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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

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**CONCLUSIONS OF THE SECOND SOUTHEAST ASIA  
and the Pacific Subregional Tripartite Forum on Decent Work  
Melbourne, Australia, 5-8 April 2005**

1. The Delegates welcome the reports submitted to the Forum.
2. Delegates refer to the subregional forum as an important institutional event where they can come together, share experience and address issues of common concern in a tripartite manner. Given the geographical characteristics of the subregion, the Delegates recognize the forum as an effective way to address issues in the world of work in the subregion and give constituents from the subregion greater collective voice. They recommend that the forum be held at least once every two years.
3. Delegates acknowledge the progress made in developing, updating and implementing National Plans of Action for Decent Work since the 1st Subregional Tripartite Forum held in Auckland in 2003. They note that in some countries progress has been slow. They call upon the ILO Subregional Office in Manila to continue to assist countries in the development of their decent work agenda drawing on the pool of experience and best practice that exist within the ILO. Delegates urge members to regularly review and update their Decent Work National Action Plans in a tripartite process.
4. Delegates encourage the ILO to deliver assistance to constituents within time-bound and resourced decent work country programmes that suit the specific needs and timelines of the countries concerned. They emphasize that the effective participation of the social partners is essential for the development and success of such programmes. They call upon members to give due regard to equality at the workplace.
5. The Delegates recommend the ILO continue to support capacity building of the tripartite constituents, especially workers' and employers' organizations, using appropriate and effective means including web-based models and distance learning mechanisms.
6. Delegates call upon the members in the subregion to promote Decent Work and encourage them to ratify and implement all Fundamental International Labour Conventions and fully comply with standard supervisory procedures.

7. Delegates note C185, the new Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 2003, and encourage members, where appropriate, to consider ratifying the Convention and seek ILO technical assistance for its implementation.
8. Delegates also encourage members to become involved in the process of reviewing and consolidating the fishing Conventions and consider ratifying the new consolidated Convention when it is adopted.
9. Delegates draw attention to the common issue of youth unemployment. They note with satisfaction the ILO programmes in the Philippines and Indonesia to address this problem. They recommend the ILO expand assistance to other countries and subregionally.
10. Delegates refer to the specific challenges and opportunities posed by globalisation in the subregion and welcome the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation: "A Fair Globalisation: Creating Opportunities for All". Given the complexity of the issues - for instance the labour and employment implications of trade agreements within the subregion and the issue of labour migration, and the commitment to Decent Work the Delegates acknowledge the need for the ILO to facilitate a range of capacity building initiatives with the tripartite partners.
11. Delegates acknowledge the essential role of occupational health and safety in contributing to the Decent Work agenda, enhancing productivity and economic outcomes. They request the ILO and developed member states in the sub-region to support the strengthening of the national occupational health and safety systems and infrastructure, such as the development of national strategies and plans, monitoring and reporting systems, legislative frameworks and regulations to support them and their enforcement through labour inspection services.
12. Delegates endorse a proposal for Australia to develop a coordinated technical Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) cooperation programme for labour inspection in collaboration with the ILO and the social partners to assist and improve OSH in the subregion.
13. Delegates note with grave concern the social and economic consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and call upon the ILO and member states in the subregion to strengthen the legal and policy frameworks for workplace action on HIV/AIDS at national and subregional levels, including a review of labour legislation where necessary. Delegates call upon the ILO and members to develop on a priority basis projects, programmes and tripartite structures to

address this issue at the workplace. They look forward to the opportunity for technical cooperation and encourage donor countries and donor agencies to strengthen their support to HIV/AIDS workplace related initiatives in the subregion.

14. Delegates, recalling the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster and noting the difficulties that occur in post-crisis situations, recognize the assistance provided by the ILO and request the ILO and developed member states to assist constituents with the development of employment and labour-related crisis response capacity.
15. Delegates note the growing importance of labour mobility in the sub-region and its consequences, including the growing volume of remittances. They request that these developments be taken into account during the Experts Meeting on Labour Migration scheduled for September 2005 in Geneva.
16. Delegates request the ILO to strengthen its partnerships with donor countries and donor agencies active in the subregion with a view to increasing technical cooperation programmes to promote Decent Work goals.
17. Recognising that Decent Work encompasses an enabling environment which creates sustainable jobs and productivity growth, the Delegates recommend that the ILO assist members to support the review of labour legislation in line with the principles of Decent Work. Such review should involve the tripartite partners.
18. Delegates note that some countries in the subregion are eligible for national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) programmes. They call upon the ILO to assist tripartite partners in participating in the PRSP process and integrating poverty reduction as part of their Decent Work National Action Plans.
19. Delegates welcome Samoa as a new member of the ILO and urge the ILO to provide the required assistance to promote the Decent Work agenda in that country.
20. Delegates look forward to the 14th Asian Regional Meeting that will be held in Busan, in Republic of Korea, in October 2005 and encourage members from the subregion to participate in the Regional Meeting and to report on progress in the development of their Decent Work National Action Plans.
21. The Forum expresses its high appreciation to the Australian constituents for their hospitality and thanks the Australian Government for its generous support to the organization of the event.