

**Interim Decent Work Country Programme for South Central Somalia
Palacina Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya on the 23 April 2009**

Nairobi Communiqué

As part of the on going effort towards the development of an interim Decent Work Country Programme (I-DWCP) for Somalia, a social partners consultative meeting was held at the Palacina hotel in Nairobi on the 23rd April 2009. The meeting was attended by representatives from Government of Somalia led by Hon. Mohamed Abdi Hayir, Minister for Labour and Human Resource Development (MLHRD), ILO officials led by Alexio Musindo, Area Director (Kenya, Somalia, Uganda and Tanzania), representatives from civil society, private sector and academia from south and central Somalia.

Opening session

The ILO area office director thanked the Minister for attending the meeting and reiterated ILO commitment to work with and for the Somali people. He passed on greetings from the regional director for Africa, Mr. Charles Dan.

The director then briefly informed the members that ILO is celebrating its 90th anniversary under the theme of “90 years working towards social justice” and this meeting is called as part of taking forward the decent work agenda during this celebration. He informed the participants that 46 Africa ILO member countries were celebrating this anniversary as well, with emphasis on the decent work agenda.

He then went on to explain that the I-DWCP is a joint programme between ILO and the Somali people. He finally articulated that the meeting today marks an important milestone towards attaining decent work for all men and women of Somalia.

The Minister appreciated ILO support provided to Somalia so far and reiterated that the development of an I-DWCP as an important landmark towards supporting Somalia’s peace building, reconstruction and development agenda.

The minister emphasized the need for increased international development partner support to Somalia. He urged the need for more timely interventions that support the reconstruction efforts in Somalia.

He went on to explain that the government's current priority is focused on employment creation particularly for the youth and ex-militia to re-engage them in more positive and productive activities. He reiterated the need for provision of refresher courses for the civil service, establishment and rehabilitation of (vocational) training centers. He requested ILO to support the government in the strengthening of a tripartite structure as the current situation in Somalia lacks umbrella representative organizations for workers and employers. He called for an urgent action plan to be formulated to support quick employment creation in Somalia.

Finally, he thanked ILO for organizing this important meeting and the stakeholders for participating. He then officially declared the meeting open.

After the opening session

Having deliberated on the draft I- DWCP concept paper and country context paper, the members recommended and agreed on the following as the priority areas to be considered for inclusion in the I-DWCP :-

1. Employment creation

Urged that focus should be given to the vulnerable groups such as youth, persons with disabilities and ex-militia so as to have an alternative means of livelihoods.

Called for rehabilitation and development of training centers among others, vocational centers, which will provide skills development to the youth and ex militia, and support the demobilization process. Rehabilitation of institutions of higher learning was also recognized as an important priority.

Recognised that the private sector capacity needs to be improved in order to create job opportunities, especially for youth.

Recognised the need for employment intensive projects such as road construction/rehabilitation/improvement, water works, and waste management which absorb a large labour force.

Recognised the need for access to micro financing to support various small and medium enterprises including cottage industries such as honey production, crop production, fisheries, salt production, tailoring and handcrafts industries.

2. Support for a tripartite structure

Recognised the fact that Somalia currently lacks umbrella organizations representing workers and employers.

Recommended awareness creation and civic education on importance of workers and employer organizations in articulation of rights at the work place.

Called for the formation of a workers and employers umbrella organizations in order to have a tripartite structure.

3. Labour administration which includes issues of labour standards

Recognised that only a few of the 188 ILO conventions have been ratified by Somalia, therefore the need to ratify more of the conventions is necessary.

Called for the support in reviewing and updating the labour laws in Somalia which were last revised in 1972.

Urged promotion of equity in access to employment opportunities' for both men and women.

4. Labour market survey

Recommended a labour survey to be undertaken as a matter of priority to inform the ministry and other stakeholders on the current status of the labour market, i.e labour demand and supply status. The survey will be used to inform on priority areas for support and can assist in reforming some of the existing labour institutions.

The members then recognized the following as envisaged outcomes for the priority areas outlined:-

- Improved employment opportunities,
- Improved security and peace.
- Improved governance, service delivery, transparency and accountability.
- Contribution to equity, social justice and protection
- Improved labour standards
- Improved livelihoods resulting in reduced poverty, increased food security, improved health and environment
- Improved infrastructure resulting in improved access and productivity.
- Reduced migration of youth.
- Improved investment climate
- Increased local institutional capacity to deliver programmes.
- Increased awareness created on issues of rights for both employers and employees.

Closure of the meeting

Agreed on the outline provided within the communiqué.

Agreed the ministry of labour and human resource development to take forward these recommendations in future fora within Somalia and with international partners.

Agreed on further consultative meetings to include representation of all stakeholders.

Expressed appreciation to ILO and members for active participation in the meeting.

The members **adopted** this final communiqué as presented.

Finally, the Director General on behalf of the minister closed the meeting.

Done at Nairobi, Kenya on the 23rd April 2009 in English and Somali languages, both texts being equally authentic.