



The International Labour Organization
Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean
in collaboration with
The Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas



9th ILO Meeting of the Caribbean Ministers of Labour

DECENT WORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Nassau, Bahamas
3-4 March 2015

AGENDA

Day One : TUESDAY, 3 March 2015

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. Registration

8:45 – 10:00 a.m. **Opening Ceremony** - Windsor Ballroom

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. *Coffee break - Windsor Foyer*

10:30 – 10:35 a.m. Establishment of Drafting Committee

10:35 – 12:00 noon Session I: **Assessing the Implementation of the Caribbean Labour Agenda - An Update Towards Achieving the Conclusions of the 8th Ministers of Labour Meeting, 2013**

Chair: Hon. Shane Gibson, Minister of Labour and National Insurance, The Bahamas

Presentation: Mr. Giovanni di Cola, Director, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean (40 mins)

Plenary discussion on issues raised

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Session II: **CARICOM and ILO working together to implement the Decent Work Agenda in the Caribbean and priorities expressed by the Ministers of Labour.**

Chair: Hon. Shane Gibson, Minister of Labour and National Insurance, The Bahamas

Presentations:

- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat – Ms. Olivia Smith, Programme Manager, Free Movement of Labour, CSME Unit, Barbados (30 mins);
- Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) – Sir Dennis Byron, President (10 mins);
- Mr. Giovanni di Cola, Director of the ILO DWT and Office for the Caribbean

Plenary discussion: General discussion from the floor.

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. *Lunch break - Victoria Ballroom*

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Session III: **Regional tripartite social dialogue mechanism.**

Chair: Hon. Shane Gibson, Minister of Labour and National Insurance, The Bahamas

Introductory presentation: Ms. Paula Robinson, Senior Specialist for Workers' Activities, ILO-DWT and Office for the Caribbean (10 mins)

Panel:

- Caribbean Employers' Confederation (CEC) - Mr. Wayne Chen, President (10 mins each)
- Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) - Mr. David Massiah, President (10 mins each)
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat - Ms. Olivia Smith (10 mins each)

Plenary discussion: General discussion from the floor.

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Coffee break - Governor Foyer

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Session IV: **Creating job opportunities and developing skills for youth employment and productivity in the Caribbean.**

Exchange of perspectives from public and private investors

Chair: Hon. Michael Miskin, Minister of Labour, Technological Development and Environment, Suriname

Panel:

- Mr. George Nicholson, Director of Transport and Disaster Risk Reduction, Association of Caribbean States (ACS) (20 mins);
- Mr. Weifeng Zhang, Economic and Commercial Counsellor's Office, Embassy of the People's Republic of China, The Bahamas (20 mins);
- Ms. Susan Sproule, Director, Caribbean and Anglophone Africa, International Partnerships, Colleges and Institutes, Canada (20 mins);
- Mr. Ronald Harford, Chairman, Republic Bank, Trinidad and Tobago (20 mins).

Plenary discussion: General discussion from the floor.

- What is your country doing regarding skills mismatch, skills anticipation etc, and is there a well-developed labour market information system?
- What efforts are being made in your respective countries to transition young people into decent employment?
- What linkages exist between education, training and the workplace?
- What approaches have been adopted at increasing productivity of workers?
- Have tripartism and social dialogue helped in productivity enhancements?

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception for all Delegates hosted by the Minister of Labour and National Insurance, Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, **Government House**, Government Hill, Nassau.

Day Two: WEDNESDAY, 4 March 2015

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. **Closed Session for Ministers of Labour**

Simultaneously **Meeting of the Drafting Committee**

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. *Coffee break - Governor Foyer*

10:30 – 12:30 p.m. Session V: **(a) Climate change and impact on jobs;**

Chair: Hon. Shane Gibson, Minister of Labour and National Insurance, The Bahamas

Presentation: Professor Ulric Trotz, Deputy Director and Science Advisor, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), Belize (30 mins)

Plenary discussion: Questions from the floor (10 mins)

(b) Sharing experiences aimed at greening the economy for sustainable development

Chair: Mr. Peter Poschen, Director of Enterprise Department, ILO, Geneva

Panel:

- Senator Dr. the Hon. Esther Byer-Suckoo, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development, Barbados (10 mins);
- Hon. Tara Rivers, Minister of Education, Employment and Gender, Cayman Islands (10 mins);
- Hon. Shane Gibson, Minister of Labour and National Insurance, The Bahamas (10 mins);
- Mr. Patrick Findlay, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Guyana (10 mins);

Plenary discussion:

- Have policies aimed at greening the economy been developed and implemented?
- What have been the achievements or successes brought about by such policies?
- What policy recommendations can be provided?
- Are your training institutions developing programmes in green jobs?
- What future developments can be expected?

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. *Lunch break - Windsor Ballroom*

2:00 – 3:00 pm Session VI: **Regional Representation and Capacity Building**

Chair: Hon. Shane Gibson, Minister of Labour and National Insurance,
The Bahamas

- 323rd Session of the Governing Body (12-27 March 2015) and 104th Session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva, Switzerland (1-13 June 2015)
- Ms. Cecilia Greaves-Smith, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development, Trinidad and Tobago; (Trinidad and Tobago is the Government Member for the Caribbean of the ILO Governing) Body (10 mins);
- International Conferences on Climate Change
- Mr. Peter Poschen, Director Enterprise Department, ILO-HQ, Geneva (10 mins);
- Master Course on Labour Diplomacy, Diplomatic Academy, UWI
- Professor Andy Knight, Director of the Institute of International Relations and Diplomatic Academy, UWI St. Augustin, Trinidad and Tobago (10 mins);
- Identification of training needs of constituents in collaboration with the ILO International Training Centre, Turin
- Mr. Hassan Ndahi, Senior Specialist for Skills and Employability, ILO-DWT and Office for the Caribbean
- High Level Evaluation of the ILO Programme in the Caribbean (2010-2015)
- Ms. Dagmar Walter, Deputy Director, ILO-DWT and Office for the Caribbean (10 mins).

3:00 – 3:30 pm *Coffee break - Governor Foyer*

3:30 – 4:00 pm **Road Map and the way forward for the Caribbean**

Chair: Hon. Shane Gibson, Minister of Labour and National Insurance,
The Bahamas

Conclusions of the Meeting

To be assisted by the representatives of the Drafting Committee

Closing