

# **Improving Job Quality in Africa through Social Dialogue, as a Policy Response to the Economic Crisis: Lessons Learned in Mozambique and Tanzania**

**A High – Level Regional Conference, 08 December 2009**  
ILO Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

## **Context**

Working conditions are key dimensions of decent and productive work. Yet the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) reported in 2007 that global economic growth has increasingly failed to translate into new and better jobs that would lead to a reduction in poverty. In essence, high and sustained economic growth has gone hand in hand with rising unemployment and increased informality of the labour market. It is for this reason that the ILO Director General, during a debate on the global economic crisis at the Center for American Progress, Washington DC, in December 2008, stated that *"It is important not to lose sight [of the fact] that there was a crisis before the [global economic] crisis."*

The current ILO response to the global economic crisis is the Global Jobs Pact (GJP) approved by ILO constituents in June 2009, but its efforts started much earlier with the Decent Work Agenda promoting employment, social protection and fundamental principles and rights at work and social dialogue. The vision and strategy of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008 is also relevant in this context. All of these responses recognise the centrality of promoting decent working conditions, if workers, enterprises, and the national and global economies are to have a healthy and prosperous future.

In Africa, ILO's Conditions of Work and Employment Programme (TRAVAIL), with support from DANIDA, and in collaboration with local researchers, government officials, employers, and trade unions, started to implement a programme to improve job quality in Tanzania and Mozambique in 2008. Through research, policy consultations, and training the TRAVAIL project has sought to systematically find policy alternatives and practical measures, from national to workplace level, that can improve working conditions

generally and, specifically, address issues relating to wages, long hours and productivity, strengthen maternity protection, and better reconcile work-family life.

### **Objective of the Conference**

The main objective of this conference will be to share the achievements of the work on improving working conditions through social dialogue under the above ILO programme and consider how the lessons learned from this can help in the formulation of a policy response to the economic crisis in Africa. The one-day Regional conference, will be preceded by a two-day technical meeting where TRAVAIL and its implementing partners will review overall experiences and lessons learned which will all be shared at the Conference, with the aim to solicit concerted efforts and commitment from government, employers and workers organizations to improving working conditions in Africa.

### **Participants to the Conference**

TRAVAIL is inviting local and national researchers, government officials, employers, and trade unions from the following countries will be invited to participate in the conference: Burundi, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Mozambique, Zambia, and the host, Tanzania.

### **Venue**

The High-Level Regional Conference and the preceding Technical Meeting will take place at the ILO Office Plot No. 75/27 Maktaba Street, Dar es Salaam.

### **Contacts in Dar es Salaam**

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