiative of the International Labour Organization. We commend the ILO for 90 years of services to The Bahamas and the world, and look forward to our continued partnership.