



Eighteenth sitting

Tuesday, 18 June 2002, 10 a.m.

Presidents: Mr. Elmiger, Mr. Hussain

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:
SUBMISSION, DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION

Original French: The PRESIDENT — We have before us this morning the report of the Finance Committee of the Government Representatives, contained in *Provisional Record No. 19*.

I now call on Mr. Björn Jonzon, Government delegate of Sweden, Chairperson and Reporter of the Committee, to submit the report of the Finance Committee of Government Representatives to the Conference.

Mr. JONZON (*Government delegate, Sweden; Chairperson and Reporter of the Finance Committee*) — I have the honour of submitting to the Conference the report of the Finance Committee of Government Representatives, which is published in *Provisional Record No. 19* and contains the Committee's recommendations on the matters considered.

The resolutions proposed by the Committee for adoption appear at the end of the report, immediately before the appendices.

The Finance Committee examined a request from the Government of Guinea-Bissau for permission to vote at the Conference. The Committee was satisfied that the failure to pay its contributions was due to circumstances beyond the Government's control and that acceptable proposals had been put forward for the settlement of arrears.

It accordingly recommended the Conference to adopt the resolution proposing that Guinea-Bissau be granted the right to vote in accordance with paragraph 4 of article 13 of the ILO Constitution.

The next issue it examined was the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2000-01.

The Committee was pleased to see that the external auditor had given an unqualified audit opinion and had put forward a number of valuable recommendations in his report. The Office was already acting on them and, in accordance with normal practice, it would be submitting a report to the March 2003 session of the Governing Body and follow-up action in respect of these recommendations.

The Committee had no hesitation in proposing that the Conference adopt the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2000-01 in accordance with article 29 of the Financial Regulations.

The main item of business for the Finance Committee concerned the treatment of the 2000-01 cash surplus. This item was introduced with a statement by the Director-General, followed by statements by

Mr. Blondel, on behalf of the Workers, and Mr. Tabani on behalf of the Employers.

During the course of discussions, an amendment to the draft resolution was proposed on behalf of the IMEC group of member States requesting the Conference to delegate to the November 2002 session of the Governing Body the authority to adjust the proposals, if necessary, in the light of continuing consultations between the Director-General and member States.

We undertook the course that it would be for the Director-General to make these proposals as a result of his consultations. The ensuing discussion on this topic contained many thoughtful and incisive contributions and it was agreed that the amended resolution should be recommended to the Conference for adoption.

The Committee also considered a paper concerning the composition of the ILO Administrative Tribunal. Ms. Mella Carroll of Ireland, the judge of the Tribunal since 1987 and, currently Vice-President, had informed the Office that she would not be able to accept a further renewal of her appointment. And the Committee unanimously accepted a recommendation from the Governing Body that the Conference express its appreciation to Ms. Carroll for the services she had rendered to the Tribunal over the last 15 years.

The Committee then considered a proposal from the Governing Body to appoint Ms. Justice Gaudron, a Justice of the High Court of Australia for the last 15 years, as a judge of the ILO Administrative Tribunal. This recommendation was also accepted unanimously by the Committee, and it proposed that the resolution should be recommended to the Conference for adoption. All these matters are set out at the end of the report

In concluding, I would like to express my thanks to my Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Ledezma Vergara of Panama, to the members of the Committee and also, indeed, to the members of the secretariat, all of whom helped me greatly in my task as Chairperson.

I should like to commend our report to you for adoption.

Original French: The PRESIDENT — I thank you Mr. Jonzon. The discussion on the General Report is now open.

Mr. ITO (*Workers' delegate, Japan*) — My name is Ito, Workers' delegate from Japan. I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to express my concern on the report of the Finance Committee. First of all, I appreciate very much the decision taken by the Committee on the use of the cash surplus of the year 2000-01 in such a way that 90 per cent will be allocated to ILO activities, and consultations will be held

and decisions taken at the November session of the Governing Body.

I will summarize my opinions on the following three points. Firstly, the ILO should give clear guidelines as to how to deal with cash surpluses which might occur in the future. Clear guidelines should be discussed and developed in the Governing Body on this matter, in order to avoid decisions being made on a case-by-case basis whenever such surpluses occur.

Secondly, I support the idea of discussing the creation of a Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection with contributions by the member States, which is proposed as one of the solutions for peace between Palestine and Israel at the November session of the Governing Body. At the same time, on behalf of Japanese workers, I support the allocation of the cash surplus to this fund.

Thirdly, I would like to stress the importance of human resources development. Encouraging human resources and skills development activities should be extremely high on the Decent Work Agenda for the ILO, especially in Asia and the Pacific region, the most populous region in the world.

Therefore, the effective activities of the Asia and Pacific Skills Development Programme APSDEP are most welcome in order to promote occupational capacity development in the region. I fully support the request for part of the cash surplus to be allocated to the APSDEP programme as mentioned by the Indonesian Government on behalf of 15 States in the Asia and Pacific region. I request that the Office will take my concerns into account.

Original French: The PRESIDENT — I thank Mr. Ito for his statement. Since there are no further requests for the floor, I propose that we should proceed with the adoption of the report, i.e. the summary of the Committee's debates (paragraphs 1-93), the three Appendices (Appendices I, II, and III) and the list of four resolutions submitted to the Conference for adoption.

If there are no objections, may I take it that the report, i.e. paragraphs 1-93, as well as Appendices I, II and III, are adopted.

(The report — paragraphs 1-93 — and Appendices I, II and III, are adopted.)

Resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of Guinea-Bissau

Original French: The PRESIDENT — We shall now move to the adoption of the resolutions. If there is no objection, may I take it that this resolution is adopted.

(The resolution is adopted.)

In accordance with article 13, paragraph 4, of the ILO Constitution, a record vote on this resolution will take place in a fe

Resolution concerning treatment of the 2000-01 cash surplus

Original French: The PRESIDENT — We shall now move on to the resolution concerning treatment

of the 2000-01 cash surplus. If there is no objection, may I take it that the resolution.

(The resolution is adopted.)

Resolution concerning the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2000-01

Original French: The PRESIDENT — We shall now move on to the resolution concerning the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2000-01. If there is no objection may I take it that this resolution is adopted.

(The resolution is adopted.)

Resolution concerning the composition of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization

Original French: The PRESIDENT — We shall now move on to the adoption of the resolution concerning the composition of the Administrative Tribunal of the International Labour Organization. If there are no objections, may I take it that this resolution is adopted.

(The resolution is adopted.)

I would like to thank the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Finance Committee, as well as, all the members of this Committee, for the excellent work they have accomplished. It goes without saying that I should also like to thank all of the Office staff who were involved and helped this Committee to function so well.

RECORD VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE ARREARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF GUINEA-BISSAU

Original French: The PRESIDENT — We shall now proceed to the record vote on the resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of Guinea-Bissau, contained in *Provisional Record No. 19*. In this connection, I should like to remind you that under article 13, paragraph 4, of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization, the Conference may, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the delegates present, permit such Member who is in arrears in contributions, to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member. Pursuant to article 19(c), paragraph 5, of the Standing Orders of the Conference, a record vote is then necessary.

(A record vote is taken.)

(The detailed results of the vote will be found at the end of the record of this sitting.)

The result of the vote is as follows: 326 votes in favour, none against, with 5 abstentions. As the quorum was 280 and the required two-thirds majority is 218, the resolution is adopted.

(The resolution is adopted.)

FINAL RECORD VOTE ON THE WITHDRAWAL
OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR RECOMMENDATIONS
Nos. 1, 5, 11, 15, 37, 38, 39, 42, 45, 50, 51, 54, 56, 59,
63, 64, 65, 66, 72 AND 73

Original French: The PRESIDENT — We shall now proceed to a final record vote on the withdrawal of 20 Recommendations, contained in *Provisional Record No. 4-2A*. In accordance with the decision taken by the Conference yesterday morning to have a single vote on the withdrawal of the 20 Recommendations contained in the report of the Selection Committee (*Provisional Record No. 4-2*), I should like to ask you to proceed with a record vote to confirm the withdrawal of these Recommendations in a single motion. May I remind you that for a withdrawal to be confirmed, the Conference requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. In pursuance of the Standing Orders, following this single vote, delegates will be allowed to make statements on the withdrawal of one or other of these Recommendations.

(A final record vote is taken.)

(The detailed results of the vote will be found at the end of the record of this sitting.)

The results of the vote are as follows: 348 votes in favour, 1 against, with 1 abstention. As the quorum is 283, and the required two-thirds majority is 333, the withdrawal of the 20 Recommendations is confirmed.

(The withdrawal of the 20 Recommendations is confirmed.)

REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE:
SUBMISSION, DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION

Original French: The PRESIDENT — We shall now move on to the report of the Standing Orders Committee, contained in *Provisional Record No. 20*. I give the floor to Mr. Víctor Rodríguez Cedeño, Government delegate of Venezuela, Chairperson and Reporter of the Standing Orders Committee, to submit the report of the Standing Orders Committee.

Original Spanish: Mr. RODRÍGUEZ CEDEÑO (*Government delegate, Venezuela; Chairperson and Reporter of the Standing Orders Committee*) — I am indeed privileged to submit to you the Report of the Standing Orders Committee, which met on 3 June last, and you will find this in *Provisional Record No. 20*.

The Standing Orders Committee looked at three issues: amendments to the Standing Orders of the Conference, revision of the Rules for Regional Meetings, and an amendment to the provisions of article 10 of the Standing Orders of the Governing Body.

As regards the first item, the Committee, in pursuance of the recommendation made by the Governing Body, recommends that the Conference adopt a number of amendments to the Standing Orders of the Conference that consolidate the reforms introduced in 1996 which, as you well know, have been implemented since then for six sessions of the Conference by means of ad hoc derogations, which are adopted every year in pursuance of article 76.

These proposed amendments have to do with time limits for speeches, which is a revision of article 14, and this change is reflected in the report.

Other amendments include revision of article 4, paragraph 2, concerning the Selection Committee; article 9, adjustments to the membership of committees; article 56, paragraph 9, composition of committees and the right to participate in their work; deletion of article 75, procedure for the nomination of members of committees by the Government group; and, finally, the revision of article 52, procedure of voting.

As regards the second item, the Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the Rules for Regional Meetings adopted by the Governing Body in March of this year which, as you will note, includes an introductory note.

Finally, our Committee recommends that the Conference take note of the amendment adopted by the Governing Body in its Standing Orders and reproduced in article 34 of the Standing Orders of the Conference, so as to facilitate reference to the same.

This is the outcome of our work. I would like to thank the distinguished members of the Committee for their participation in its work, and, in particular, I would like to thank the Vice-Chairpersons, Mr. Boisson, from the Employers' group, and Mr. Ahmed from the Workers' group, who greatly contributed to the work. We would also like to reiterate our thanks to Mr. Parrot, Workers' delegate of Canada, for the constant support he lent us in conducting the delicate work we have had to do in the Governing Body in recent years.

Original French: The PRESIDENT — The general discussion on the report is now open.

As no one has asked for the floor concerning the Report of the Standing Orders Committee, I suggest that we now proceed to the adoption of the report, which contains four parts, and an Appendix containing the Rules for Regional Meetings. We shall now proceed to the adoption of Part I of the Report, entitled "Proposed amendments to the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference" (paragraphs 4-18). In this first part, the Conference is invited to adopt the amendments to the Standing Orders contained in paragraphs 9, 16 and 18. If there are no objections, may I consider that these amendments are adopted?

(The proposed amendments are adopted.)

We shall now move to Part II of the report entitled "Confirmation of the Rules for Regional Meetings" (paragraphs 19-21). If there are no objections, may I consider that the Conference confirms the Rules for Regional Meetings, contained in the Appendix to the report, in accordance with the recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee?

(It is so decided.)

We shall now move to Part III entitled "Corrections to the Standing Orders of the Conference" (paragraphs 22-25). If there are no objections, may I take it that the Conference takes note of the amendment made by the Governing Body and notes that the next edition of the Standing Orders will reflect the changes contained in paragraph 25?

(The amendment made by the Governing Body is noted.)

We have therefore taken note that the Standing Orders of the Conference will be amended accordingly. I now deem that the report of the Standing Orders Committee is adopted *in toto*.

(The report — paragraphs 1-3 — and Parts I, II, III, and IV, as well as the Appendix, are adopted.)

I should like to thank the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons and members of the Committee for the excellent work they have done and should also like to thank the secretariat for their support. I now give the floor to the Clerk of the Conference to make an announcement.

RATIFICATION OF
AN INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTION BY MALAYSIA.

Original French: The CLERK OF THE CONFERENCE — I have the pleasure of announcing that on 14 June 2002, the Director-General recorded the ratification of the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), by Malaysia.

REPORTS OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE GOVERNING BODY
AND OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL: DISCUSSION (*cont.*)

Original French: The PRESIDENT — We shall now resume our discussion of the Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and the Director-General.

Mr. TIMBO (*Minister of Labour, Social Security and Industrial Relations, Sierra Leone*) — Please allow me to join other speakers in expressing my warmest congratulations to the President on his election to preside over this session of the International Labour Conference. My delegation wishes him every success in his task.

Let me also congratulate the Director-General for his lucid Report and for the impressive achievements of the various strategic operational objectives.

I am pleased to inform this august assembly that we have recently put an end to a protracted civil conflict that had destroyed the social infrastructure and caused misery to the population, through refuge and displacement, in the whole country for over ten years.

We have also just concluded a successful and peaceful presidential and parliamentary election. We are now determined to take on the challenge that is implied in the overwhelming vote of confidence in the leadership of our President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, as reflected in the results of the elections. The Government intends to consolidate the peace and political stability that have been achieved by channelling increased resources, of course including development assistance that we so desperately need, into activities which create jobs and incomes.

Our people seek prosperity — that is, an improvement in our standard of living — and this depends to a large extent on providing decent work, on perfecting

labour relations systems and on establishing genuine social dialogue through tripartism in order to achieve greater enjoyment of the internationally recognized rights of workers. Improving our standard of living also involves ensuring food security. In this regard, our President Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, after taking the oath of office following the recent elections, committed himself to doing everything within his power to ensure that no Sierra Leonean goes to bed hungry during his current five-year term of office. Indeed, in his statement at the recent World Food Summit in Rome, he reinforced his commitment to what he described as “a right to food security policy” which recognizes the critical role that agriculture and rural development will play in poverty alleviation in Sierra Leone. He stressed his determination to see that a significant increase in the proportion and quantum of our national budget is devoted to food security issues, so as to complement the investment anticipated from international sources.

Our Government further hopes to adopt employment policy reforms to enhance and sustain income-generating activities. These policies are to promote and improve micro-and small-scale enterprises, with a focus on self-employment of young people, women, retrenched workers and persons with disabilities, most of whom are in the informal sector. Although these reforms are in their early stages, we are optimistic that they will be successful given the appropriate enabling environment. Here, the promotion of youth employment is crucial and the focus is to equip young people with a greater ability to adapt to technological and economic changes and with skills relevant to the labour market, where appropriate, by implementing and developing apprenticeship training.

We attach great importance to the ILO’s technical cooperation programmes for capacity building in our country, especially in our post-conflict situation and in our struggle for the consolidation of democracy, good governance and economic and sustainable development.

We appreciate the ILO’s efforts to draw up a comprehensive programme on employment for peace. Besides the establishment of the Employment Information Service Centre, which is part of the programme, the implementation has been regrettably delayed because of the lack of the necessary funds. We therefore appeal to the Office to provide the necessary funds through its technical cooperation programme.

We note in the Report of the Director-General the impressive response of member States to ratify the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). We are happy to report that our country has also ratified this Convention, as well as the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151). In relation to this, the Government has declared free education in the first six years of primary education, and the payment of all fees for prescribed public examinations for children in secondary schools is being met using public funds.

A National Social Security and Insurance Trust Act was enacted in August 2001. This scheme has already taken off and initially covers old age, invalidity and survivors’ benefits.

Finally, I wish to express our sincere thanks to the Director-General, Mr. Juan Somavia, and his staff for the assistance we have received. We are not yet out of

the woods and we look forward to their continued cooperation and understanding in helping us achieve sustainable development.

Original Russian: Mr. LOVRIC (Government delegate, Bosnia and Herzegovina) — It is an exceptional honour and pleasure to attend the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference as head of the tripartite delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to have an opportunity to address you on behalf of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I wish this distinguished international gathering successful work.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has signed and ratified over 60 ILO Conventions, including the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). The highest-level authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Bosnia and Herzegovina presidency as well as the Council of Ministers, exert great efforts at completely fulfilling Bosnia and Herzegovina's obligations towards the ILO's international instruments. For the first time, Bosnia and Herzegovina has submitted reports on the implementation of ILO Conventions Nos. 81, 87, 111 and 158. Additional information on the implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee of Experts will be submitted as soon as possible. We would like to point out that reports on other ratified and unratified ILO Conventions are on their way, and some of them will be submitted by the end of this year. The ratification process for the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), has begun in view of its importance for Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the area of organizing tripartite dialogue, the ILO's technical assistance is necessary.

I would like to inform you that a law on an employment and labour agency has been drafted and we expect to adopt it very soon. This law will establish a state-level agency to perform the following tasks: to represent Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with its obligations in the field of employment and labour; to coordinate the activities of employment and labour entities on projects of interest to Bosnia and Herzegovina; to collect information on supply and demand in the international labour market; and to draw up and sign bilateral and multilateral agreements in the field of labour, employment and social protection. The greatest challenge now facing Bosnia and Herzegovina is unemployment. Consequently, the relevant authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina are trying to reduce the number of jobless. Progress is being hampered by the country's war-ravaged economy as well as by technological know-how that has lagged for the last ten years and the transition process from communism to capitalism.

Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes the Global Report on the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, as well as all activities aimed at eliminating all forms of child labour. Nevertheless, we are taking this opportunity to express our concern regarding certain parts of the Report naming Bosnia and Herzegovina because the problem of trafficking in persons has a regional character and indisputably demands the cooperation of all countries in the region. It is quite unjustified to take individual countries out of the overall regional context. Also, on page 45 of the Report, completely incorrect data have been given that are not contained in the national report and follow-up to the World Summit

for Children to which the Report refers. We kindly urge that the errors be corrected.

In conclusion, I would like to express our gratitude to the International Labour Organization for the continued support and assistance it has provided Bosnia and Herzegovina in these difficult times as well as for the understanding it has shown for our tardy submission of reports in violation of the obligation of member States as enshrined in the ILO Constitution. I take this opportunity to reiterate our full commitment to the ILO's fundamental principles as well as the willingness of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Council of Ministers to improve further cooperation with the ILO. I wish the Conference successful and fruitful work.

Original Spanish: Mr. PETRECCA (Workers' adviser and substitute delegate, Argentina) — I should like to convey the sincere congratulations of my delegation to the President on his election to steer the deliberations of the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference. We are confident that his stewardship will produce very good results.

I would also like to commend the Director-General for his Report in which he reiterates the aims of this Organization and in particular those efforts made to create decent jobs and to eradicate child labour. My country is experiencing the worst economic crisis of its history, with more than half the population living below the poverty line. More than 4.5 million Argentinians are totally penniless and suffering unprecedented levels of casual labour with unprecedented levels of unemployment, in default of external payments and the collapse of the financial system; furthermore, the savings of the Argentinians have been blocked as a consequence of the perverse workings of this system.

We have a basic shopping basket which, because of inflation, has in six months gone up by 42 per cent in price only. This stark reality means that, on the one hand, we have the breakdown of the main principles of solidarity and, on the other, we have a crisis in the social contract which we saw as a satisfactory framework for managing the situation of workers — whether employed or unemployed — the excluded and the marginalized. We need social rights and duties that will enable us to establish a fairer system within society. We are no longer the model pupil of international financial organizations or an example to be followed by other developing nations. No, we have become the worst dunce of all. It is for this reason we need to examine in greater detail what happened in Argentina and to note in particular that the massive cuts in wages are consolidating a regressive model of income distribution. A considerable amount of income is in the hands of a few — to the detriment of the majority who are living in poverty and without work.

This Organization has understood this situation and has given its clear support to Argentinians in these anxious times. Economic model has a primary productive profile which exports, but that has weak industrial development and poor job creation. Indeed, there are 20 million too many Argentinians in my country and the workers are the first to suffer. We have just lived through four years' recession marked by deflation, and a slump with inflation — all compounded by the peso's loss of parity with the dollar and devaluation that has destroyed the purchasing power of workers.

Similarly, as we are in a new economic phase, we must also put in place a new social phase so that we can contribute to settling the debt that has been built up during the transformation period which was foisted upon us.

It is now the time for those who applauded the putting into place of a model whose devastating results are clear for all to see and analyse, to help us rid ourselves once and for all of exclusion, marginality, a devalued life, and restore to the workers of Argentina and the people of Argentina their lost dignity.

To reconstruct Argentina, and this is how CGT (Confederación General del Trabajo) understands it, what is needed is social dialogue based on tripartism within a democratic framework which restores to Argentinians a society of social justice.

Original French: Mr. BOISSON (*Employers' delegate, France*) — On behalf of the French Employers' delegation, I should like to congratulate the President on his election to the presidency of the Conference.

I would like to concentrate on two issues which I think are very important and which are today at the very heart of the ILO's mission: globalization and the integrated approach.

In fact, these two questions are very closely linked: the second is an element of the response to the first. In these two areas, first of all, I should like to thank the Director-General and congratulate him on having taken a major initiative to consolidate the key role of the International Labour Organization in the examination and analysis of the major issues of our era. His proposal to the Governing Body to set up a World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization will shed new light on the subject, enabling us to leave behind a polemic which has been not only sterile but also dangerous.

The World Commission is made up of eminent personalities from various walks of life, amongst them our own compatriot, President Perigot, and this assembly should be able to make a fresh analysis of the subject and make proposals which will enable the Governing Body to adopt measures to promote a balanced development.

Our institution, and I must reiterate that it is the only one in the international arena which is based on tripartism, is the right forum for taking concrete decisions in this area and making proposals — specific practical proposals — on partnerships which are to be created with other international organizations.

This requires an in-depth study of the mechanics of globalization; it requires research into conditions of better integration, and it requires an analysis of the reasons why some countries are gaining so much from globalization whilst others seem to be losing out heavily. In other words, we should not be looking at the social consequences, real or hypothetical, of globalization, nor should we be finding out what people are frightened of — what we should be doing is exploring the machinery, the mechanism of globalization and distinguishing between phenomena at global and local level.

As Mr. Fillon, the new Labour Minister of our country, stated when speaking here last week, we have to “pave the way for a progress which is shared more fairly and regulated more effectively”. Now, if progress is to be shared, responsibilities must be shared too. The responsibilities of international organizations, governments, enterprises — everyone

has a role to play, and I think one of the main tasks of the World Commission is to make it very clear what the various players in globalization have to do, and which responsibilities they have to bear.

I noted that the two statements made by the Prime Ministers of Malaysia and Barbados were in stark contrast to each other. The first statement was very militant, black and white, and was more of a denunciation than an analysis. Mr. President, I would beg to differ with your opinion that the statement by the Prime Minister of Malaysia transcended our work. I rather fear that such statements may well lead to entrenched positions and make our discussions more difficult. On the other hand, the statement by the Prime Minister of Barbados was welcome, because it was so balanced. It was a statement by a man working towards consensus and progress, and I am sure the World Commission will be inspired by his statement.

To conclude, I would like to say a few words about the integrated approach. This is based on three pillars. First, an exhaustive, in-depth study of all tools and instruments used by the ILO in a given area, which today is occupational safety and health, in order to create good order, coherence and synergy in all the measures available to member States.

The second pillar involves the consolidation of legal instruments and a policy of aid and assistance as part of the follow-up to the Declaration; and the third pillar involves the creation of project structures so as to bring together all the necessary skills within the Office, which should be made easier by the new policy of strategic budgeting. The integrative approach should make it possible to link the universality of the major principles safeguarded by this organization and the particular situation for each State, depending on its level of development, the functioning of its society and its cultural characteristics. Seen in this light, the integrated approach is a major element to help to all countries attempting to adapt to globalization.

Ms. ELIAS (*Government delegate, Papua New Guinea*) — On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate the President and his Vice-Presidents upon their election to lead and guide the deliberations of the International Labour Conference.

Allow me, at the outset, to convey our support for the comprehensive report of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and the Report of the Director-General, *ILO programme implementation 2000-01*.

The Director-General's Report reviews the activities of the International Labour Office in the light of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and indicates positive impact worldwide, resulting in increased ratification and reporting compliance, leading to increased demand for advice and technical cooperation.

This is the first biennial report on programme implementation using strategic and results-based budgeting and accountability concepts. We note that the global reports under the Declaration are now an authoritative and up-to-date source of information and an analysis of basic human rights at work.

This clearly reflects the commitment by the ILO and the Governing Body to the pursuit of making the ILO efficient and effective. The ILO is more focused and the strategic approach towards achieving the Decent Work Agenda has also given us a real sense of purpose to work.

The Global Report, *A future without child labour*, makes it quite clear that much remains to be done to eliminate the worst forms of child labour performed by boys and girls, in different types of jobs, in different sectors of the economy, throughout the world. While we agree that child labour represents a serious threat to sustainable economic and social development everywhere, at the same time, we must seek to ensure that all children, particularly young girls, are given access to education and training. The effective abolition of child labour calls for the cooperation and action of governments, workers and employers. Papua New Guinea, therefore, commends and supports the devotion and substantial work and resources of the ILO in this cause.

Although child labour is not prevalent in Papua New Guinea we are, nonetheless, determined to ensure that the Employment Act is amended to effectively prevent and monitor child labour.

Through the National Tripartite Consultative Council, Papua New Guinea has ratified the eight core Conventions. Our priorities are the review of our labour laws and policies to incorporate the provisions of the core Conventions, and capacity building to strengthen labour administration institutions and workers' protection systems. There are implications for reporting, and our first report on the ratified Conventions is due this year.

At national level, the National Tripartite Consultative Council has taken ownership and is also responsible for the implementation of the country programme. Employer, worker and government representatives are well aware of their responsibilities and the need to continue to strengthen and improve on tripartism and social dialogue so that the national issues above are addressed within the spirit of tripartism, respect and industrial harmony. The ILO has a role to play to give due attention, on request, to provide technical assistance and cooperation in this area.

We accept that the present form of globalization has not produced enough jobs for all those who seek them and in the places where they are most needed. While a lot is said about globalization, the dismal fact remains that it is not producing the jobs the world needs. Our country's biggest developmental challenge is to do with unemployment, more particularly youth unemployment, and the need to address the 50,000 to 60,000 school leavers offloaded from our education system each year. Even the small formal sector is unable to absorb these school leavers. The Government is concentrating on formulating a national action plan on youth employment.

We can draw on the conclusions of the Committee on the Informal Economy and the Committee on the Promotion of Cooperatives which, we believe, offer significant potential to provide employment and income opportunities for the 80 per cent of our population who live in the rural areas.

The Government looks forward to the adoption of an ILO Recommendation on promotion of cooperatives by the Conference. In terms of policy, this will assist in the revitalization of cooperatives in our country and encourage meaningful participation of ordinary people in the national development process to perpetuate economic prosperity, enhance progress on communal social welfare and restore dignity to individuals.

Finally, I would like to say that the ILO has a valuable role to play in responding to what the Direc-

tor-General eloquently described as the aspirations of all families in the region: "parents at work, children at school, security in the streets and peace in the community."

Let me reiterate our commitment to improve access to education and training by vulnerable groups, in particular, young people, the disabled and the displaced, as important elements for making training effective for job creation and greater economic and social integration. Making all forms of training and education equally accessible to women will be a major step forward towards achieving gender equality in employment. In addition, bringing training to the doorstep of people who need it most is another major challenge to raise productivity and income in the rural and informal sectors.

We gratefully acknowledge and look forward to the continuing advice, technical assistance and cooperation provided by the South-East Asia and Pacific Multidisciplinary Advisory Team in Manila, Philippines, and the ILO Suva Office in Fiji. In conclusion, we reaffirm our continuing commitment to the principles and objectives of the ILO.

(Mr. Hussain takes the Chair.)

Mr. SCEPANOVIC (*Government delegate, Yugoslavia*) — May I first greet, on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the participants of the 90th Session of the International Labour Conference. I wish to highlight the importance the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia attaches to this distinguished gathering in the light of our common goal, which is to respect the fundamental principles enshrined in the ILO Conventions, to strengthen tripartism, social dialogue and social justice, and to disseminate international standards.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is fully confident that the right to decent work, employment development, social security and health care stand out as the basis for comprehensive and stable global development in the new millennium.

In view of this, permit me to extend my congratulations, and offer my gratitude, to the Director-General for the remarkable Report, *ILO programme implementation 2000-01*.

The efforts made by our Government in the ongoing transitional process of the country are primarily oriented to the overall strengthening of democratic institutions, harmonization of national regulations with general global standards, and recovery of the economy through the establishment of transparent property transformation, modern management structures, the creation of new jobs and the development of social dialogue on a tripartite level. We are confident that, by creating a new legal and economic environment, we shall make our country an important player in regional cooperation, with the prospect of it being part of integration trends involving European developed countries.

Following its accession to the ILO in November 2000, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia accepted with the succession statement pertaining to 66 ILO Conventions, five of which were fundamental Conventions. Laws concerning ratification of another two fundamental Conventions, namely the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999

(No. 182), are currently being considered in the assembly.

At the same time, I would like to inform you that the relevant ministry this year prepared a national report on the implementation of ratified Conventions. It will be transmitted in due course to the relevant committee.

Regarding activities related to the reform of the legislature, the restructuring of the economy, the elaboration of new systematic solutions and the setting up of social dialogue in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, permit me to underline the immense value of the assistance currently provided by the ILO in this sensitive transitional period.

The outcome of this fruitful cooperation was, inter alia, the adoption last year of the Labour Law in the Republic of Serbia, one of the constituent units of the Federation. One such law is being drafted in the Republic of Montenegro. At the federal level, amendments were made to the law on social and pension insurance and drafting is ongoing with regard to the regulation of employment of foreigners.

Socio-economic councils were set up both in Serbia and Montenegro, while an agreement for creating such a body at the federal level has been harmonized between the social partners and we expect it to be concluded.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is facing momentous and numerous challenges in the all-inclusive reform process.

Firstly, our low living standards. According to data available, 78 per cent of the population live on less than US\$2 per day.

A difficult financial and economic situation is further aggravated by a high unemployment rate of 39 per cent, which, unfortunately, may even rise in the near future owing to a surplus of labour that is bound to appear as a result of the privatization process and reduced production, as well as the destruction of the economy due to decade-long sanctions and the 1999 bombing of the country. Secondly, it is estimated that more than 500,000 persons are currently engaged in the "grey economy". Bearing in mind that 500,000 refugees from the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, who have been in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for more than a decade, and 230,000 internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija are also living under these social and economic circumstances, it is clear that without substantial international aid the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is unlikely to surmount all these difficulties.

The situation in Kosovo and Metohija, and, in particular, the situation regarding the privatization process initiated before Serbs and other non-Albanians, refugees and expellees could return in safety, represents a constant source of serious concern for the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Any aid, be it financial, technical, advisory or any other kind, offered by our common organization, the ILO, within the limits of its capacities, for the purpose of restoring social and health-care systems, developing small and medium-sized enterprises, and promoting the work of socio-economic councils, may be of crucial importance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to solve accumulated problems, with full respect for the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the ILO Conventions. Any such aid is therefore most welcome.

Finally, on behalf of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, I would like to express my full support for the statement made by the Director-General, Mr. Somavia, and, in particular, for the central role played by the ILO in the search for a concept of globalization that will meet contemporary global requirements efficiently and impartially, in particular with regard to the creation of decent work opportunities.

Original Spanish: Mr. CELI VEGAS (*representative of the Exchange and Cooperation Centre for Latin America*) — It is a pleasant honour for me to convey to the Officers of the Conference warm greetings from the Exchange and Cooperation Centre for Latin America, which has its headquarters in Geneva, on the brilliant way in which they have been conducting this 90th Session of the International Labour Conference.

The Report of the Director-General, *A future without child labour*, describes the concern of and the initiatives carried out by the ILO in order to contend with this scourge, which endangers the future of humanity. In the legal field, the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), states that the minimum age for starting work should be no lower than that for the end of schooling, and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), outlines the objectives of the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, IPEC. The work done is indicative of significant progress in awareness raising and shows the urgency of reducing or eliminating child labour. However, without the participation of all political decision-makers and economic agents, such action will be insufficient if we consider that about 180 million children in the 5 to 17 age group, that is to say 73 per cent of children who work, do so under the worst conditions of exploitation.

The effects of globalization, the priority given to security measures after the events of 11 September 2001 and inconsistent policies on disadvantaged sectors define the scenario in which various international actors will have to coordinate their joint efforts to help children. The task will not be easy if we consider the different interests of economic groups and the limited resources at the disposal of the governments of developing countries. It is also difficult because fostering the normal physical and psychological development of children means redistribution of earnings and a reduction or elimination of poverty. And, for this, political will in the industrialized and developing countries, and at all levels, will be needed if educational programmes for children are to become the essential pillars for the development of a socially just society.

Collaboration between the ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank and regional development banks is a priority when it comes to implementing education programmes. International conventions and programmes designed to give priority to the most vulnerable sectors should rest on the optimum reassignment of human, technological and financial resources. International organizations should not only ensure that legislation in favour of children is passed; they should monitor programmes in each country and encourage the participation of local communities and private groups, by offering technical advice and, if necessary, by facilitating the raising of funds from private, national and international sources.

Governments are called up to strengthen national educational institutions. Laws must be approved and applied without discrimination and revanchism between political groups. These institutions should be provided with the necessary financial resources, so that governments can decide, using special funds for education, financed by a percentage of the capital invested in the country, to grant direct assistance to families for the education of their children, to create jobs for school-leavers and to implement programmes specifically geared to the conditions obtaining in a particular region.

Companies creating informal jobs must realize that the use of the cheap unskilled labour of children, to which certain authorities turn a blind eye, is in the sights of the defenders of children's rights. Authorization procedures and checks in production centres to enforce compliance with labour standards can be introduced on a permanent basis thanks to the action of unions and groups, which will exert pressure on the authorities. Companies could benefit from certain tax advantages or privileges over their competitors if they helped to promote children's education, for example, by creating apprenticeships for school-leavers and devoting a percentage of their profits to educational programmes in regions where they have production centres or by financing one-off schemes in areas where government participation is virtually non-existent.

The NGOs should participate in education schemes as a representative of civil society and encourage the more efficient use of resources.

ECCLA invites the members of this large gathering, to include NGOs in plans to combat child labour and, at the same time, to provide them with technical and financial resources which will clearly have a multiplying effect, above all in developing economies.

Original Spanish: Mr. PONCE MUÑOZ (*Employers' delegate, Ecuador*) — I would like once again to congratulate the President on his election to lead the work of this Conference.

From the Report presented by the Director-General on ILO programme implementation for the biennium 2000-01 and from the comments made by those who have long taken part in the activities of this Organization, we can conclude that this is the first time that a report on the programme implementation for a biennium has been presented using strategic budget formulation concepts. According to these concepts, the attainment of objectives is measured in the light of results, and not activities as had previously been the case.

This new approach has simplified the Report and made it easy to understand. The Report is very objective as regards the progress made under the programme.

Thanks to this new programme formulation, we can see that each of the strategic objectives has been fulfilled to some extent, some more than others. For example, activities relating to standards and employment have been fully fulfilled, as have those relating to social security. But this is not true for activities linked with social dialogue.

Generally speaking, the results highlighted in the Report are positive. However, more information should be included on the gap between objectives and results, particularly when the objectives have not been fulfilled.

It would also be desirable to have more information about follow-up activities, and to see to what extent accountability and management have increased in each country. We believe it is essential to promote local management. On the other hand, it is important to have a comparative analysis between the attainment of the ILO strategic objectives and the results obtained in each country. We would thus be able to obtain a clearer picture of scope and impact of activities on a smaller scale, as compared with the worldwide impact.

The results obtained are promising, but we need to develop indicators in the strategic budget formulation, to define objectives and measure the effectiveness of the results, particularly as regards national and regional activities, and to integrate country policies with those of the ILO.

In our view, these objectives and results are incipient ones. They will only find an appropriate response in our countries if we develop a global strategy to fight against poverty. In other words, it will not be possible to eradicate child labour or to ensure decent work if we do not have a tangible reduction in poverty. And to this end, the developed countries must allow fair trade, avoiding the establishment of unjustified import barriers to products from the developing countries, respecting treaties and Conventions and doing away with production subsidies for commodities.

The international credit institutions should not give priority to the payment of external debt. That is a responsibility which we do not shirk, as every debt should be paid. But the payment of the debt should be done in accordance with the possibilities of each country, and there should be greater investment in social programmes. The loans of the financial institutions should not be managed through their consultants and NGOs.

Globalization has created an interdependence which calls for the adoption of labour and social policies under the aegis of the ILO. We feel that we need to have global planning to avoid injustice in the social and economic fields. Each involved party should be able to participate fully.

Lastly, the plan to combat poverty should include the adoption of legislation to permit the movement of workers between countries and standards for movement of capital. We need to have a legal framework for globalization which imposes drastic sanctions on countries that violate that legislation. Failing that, the thing that will be globalized will be poverty.

The developing countries want fair treatment, not handouts, so as to ensure our development and thus achieve the objectives imposed on us or proposed by the ILO. If we do not fight poverty, our efforts will amount to nothing.

Mr. KLEIN (*representative of the International Christian Union of Business Executives*) — It is with great pleasure that I would like to join previous speakers in expressing the appreciation of my organization for the excellent quality of the reports presented to the Conference. Several of these documents remind us of the extent to which poverty is preventing millions of human beings from having access to the most elementary rights at work.

Over 240 million children, of whom almost 180 million are exposed to the worst forms of child labour, are among the startling findings of the Global Report on the effective abolition of child labour. The fact that

an unusually large proportion is to be found in the agricultural sector further aggravates the problem. While nobody expects the situation to improve substantially in the near term, there are all the same a few positive signs which give rise to modest hope. In the first place, the exceptionally high number of ratifications of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), as well as the financial support from the donor community for the IPEC programme, come to mind. At another level, the research undertaken by the ILO has led to a better understanding of the complex characteristics of the child labour phenomena. These findings, along with other data which are now available, will make it possible to develop more effective strategies and programmes than has hitherto been the case. While child labour has global characteristics, for its eradication it may be preferable to give priority to action at the sectoral level. It should be a collaborative effort, bringing together international agencies, civil society and national and local communities, bearing in mind the need to develop approaches which take local realities into consideration.

Poverty and child labour are typical ingredients of an informal economy. Nearly half of the world's working population is not entitled to representation and rights at work. This is among the startling findings of the Report on decent work and the informal economy. Far from receding, the overall trend is unfortunately in the direction of increase. While we must not lose sight of the objective of decent work for everybody, we must give priority to the need to create an environment conducive to the growth of productive employment and hence poverty reduction. It is only in this way that we can look forward to seeing the informal activity being progressively drawn into the mainstream economy.

My organization would also like to join other speakers in commending the Office on the quality of the first biennial report on programme implementation under the strategic framework. The willingness to learn from successes as well as from failures and the determination to use these lessons in designing future programmes is evident. Since many of the ILO's areas of intervention are of a continuing nature, the necessity to free resources to respond to new needs implies that the goal of sustainability constitutes a central concern in the design of strategies and programmes.

Both the reports on child labour and the informal economy remind us that there is no room for complacency and that the efforts to satisfy the observance of the fundamental principles and rights at work must not only continue but will have to be drastically intensified.

Original Arabic: Mr. AL RABIE (*Employers' delegate, Oman*) — In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate! I should like to greet you on behalf of the community of employers of the Sultanate of Oman which is participating in this important Conference, and I wish the Conference every success in its deliberations. I would also like to congratulate the President and Vice-Presidents on their elections.

The Director-General's Report submitted to this session examines a certain number of important topics relating to the extension of social protection to all members of society. These proposals, which concern the designing of programmes to support the

implementation of new guidelines, will make it possible to improve ILO action and to promote its tripartite structure and collective action. We believe that collective action is the strategic approach of choice for all the social partners if we are to overcome the various obstacles facing us and to guarantee both better work and better production in the future throughout the world.

Obstacles to sustainable development in the developing countries include lack of knowledge and know-how and poor employability, although we are living in an era of globalization and of revolutions in information, technology and communications. For this reason, increasing the knowledge and know-how of workers constitutes one of the pillars for the development of enterprises, and we feel that the International Labour Organization has a very important role to play here, particularly in developing countries, by supporting employment policies and promoting the implementation of international labour standards.

We hope that the Organization's programmes for this year will facilitate the provision of increased technical assistance to developing countries.

Great progress is being witnessed at this point in time in information technologies and this is beneficial to the global economy. At the same time, unfortunately, children in some countries do not even have decent living conditions and work in very precarious and inhuman circumstances. We ask the International Labour Organization to do all it can to bring this phenomenon to an end and to help the children in poor countries to combat ignorance, poverty and disease.

The private sector has a very important role to play in the Sultanate of Oman. It assists in economic and social development and has been involved in laying the foundations for this development for three decades. Aware of the role of this sector, we have established a board of entrepreneurs which represent the private sector in our country and which is also responsible for coordination between the private and the public sectors. It also offers advice to entrepreneurs and provides them with information on investment opportunities, employment and the training of the national workforce. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Sultanate of Oman, which is working along the same lines, has established plans and programmes of action that help to promote the national economy.

Participation by the private sector in drawing up legislation is one of the principal components of the policy of the Sultanate of Oman. In recent months there has been coordination and cooperation between the social partners for the drafting of new labour legislation that is about to be promulgated and that guarantees rights and benefits for the social partners.

The situation the Palestinian economy is in is because of the blockade imposed by the Israelis and the destruction caused by its war machine, requires the international community to take a courageous stand so that this people may live, like other peoples, in a climate of peace, security and well-being. We, the employers of the Sultanate of Oman, reiterate our solidarity with the employers of Palestine who have had their factories and businesses destroyed and their assets confiscated by Israel. We support Palestinian workers and citizens who are putting up resistance and ask the international community to intervene rapidly to save the economy of the occupational Palestinian territories from collapse and destruction.

Lastly, we hope that peace, based on equality and justice will prevail throughout the world so that mankind everywhere may live in a climate of peace, security and prosperity.

Original Spanish: Mr. GORRITI VALLE (*Workers' delegate, Peru*) — Allow me, President, to convey to you, and through you to the international community of the ILO, the respectful greetings of Peruvian workers and also to express our wishes that the International Labour Office, shall with renewed vigour address its mission to protect and promote the rights and employment conditions of workers throughout the world.

In this connection, we would like to say that we strongly support the central themes in the ILO Director-General's Report submitted to this 90th Session of the International Labour Conference.

Furthermore, Peruvian workers request that the ILO improve the supervision system for the application of international standards because, in Peru, the efforts required to put in place these labour rights of workers have not been made. We are operating in the framework of a democratic Government that has failed to take the urgent measures needed to implement the observations and recommendations of the ILO. Indeed, it has taken an ambiguous stand.

It is our duty to inform this international forum that the legislative progress made in recent months is not enough to reverse the damage done to workers during the decade of dictatorship and authoritarianism that we have just experienced. The main problem has to do with the fact that the Government does not have a clear and consistent labour policy and it is not taking the political decisions required to solve the problems of workers who are waiting to see their fundamental human rights at work restored.

The limited achievements are the result of the commitment of the legislative authorities to workers and to solving their problems. However, with regard to this same commitment, the Government, which has been in power for almost a year, has still not defined its functions or the ways and means of restoring to workers their rights or repairing the damage caused to thousands of workers when they were dismissed in violation of the constitution and laws, upon the privatization of state and national public enterprises.

Congress did approve the adoption of Act No. 27626, known as the labour intermediation law, which regulates the activities of special services enterprises and cooperatives. The fact that it has been promulgated means a restriction on the number of enterprises that can act as intermediaries and greater measures of control for enterprises. However, the Government, exercising its legal authority to establish regulations, has changed the spirit of Law No. 27626. Indeed, the text of the law has some items that are alien and contrary to the spirit of the law, and which directly contravene the procedures laid down in article 3, such as temporality, complementarity and specialization.

Furthermore, this regulation also contravenes the principle that staff should not be seconded on a permanent basis to be involved in the main activity of the user enterprise. This provision represents a way to reduce the scope of the law, its use and its validity.

There is no doubt that if these types of actions continue, what is achieved through the legislature will be rendered ineffective at the regulatory level. Of what

use are ideal laws if they are, every time, reduced to having a meaning that is contrary to the spirit?

But this is not the only aspect we should be looking at. Another very basic matter is the drawing up of the future general labour law that the legislative authorities are working on. This, no doubt, when promulgated will be in favour of the workers, provided the observations and recommendations made by the ILO, a number of years ago, are factored in.

In this connection, the Government has a project concerning industrial relations that excludes four of the 16 observations that the ILO has made, because business leaders do not like them. One wonders if the Government has any real interest in initiating actions to restore trade union rights and bargaining rights.

The new Government has been in power now for almost a year and progress has been slow. There are no consistent initiatives for change and restitution of labour rights by the Government. We have been called to a national labour council, which is tripartite in nature, but the employers are not willing to change the legal standards that currently stand in their favour. In every case, and for this reason, no agreements have been reached in this council. The Government is not adopting any labour policies or initiatives to establish a democratic model of industrial relations that would, of necessity, require far-reaching legislative change.

We appeal to the international community to support us so that there is an end to the violations of the international Conventions of the ILO, the Conventions that the Report of the Director-General indicates as fundamental. We regret the situation that occurred in the city of Arequipa, when a popular protest relating to privatizations led to more than 15 wounded and the Government declaring a state of emergency, which we hope will be lifted immediately.

Finally, we would like to express our solidarity with the Palestinian people who are fighting for their territories and recognition of their rights established by the United Nations. Our robust support goes to Colombian workers and we demand that their fundamental rights and their lives are respected. We also support the Cuban people who, for 40 years, have been working and striving for their independence and sovereignty.

Original Spanish: Mr. BERNAL CAMERO (*representative of the Permanent Congress of Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers*) — The peoples and workers of Latin America and the Caribbean continue to suffer from exploitation and plundering by powerful multinational companies. The effects of this are chronic unemployment, poverty and a lack of economic, social and cultural development and were first suffered under colonialism. Today, such effects are caused by capitalism and Yankee imperialism which are obediently served by some demagogic and scheming politicians and rulers.

I would like to think that in the Report of the Director-General the "momentum for regional economic integration" referred to in paragraph 160, on page 78 of the Spanish version, does not include the so-called Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) because it is a sinister project which seeks to impose itself on our peoples like a straightjacket which will once and for all stifle national economies and forever subject us to a political order determined by an all-powerful empire.

Faced with this, all those of us who love the Americas should unite their efforts, or we will pay a heavy price, one which is even higher than the sadly famous foreign debt.

We have made it our goal to promote and fulfil the labour standards, principles and fundamental rights, as well as the other objectives, of the ILO, and we are making a terrific effort in this direction.

Once again, we would like to draw attention to the fact that the ILO does not place sufficient emphasis on promoting full employment. It is as though the Organization has given up on this objective, which is part of the ILO's traditional policy that should not be renounced.

We condemn the murders of many trade unionists and we offer support to those who are being persecuted. We demand respect for freedom of association. In particular, we speak out on behalf of our trade unionist brothers and sisters in Colombia, and we denounce the aggressive and imperialist so-called "Plan Colombian" and other similar militaristic ideas which together with the unjustified economic war that has persisted for over 40 years against Cuba, result in a climate of threats, aggressive interference, submission and arrogance in the geographical area we share with the most powerful nation on the planet. At the same time, this nation "enchants" us by singing the praises of its democracy, by its songs of freedom and the supposed advantages of the consumer society.

It is a disgrace for mankind that the agreements of the General Assembly of the United Nations are not put into effect by the major powers. In particular, it is an insult that Arab territories have been occupied since 1967. This is a mockery to all the decisions of the Security Council. I express my sincere solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people, and I hope that the 110 kilometre wall which is beginning to be built will be demolished in the name of peace and for justice in the world.

Mr. VAN LEEUWEN (*representative of the Education International*) — The good news is that the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), has been ratified by 124 countries; it took less time than any previous Convention to achieve this number. The bad news is that the ILO reports up to 200 million children toiling in the worst forms of labour. Education International's message to you is straightforward — governments must act without delay to implement the Convention, and they must have the full support of the ILO's constituents.

The ILO's Report reveals steps in the right direction, but the section on education is too tentative. The ILO should not just report on a few nice education initiatives that are also in reports of UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Bank. The specific task of this Organization is to report as to whether member States are acting urgently to meet their commitments under the Convention, including under Article 7, "to ensure access to free basic education".

The section entitled "Possible contours of an action plan" is also too timid. Only when we get to the section on IPEC do we feel more inspired. IPEC has built up a good track record. As an active partner, we can testify to the programme's effectiveness. We believe that IPEC must be reinforced; the member States must maintain and strengthen their resources.

The commitment in [Convention No. 182](#) matches the renewed commitment to education for all made

by governments in Dakar two years ago. The Global Campaign for Education for All, launched by Education International together with the Global March Against Child Labour, NGO partners — such as OXFAM International and Action-Aid — and the Public Services International, will continue to mobilize around the world for member States to keep these twin commitments — an end to child labour, and education for all. We will maintain the action until they are fulfilled. We and our partners will not accept half measures; we mean quality education for all, and that means public responsibility for education.

The Conference theme — the informal economy — relates to our members in two ways. Firstly, there is a trend towards provision of education, whether basic education or vocational training, through informal means; but, using so-called volunteers, or subcontracting, or hiring unqualified people at hourly rates, will not give you quality. Secondly, many teachers work outside their classrooms in the informal economy, because that is the only way they can support their families. Some people think teaching is a privileged job. It is a privilege to educate young people, and to give them hope for their futures, but for most teachers, in most countries, as the Joint ILO/UNESCO Committee of Experts (CEART) has shown repeatedly, the conditions of teachers have declined. Today, teachers are poor, sometimes paid months late, and they have to work in the informal economy to survive.

And that hard fact, that reality, impacts directly and very negatively on the quality of education. Time prevents me from going into the consequences — a worldwide teacher shortage, and the brain drain confronting the developing countries.

Within the next two years we want the ILO to address these immense problems in the education sector, facing an estimated 50 million teachers and other employees.

Public responsibility for education is fundamental for equity and democracy. Universal public education for *all* laid the foundations for the industrialized democracies as they developed during the last century, and we cannot accept anything less for the developing countries in the twenty-first century.

Public responsibility for education is not less, but more relevant today because of globalization. We agree with the Director-General — it is not a question of more or less globalization — it is about what sort of globalization we want. For globalization has meant movement of peoples, with enormous impacts on the schools and health services, as well as jobs. Those promoting free-for-all globalization have shirked their responsibilities to ensure public resources for our schools. They use globalization to avoid tax, instead of building up our public services. The globalization of trade, finance, communications and transport, has not been matched by the capacity of our societies to accept diversity of cultures and origins. The reality is that, if globalization continues to foster the spread of ethnic and cultural ghettos in our societies, we will have more conflicts and more catastrophes.

Quality public education for all is in the interests of workers, present and future. Enlightened employers and governments also understand, increasingly, that it is in their interests too. Most of all, it is in the interests of democratic, cohesive and just societies. It gives peace, and progress, a chance.

(The Conference adjourned at 12.25 p.m.)

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