DECLARATION
CONCERNING THE AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION
ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE
AT ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
PHILADELPHIA
10 MAY 1944

DECLARATION
CONCERNANT LES BUTS ET OBJECTIFS DE L'ORGANISATION
INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL
ADOPTEE PAR LA CONFERENCE
A SA VINGT-SIXIEME SESSION
PHILADELPHIE
10 MAI 1944

AUTHENTIC TEXT
TEXTE AUTHENTIQUE
The Declaration concerning the aims and purposes of the International Labour Organisation, here reprinted, was unanimously adopted by the International Labour Conference at its Twenty-sixth Session, held at Philadelphia, from 20 April to 12 May 1944.

The text of the Declaration as here presented is a true copy of the text authenticated by the signatures of the President of the International Labour Conference and of the Acting Director of the International Labour Office.

La Déclaration concernant les buts et objectifs de l'Organisation internationale du Travail, dont le texte est reproduit ci-après, a été adoptée à l'unanimité par la Conférence internationale du Travail au cours de sa vingt-sixième session, tenue à Philadelphie, du 20 avril au 12 mai 1944.

Le texte de la Déclaration présenté ici est une copie exacte du texte authentiqué par les signatures du Président de la Conférence internationale du Travail et du Directeur par intérim du Bureau international du Travail.
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE
CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL

DECLARATION CONCERNING THE AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

DECLARATION CONCERNANT LES BUTS ET OBJECTIFS DE L’ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL.

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation, meeting in its Twenty-sixth Session in Philadelphia, hereby adopts, this tenth day of May in the year nineteen hundred and forty-four, the present Declaration of the aims and purposes of the International Labour Organisation and of the principles which should inspire the policy of its Members.

I

The Conference reaffirms the fundamental principles on which the Organisation is based and, in particular, that:

(a) labour is not a commodity;
(b) freedom of expression and of association are essential to sustained progress;
(c) poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere;
(d) the war against want requires to be carried on with unrelenting vigour within each nation, and by continuous and concerted international effort in which the representatives of workers and employers, enjoying equal status with those of Governments, join with them in free discussion and democratic decision with a view to the promotion of the common welfare.

II

Believing that experience has fully demonstrated the truth of the statement in the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation that lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice, the Conference affirms that:

(a) all human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue
both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity;

(b) the attainment of the conditions in which this shall be possible must constitute the central aim of national and international policy;

(c) all national and international policies and measures, in particular those of an economic and financial character, should be judged in this light and accepted only in so far as they may be held to promote and not to hinder the achievement of this fundamental objective;

(d) it is a responsibility of the International Labour Organisation to examine and consider all international economic and financial policies and measures in the light of this fundamental objective;

(e) in discharging the tasks entrusted to it the International Labour Organisation, having considered all relevant economic and financial factors, may include in its decisions and recommendations any provisions which it considers appropriate.

III

The Conference recognises the solemn obligation of the International Labour Organisation to further among the nations of the world programmes which will achieve:

(a) full employment and the raising of standards of living;

(b) the employment of workers in the occupations in which they can have the satisfaction of giving the fullest measure of their skill and attainments and make their greatest contribution to the common well-being;

(c) the provision, as a means to the attainment of this end and under adequate guarantees for all concerned, of facilities for training and the transfer of labour, including migration for employment and settlement;

(d) policies in regard to wages and earnings, hours and other conditions of work calculated to ensure a just share of the fruits of progress to all, and a minimum living wage to all employed and in need of such protection;

(e) the effective recognition of the right of collective bargaining, the co-operation of management and labour in the continuous improvement of productive efficiency, and the collaboration of workers and employers in the preparation and
application of social and economic measures;

(f) the extension of social security measures to provide a basic income to all in need of such protection and comprehensive medical care;

(g) adequate protection for the life and health of workers in all occupations;

(h) provision for child welfare and maternity protection;

(i) the provision of adequate nutrition, housing and facilities for recreation and culture;

(j) the assurance of equality of educational and vocational opportunity.

IV

Confident that the fuller and broader utilisation of the world’s productive resources necessary for the achievement of the objectives set forth in this Declaration can be secured by effective international and national action, including measures to expand production and consumption, to avoid severe economic fluctuations, to promote the economic and social advancement of the less developed regions of the world, to assure greater stability in world prices of primary products, and to promote a high and steady volume of international trade, the Conference pledges the full co-operation of the International Labour Organisation with such international bodies as may be entrusted with a share of the responsibility for this great task and for the promotion of the health, education and well-being of all peoples.

V

The Conference affirms that the principles set forth in this Declaration are fully applicable to all peoples everywhere and that, while the manner of their application must be determined with due regard to the stage of social and economic development reached by each people, their progressive application to peoples who are still dependent, as well as to those who have already achieved self-government, is a matter of concern to the whole civilised world.

boration et à l’application de la politique sociale et économique;

(f) l’extension des mesures de sécurité sociale en vue d’assurer un revenu de base à tous ceux qui ont besoin d’une telle protection, ainsi que des soins médicaux complets;

(g) une protection adéquate de la vie et de la santé des travailleurs dans toutes les occupations;

(h) la protection de l’enfance et de la maternité;

(i) un niveau adéquat d’alimentation, de logement, et de moyens de récréation et de culture;

(j) la garantie de chances égales dans le domaine éducatif et professionnel.

IV

Convaincue qu’une utilisation plus complète et plus large des ressources produc­­tives du monde, nécessaire à l’accomplisse­­ment des objectifs énumérés dans la présente Déclaration, peut être assurée par une action efficace sur le plan inter­­national et national, et notamment par des mesures tendant à promouvoir l’expansion de la production et de la consommation, à éviter des fluctuations économiques graves, à réaliser l’avancement économique et so­­cial des régions dont la mise en valeur est peu avancée, à assurer une plus grande stabilité des prix mondiaux des matières premières et denrées, et à promouvoir un commerce international de volume élevé et constant, la Conférence promet l’entiè­­re collaboration de l’Organisation interna­­tionale du Travail avec tous organismes internationaux auxquels pourra être confiée une part de responsabilité dans cette grande tâche, ainsi que dans l’améliora­­tion de la santé, de l’éducation et du bien­­être de tous les peuples.

V

La Conférence affirme que les principes énoncés dans la présente Déclaration sont pleinement applicables à tous les peuples du monde, et que, si, dans les modalités de leur application, il doit être dûment tenu compte du degré de développement social et économique de chaque peuple, leur application progressive aux peuples qui sont encore dépendants, aussi bien qu’à ceux qui ont atteint le stade où ils se gouvernent eux-mêmes, intéresse l’ensemble du monde civilisé.
The foregoing is the authentic text of the Declaration concerning the aims and purposes of the International Labour Organisation unanimously adopted by the General Conference of the International Labour Organisation at Philadelphia during its Twenty-sixth Session, on 10 May 1944.

IN FAITH WHEREOF we have appended our signatures, this seventeenth day of May 1944.

The President of the Conference.
Le Président de la Conférence.

W. NASH.

The Acting Director of the International Labour Office.
Le Directeur par intérim du Bureau international du Travail.

EDWARD J. PHELAN.