



**Statement by Mr. George Okutho, Director of the ILO Country Office for Ethiopia and Somalia, at the Validation Workshop on Decent Work Country Profile for Ethiopia;
Addis Ababa, Intercontinental Hotel, 15-16 September 2011.**

- Your Excellency Dr. Zerihun Kebebe,
- State Minister of Labour and Social Affairs
- Distinguished Representatives of Employers and Trade Unions
- Dear Participants
- ILO Colleagues
- Ladies and gentlemen

It is a privilege and an honour for me to be here today, at this very important validation workshop. I want to thank all of you for coming and look forward to frank and resourceful discussions.

As you will recall, twelve (12) years ago in 1999, the ILO tripartite constituents adopted the Decent Work Agenda (DWA) as an encompassing concept and campaign to promote “gainful employment opportunities for men and women in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.”

This Agenda has been globally, regionally, sub-regionally and nationally adopted as central to development efforts. It is central to development because everyone agrees that work is source of personal dignity, family stability, peace in the community, and economic growth should be broad-based and pro-poor in order to expand the opportunities for productive jobs and enterprise development.



Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) have been established as the main vehicle for realising this Agenda and the delivery of ILO support to member countries. In Ethiopia, the ILO has supported the formulation and implementation of two successive DWCPs. The first one covered the period from 2006-2008 and the second one (2009-2012), which is on-going and has recently been reviewed. Both these programmes were aimed at contributing to the national development strategy and the decent work agenda.

Monitoring and assessing progress towards decent work at the country-level is a long-standing concern for the ILO and its constituents. Against this background, the 2008 *Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization* recommends that member States may consider “the establishment of appropriate indicators or statistics, if necessary with the assistance of the ILO, to monitor and evaluate the progress made.”

Accordingly the ILO has supported a number of programmes and activities to monitor and assess progress towards decent work, in particular development of decent work indicators (DWIs) - which are then used to compile and analyse decent work profiles of a particular country. The four pilot countries – including Tanzania in our sub-regional, in which the DWI were first compiled led to the improvement of the methodology. Most importantly, it helped to better understand the role that the decent work profile can play in the country-level activities, most importantly – determining the priorities of the Decent Work Country Programmes.



It is in this context that we, as the ILO, are very happy to be associated with today's event. We note with gratitude the bold steps the Government took, through the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) to develop the DW Profile for Ethiopia, with the major objective of taking stock of the progress made - over the last decade – and identify remaining challenges and propose solutions.

I want also congratulate other partners, namely the representatives of employers' and workers' organisations, the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) who worked diligently with the competent local consultants to produce the document before us today. I also thank the National steering Committee and the Technical Committee for overseeing this important task.

Without pre-empting your discussion, the Profile analyzes the socioeconomic and the legal context, the trends and progress made towards decent work based on rigorous analysis of the statistical DWIs and the legal framework indicators. With the wealth of expertise represented in this room today, it is our sincere hope that draft document will be further enriched. The outcomes of which should feed back into policy making process and inform the priorities of the next Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP).

I look forward to your fruitful discussions and wish to reiterate the ILO continuous support in this endeavour.

Thank you for your attention.