

## ILO 90th Anniversary Event: London, 6 May 2009

On 6 May 2009, the UK Government hosted an event to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Labour Organisation. The event took place at Admiralty House in London, formerly the official residence of the First Lords of the Admiralty. The event included representatives from the Government, social partners, academics and NGOs. This mix of participants led to fertile discussions throughout the day, which, although varied, were overwhelmingly positive about the ILO's past role and its future.



*Jonathan Shaw MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Work and Pensions, welcomes guests.*

### Summary of the day

The event began with a welcoming address from Jonathan Shaw MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Work and Pensions, before moving swiftly into a presentation about the UK's contribution to ILO's history from Gerry Rodgers, until recently, the

Director of the International Institute of Labour Studies. Following on, Stephen Pursey, the ILO Director of Statistics and Policy Integration, explained to guests the recent period of ILO activity.

After a short break, participants returned to hear a joint address from Jonathan Shaw MP, TUC General Secretary, Brendan Barber, and CBI Deputy Director-General, John Cridland CBE. Each gave their views on the value of the ILO's role in the UK and globally. The three high-level speakers then took questions, jointly, from the floor.



*From left: John Cridland, Jonathan Shaw MP and Brendan Barber jointly answer questions.*

Steve Richards, head of the team leading ILO work across Government, started the afternoon session with a 'nuts and bolts' account of the UK Government's engagement with the ILO, including work between departments and external actors.

The centrepiece of the afternoon session was a panel discussion exploring the interactions between the four pillars of the Declaration of Social Justice for a Fair Globalisation. The panel was chaired by Sir Richard Jolly and comprised four panellists, each a specialist in the field covered by one of the four respective pillars: Katja Hall of the CBI on employment; Owen Tudor of the TUC on social dialogue; Professor Tonia Novitz on labour standards; and Dr. Dennis Pain of DFID on social protection.

Finally, Professor Steve Hughes of Newcastle University gave an insightful account of challenges that the ILO was likely to face during the next century and suggested some interesting possible solutions. Win Harris, the director responsible for international relations at the Department for Work and Pensions, gave her conclusions on a successful event before inviting participants to an informal drinks reception.

## Programme for ILO 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event: London, 6 May 2009

- 10:40: Registration and coffee
- 11:15: Welcome address  
*Jonathan Shaw MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions*
- 11:20: The history of the ILO  
*Presentation by Gerry Rodgers, former Director of the International Institute for Labour Studies*
- 11:35: The ILO now  
*Presentation by Stephen Pursey, ILO Director of Policy Integration and Statistics*
- 11:50: Break
- 12:15: High-level tripartite address followed by questions and answers  
*Jonathan Shaw MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions; Brendan Barber, TUC General Secretary; and John Cridland, CBI Deputy Director-General*
- 13:15: Buffet lunch
- 14:30: The role of the United Kingdom at the ILO  
*Stephen Richards, Department for Work and Pensions*
- 14:55: The four pillars of the ILO – working together to move forward  
*Panel of experts representing each of the four pillars of the Declaration of Social Justice for a Fair Globalisation*
- 16:10: Break
- 16:30: The future of the ILO  
*Stephen Hughes, Professor of International Organisations, Newcastle University*
- 17:00: Conclusions followed by drinks

**List of participants at ILO 90th Anniversary Event, London 6 May 2009**

Department for Work and Pensions

Jonathan Shaw MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Win Harris, Director, Joint International Unit

Peter Drummond, Deputy-Director, Joint International Unit

Steve Richards, Head of ILO, UN and Council of Europe Team

Ade Akinsemolu

Ramin Hassan

Sandrine Jayet

James Rogers

Francis Roodt

Paul Russell

Dan de Witt

Confederation of British Industry (CBI)

John Cridland CBE, Deputy Director-General

Katja Hall

Andrew Moore

Simon Laphorne

Deborah France-Massin

Ben Digby

James Hudson

Justin Roberts

Trades Unions Congress (TUC)

Brendan Barber, General Secretary

Amanda Brown

Paul Noon

Owen Tudor

## **List of participants (continued)**

### UK Government Departments and Agencies

Bridget Brody, FCO

Julie Carlton, MCA

Glen Harrison, BERR

Rob Olson, HSE

Dr. Dennis Pain, DFID

### International Labour Organisation

Stephen Pursey, Director of Policy Integration and Statistics

Dan Smith, UK Liaison Officer

### Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS)

Peter Lockyer, Assistant Director for London

### Academics

Dr. Rebecca Gumbrell-McCormick,  
Birkbeck College

Professor Stephen Hughes,  
Newcastle University

Professor Richard Hyman,  
London School Economics

Sir Richard Jolly,  
Institute of Development Studies

Professor Tonia Novitz,  
Bristol University

Gerry Rodgers

### Non-governmental Organisations

Angela Penrose,  
Grow Up Free From Poverty Coalition

Kate Willingham,  
Anti-Slavery International

### Other Participants

Janine Rodgers





**The International  
Labour Organization  
and the UK:  
Some key moments**

Gary Haddock  
ILO Representative 1972-2008









