

90TH ANNIVERSARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN AFRICA

**Presentation by
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Mr. President,
Mr. Director-General,
Honourable Delegates,

The 90th Anniversary was celebrated in 49 out of 53 Member States in Africa.

The specific themes selected in most countries were Social Dialogue, Youth Employment and Occupational Safety and Health.

The diversity of activities included a Photographic Exhibition in Ethiopia, the dissemination of memorial coins and stamps in Egypt, popular processions in Democratic Republic of Congo and Ghana, Decent Work songs in Madagascar and the Seychelles, talks and marches with children in Morocco and Niger. There were also poetry and essay competitions in Cameroon, Namibia and Swaziland as well as tripartite matches of basketball in Guinea and football in Sudan. And in Algeria, the inauguration of the new ILO Office was a very moving moment.

But allow me here today to highlight three major features:

First, the 90th Anniversary provided an opportunity to focus on today's urgent priorities

From a Television roundtable in Togo to street interviews in Senegal, from high-level conferences and panel discussions in Angola, Benin, Botswana, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Mali, Mauritius, Tunisia, Zambia to the first ever held National Employment Summit in Nigeria, the celebrations addressed almost everywhere the implications of the global crisis on Africa's peoples.

And a strong message was the importance of a concerted reply anchored in local development and a vibrant social economy.

Second, the urgency to implement Decent Work Programmes in countries emerging from crisis

In Zimbabwe, the Prime Minister Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai joined tripartite constituents at the signing of the Decent Work Country Programme. In Côte d'Ivoire a tripartite event was held on "Promoting Decent Work for post-crisis Reconstruction" in the presence of the Prime Minister Mr. Guillaume Soro.

And the same trend was observed in Burundi, Comoros, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Third, tripartism has been widely promoted as a powerful development tool

Indeed, ILO's tripartite constituents were at the heart of all events and activities. Moved by this tripartite driving force, thousands of people joined the celebrations.

And from Government officials to Members of Parliaments in Uganda, from social partners to grassroots organizations in Tanzania, from women associations to youth movements in Mauritania and Mozambique, every spectrum of the population joined the celebrations.

This Anniversary has greatly served to promote ILO's core conventions, the Ouagadougou Declaration, the Decent Work Agenda in Africa and the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization including its translation into national languages in Burkina Faso.

Yes indeed, in Africa we enjoy celebrations. We respect age. We respect experience. For all these reasons, the 90th Anniversary was a wonderful success in Africa.