

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC SUBREGIONAL TRIPARTITE FORUM ON DECENT WORK**
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, 6-8 OCTOBER 2003

1. The delegates of the South-East Asian and the Pacific Tripartite Subregional Forum on Decent Work held in Auckland, New Zealand from 6-8 October 2003, reaffirm the conclusions of the 13th ILO Asian Regional Meeting held in Bangkok, 2001.
2. The delegates welcome the progress made towards the establishment of National Plans of Action for Decent Work that integrate fundamental rights, opportunities for women and men to secure decent work, social protection and effective social dialogue. The delegates further emphasize that these plans can offer unique opportunities for tripartite planning and implementation of policies and programmes that integrate national economic and social concerns.
3. The delegates recognise that one of the pre-eminent challenges for all members in the subregion is creating and maintaining economies that generate sustainable economic and jobs growth.
4. The delegates note with satisfaction that a number of member States in the subregion have National Plans of Action for Decent Work. The delegates urge these member States to update and review these plans regularly in a tripartite process. Those member States that are in the process of developing these plans are encouraged to complete them. The delegates call upon the ILO to provide the necessary assistance to governments and social partners to develop and implement these plans.
5. The delegates recommend member States take steps to include in their National Plans of Action for Decent Work agreed timetables, sex disaggregated indicators and targets/desirable outcomes for the purposes of tripartite monitoring and evaluation. Support for the development of indicators and targets/desirable outcomes along with monitoring and evaluation procedures is the next critical phase of work requiring ILO leadership.
6. The delegates call upon member States to integrate, where possible, National Plans of Action for Decent Work with national development plans. The ILO is called upon to strengthen cooperation with international financial institutions to further Decent Work and the observance of core labour standards, in particular with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on the basis of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
7. The delegates note a number of recurring concerns for many member States in the subregion, which are being addressed by constituents. These include:
 - Ratification and compliance with core labour standards and labour law reform
 - Youth unemployment
 - Occupational safety and health
 - HIV/AIDs

- The informal economy
 - Agriculture and fisheries
 - Small and medium enterprises
 - Labour market information and statistics
 - Sound corporate and public governance
8. The delegates note with concern continuing inequalities in employment and occupation in the subregion and discriminatory treatment of women in the labour force. These inequalities should be addressed in the National Plans of Action for Decent Work, through a combination of targeted and mainstreamed policies and programmes.
 9. The delegates recognise that there is a pool of technical expertise in the subregion that can be accessed to support the ILO and its constituents in implementing National Plans of Action for Decent Work. The delegates recommend that the ILO makes appropriate use of this valuable resource.
 10. The delegates emphasised that the effective participation of the social partners in the development and implementation of National Plans of Action for Decent Work is essential for success. Robust, effective and properly resourced constituents are fundamental to properly address and progress Decent Work at the national level. Delegates therefore request that the ILO continue to provide support to its tripartite constituents to strengthen their institutions and capacities to address existing and emerging issues and challenges. In doing so, the delegates recommend that a broad range of delivery modes be explored, including the use of information technology (particularly web based models) and distance learning mechanisms.
 11. The delegates welcome Vanuatu and Timor-Leste as new members of the ILO and urge the ILO to provide the required assistance to promote Decent Work in these new member States.
 12. The delegates appreciated the common experiences canvassed at this Forum that have been enriched by the diversity existing in the subregion. The delegates express their appreciation to the Government of New Zealand for hosting the first South-East Asian and the Pacific Tripartite Subregional Forum on Decent Work and to ILO's Subregional Office for South-East Asia and the Pacific for conducting the Forum. Delegates would welcome further opportunities to meet, exchange experiences and consider progress in implementing National Plans of Action for Decent Work, prior to the 14th Asian Regional Meeting to be held in Bangkok, 2005.