

Tripartite Technical Workshop on the Impact of the Food Price Crisis on Decent Work

Geneva – 5-6 March, 2009

A two-day meeting on “The global food crisis and its impact on decent work” was held at the ILO on 5-6 March 2009. The purpose of the workshop was to take account of the work of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF); to share with other UN agencies the expertise of the ILO tripartite partners on rural employment and poverty reduction; and to contribute to an informed discussion within the United Nations on the social and employment impact of food prices on decent work. The meeting constituted part of the ILO's response to the global economic crisis.

In June 2008, the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference had adopted a resolution concerning the role of the ILO and its constituents in tackling the food crisis. The resolution had called upon the Office to convene a tripartite technical workshop on the global food crisis and its impact on decent work. In November 2008, at its 303rd Session, the ILO Governing Body had authorized the holding of the two-day tripartite technical workshop in the first quarter of 2009. As a basis for the discussion, the ILO prepared a background paper entitled *Rising Food Prices and their Implications for Employment, Decent Work and Poverty Reduction*.

In line with the decisions taken by the Governing Body, Employer and Worker representatives were invited to participate in the workshop, which was also attended by representatives of all interested governments. Representatives of organizations participating in the United Nations HLTF on the Global Food Security Crisis also participated on 6 March. In particular, the event was attended by Dr. Nabarro, UN Global Food Crisis Coordinator, and senior representatives from FAO, OCHA, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WB, WFP, WTO and ITC.

Drawing on the conclusions of the 2008 International Labour Conference Committee on Rural Employment for Poverty Reduction and discussion among ILO constituents, the workshop adopted a Room note containing a series of recommended measures aimed at achieving global food security. Moreover, the HLTF and national authorities working on food security were encouraged to make use of the networks of employers' and workers' organizations at international and national level in policy development and in ensuring delivery of policy outcomes. It was also expressly requested to formalize the interaction between the ILO and the HLTF on the food security crisis.

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/techmeet/ttwfpc09/index.htm>



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