

PRESS RELEASE

“ILO Technical Assistance Package for Zimbabwe Launch”

On Friday 27th August, 2010, the Government of Zimbabwe, ZCTU, EMCOZ and the ILO jointly launched a technical assistance package to the country. The technical assistance is in follow-up to the Commission of Inquiry on the application of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98) that visited Zimbabwe last year.

The Launch at Rainbow Towers was attended by a number of members of the Government of Zimbabwe and high officials from the ZCTU and EMCOZ. The ILO was represented by Mr. Kari Tapiola, Executive Director, Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and other officials from Geneva, Pretoria and Harare. Following the keynote address by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, M. Tsvangirai, Vice President Hon. J.L. Nkomo officially launched the Technical Assistance Package.

The recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, in a report entitled “Truth, reconciliation and justice in Zimbabwe”, called for legislative reform; the cessation of anti-union arrests, detentions, violence, torture, intimidation and harassment, interference and discrimination; strengthening of national institutions and social dialogue; training on freedom of association and collective bargaining, civil liberties and human rights; and the reinforcement of the rule of law and role of the Courts. In April 2010, the Government of Zimbabwe indicated that it accepted, “in the spirit of engagement among people of Zimbabwe”, the recommendations of a 2009 ILO Commission of Inquiry. The Government indicated that it would implement the Commission’s recommendations in the context of its current legislative and institutional reform programme, and welcomed the guidance and support of the ILO.

In response, a technical assistance package aiming to support the Government and social partners in Zimbabwe in implementing the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry has been jointly developed by the International Labour Office and the Government and social partners in Zimbabwe. The activities will be carried out in Zimbabwe over the course of the next year.