



Eighth (special) sitting

Tuesday, 10 June 2008, 10 a.m.

President: Mr Salamín

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR MARTÍN TORRIJOS ESPINO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

Original Spanish: The PRESIDENT

It is a pleasure for me to call to order the eighth special sitting of the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference.

The International Labour Conference has the honour today of welcoming His Excellency Mr Martín Torrijos Espino, the President of the Republic of Panama. To welcome and introduce our distinguished guest, I would like to give the floor to the Secretary-General of the International Labour Conference, Mr Juan Somavia. Mr Somavia, you have the floor.

Original Spanish: The SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

Don Martín Torrijos, on behalf of this Conference, the world parliament of the labour world, I would like to extend to you a very warm welcome.

During your mandate you have assumed the commitment to ensure that economic growth goes hand in hand with social progress for your people and your country. What better testimony to your commitment to the values of our Organization than the fact that your visit to us takes place in the context of this 97th Session of the International Labour Conference, a session which your Minister of Labour, Eduard Salamín Jaén, has presided over with such great skill. Panama is also now a regular member of the Governing Body and we can say that this is Panama's year within the ILO.

Since you formed your Government in 2004, you have ensured that the hallmark of your administration would be to put social issues at the heart of your policies. Your concern for the social aspects you reiterated before the Congress of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas recently, when you said that we need to have a debate on the link between economic growth, development and progress. There have been times when our countries have grown but not in the social sphere. Now, you are proving that the opposite can be done. You have put employment generation at the heart of your economic and social policies and you have invested in community programmes to ensure that low-income groups benefit from such policies. You recognize the need to be involved in globalization without forgetting that economic growth must promote the well-being of all of society.

But I would like to underscore a special feature of your leadership, namely your desire to be always

involved in dialogue, to listen more in order to be able to administer better. This has resulted in an enhancement of dialogue and consultation in your country. I can mention, in that respect, the Agreement on National Consultation for Development, which has involved employers and workers and broad sectors of society. Of course, a significant example of this effort to seek consensus has been the dialogue pertaining to the Panama Canal.

Now, we are delighted to see that Panama has approved on a tripartite basis a National Decent Work Programme with the support of the ILO to generate decent and productive work opportunities and decent incomes for all Panamanians. This, Mr President, will receive all of our support for its implementation.

Distinguished friends, as we know, the people of Panama own one of the works of engineering most recognized throughout the world, the Panama Canal, which made it possible to fulfil that age-old dream of linking two oceans. At the initiative of President Torrijos, and following a democratic consultation through a referendum, the Panama Canal is being widened. This will guarantee its economic sustainability and will provide decent work for thousands of people. What better tribute can we pay today to all of the workers who, with their efforts and often with their lives, contributed to the construction of this great work of engineering?

Mr President, you are at home here. Thank you for being here with us this morning. Thank you for what you are doing and for what your presence means to us here this morning.

Original Spanish: The PRESIDENT

It is a great honour for me to give the floor to our distinguished guest, Mr Martín Torrijos Espino, the President of the Republic of Panama.

Original Spanish: Mr TORRIJOS ESPINO (President of the Republic of Panama)

I would like to thank the Government, Employers' and Workers' delegations for having chosen Panama to chair this Conference. The Government and people of Panama set store by the responsibility that has fallen to them in stewarding this International Labour Conference.

The topics that have come up for discussion and the matters we have to solve are of great importance in terms of the challenges our governments and employers' and workers' organizations face in promoting decent work and in overcoming the challenge of world poverty, in particular, rural poverty.

In the rural world we find the biggest pockets of poverty in our countries. This is where the pain is most felt, where the lack of opportunities is more apparent, and hence this is where the greatest efforts must be brought to bear.

At a time of amazing technical breakthroughs, poverty is a universal disgrace. It is an insult to intelligence and to human solidarity. We are erasing boundaries, shortening distances and making knowledge universal, but we have been incapable of preventing millions of people from continuing to live in poverty. Poverty which, in many instances, arises due to a lack of equality of opportunities and the absence of basic education and health services, to access being denied to productive resources, land, capital and other input, and due to the severe shortage of decent work.

When hunger forces people to choose between sending their children to school or having them work so the family survives, then we are trapping people in poverty. This being the case, States must provide the basic necessities to people who live in extreme poverty so as to provide them with a real way out. This is why we have been putting together conditional cash transfers as a first step in tackling poverty and improving the productive capacities of society. Some people see these social policies as paternalistic and resort to the old saying that what really matters is not giving someone a fish, but teaching people how to fish.

Well, I would reply that the poverty is such that if we do not first give a fish, many people will not be able to muster the minimum energy to learn to fish. It is only when people can be lifted beyond the breadline that we can generate the decent work to which we all aspire.

Decent work, in our eyes, means creating businesses, generating highly productive jobs or adequate income for people to meet their basic needs and be provided with social protection and rights.

Decent work means employment without any kind of discrimination and we should therefore focus on rural areas, which is where a large proportion of the traditionally vulnerable and marginalized groups live, such as indigenous peoples.

This is where we find the biggest deficit in decent work and where day in, day out, it is increasingly hard to survive and where, today, people are the hardest hit by food shortages.

It has already been established and documented that food prices have risen to such an extent that the progress made towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, especially the goal of reducing poverty, could be wiped out.

Failing to act now to reverse this situation will mean the situation will become worse and millions of people will be back in the claws of poverty from which they were emerging, and the efforts deployed over decades will be lost.

Faced with this situation, the way out is obvious, but it requires robust political decisions. For this reason, I would like to take the opportunity at this extraordinary ILO forum to call upon the world's Heads of State and Government to commit to comprehensive policies which will promote productivity, competitiveness and decent work, and I am talking about comprehensive policies to underline that an efficient macroeconomic policy is a prerequisite, but not sufficient to achieve these objectives of growth, development and social issues which require our nations. This has been reiterated by the

ILO in various Latin American and Caribbean forums.

Today, we are paying the price of what we failed to invest in our countries in the development of productive and social infrastructure over many years. But the errors of the past do not justify indifference today. Experience tells us that a sound macroeconomic policy improves the profitability and productivity of businesses, increases investment and boosts demand and the opportunities for common social development.

I am referring to policies for the development of productive networks and infrastructure, the fostering of loans to very small and small and medium-sized businesses, the strengthening of technology and innovation, the improvement of the coverage and quality of basic education and training and the development of institutional collective bargaining and social dialogue.

In this context of comprehensive policies and of seeking minimum consensus, the development of business and entrepreneurial qualifications and skills plays a fundamental role in the move towards productivity, growth, employment and development.

And it is this objective which should be the focus of our governments' greatest efforts, given that economies and societies can only count on quality human resources if we are willing to invest in them.

There are no shortcuts and tax efficiency and equity are key, along with support and solidarity from all sectors, in particular those that have the most.

I have to underscore the fact that to achieve this goal, social dialogue, as advocated by the ILO, plays an essential role, and organizations of employers and workers have a huge responsibility here because they can have influence on the content and efficiency of public policies.

For this reason, in the context of the campaign for the promotion and defence of freedom of association, promoted by the ILO in the current biennium in the countries of the Americas, we recognize and set great store by the principle of freedom of association as a fundamental right in labour relations and in democratic consolidation, governance and social peace.

The Government of Panama has adopted the principles of the world agenda for decent work and has received the support of the Heads of State and Government at the United Nations Summit in 2005 and in many other world and regional forums.

The Minister of Labour and Labour Development in Panama recently adopted a national programme to promote decent work with the active participation of employers and workers. The adaptation of all administrative structures to this new situation has led us to prepare a new draft organizational law of the Ministry of Labour.

Together with the social partners, we have made a commitment to promote this draft law throughout the various institutions and regions of the country. No stone will be left unturned in keeping this pledge.

As you know, Panama has embarked upon one of the largest infrastructure projects in the region, involving a site which is emblematic, both of Panama and the world, the widening of the Panama Canal.

Work has already begun on what is a strategic undertaking in terms of world trade, with the plan receiving approval in a national referendum. We are widening a canal that was built 100 years ago but

our approach will be very different from that employed when the oceans were united at the beginning of the twentieth century. Back then, thousands of workers lost their lives. Some lie in unmarked graves, while others were buried under the landslides set out by explosions. Yet more succumbed to disease and not a few chose suicide rather than continuing to work in appalling labour conditions while suffering from home sickness. This time round, the labour rights of each and every one of the workers involved in this epic feat will be respected. Thus shall we pay homage to the first decade of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of 1998 and, above all, to the undertaking to promote and consolidate decent work. The fact that this structure is vital to world trade does not mean that the bodies or contractors involved are exempt from the international commitments made by Panama regarding labour and which are being solemnly reiterated here today. Furthermore, prior to beginning work, we ensured that the workers were fully trained for the job. In order to do this, we set up an institution based on the cornerstone of this Organization, overseen by a tripartite administration. Over the course of one year, more than 280,000 people received training, an extraordinary figure when you take into account the fact that the population of Panama stands at only 3.3 million inhabitants.

The ILO, more than any other international organization, promotes dialogue and understanding between the actors in the productivity sector and it is this element which lies at the ILO's very core. The fact that Workers, Employers and Governments are brought together makes this dialogue one of the strategic objectives of the ILO. The search for consensus regarding pressing matters has also been and shall continue to be a guiding light for my Government.

Governments always have the option of imposing reforms which, however necessary they may be, always result in social and political upheaval. Nevertheless, they can, should they so wish, take what sometimes appears to be the more difficult path, but which, in the long term, is the only option to lend legitimacy to major decisions while fostering good governance and institutional stability. It is simply a question of achieving agreement and consensus.

Let me give you an example. One of the most difficult problems facing any country is that of social security. All aspects of this issue require the greatest degree of social consensus possible. Only four years ago, Panama's social security system was teetering on the brink of disaster.

In 2005 the Government, employers, workers and other civil society organizations reached agreements leading to the resolution of the actuarial problems of universality and solidarity enshrined in the legal framework of Panama and the ILO Conventions. In this way, through broad national consultation, we were able to ensure that the benefits of broadening the canal will contribute to eradicating poverty in our country through policies that will prove, over time, to be both sustainable and measurable. As part of a major combined effort, we have agreed to go ahead with an investment programme worth US\$10,000 over the next 17 years, covering the next four successive governments. The concepts of consultation and solidarity can be most clearly seen here. State resources have been channelled in such a way as to meet the most pressing needs.

In the course of my time in office, we have experienced unprecedented growth and Panama has reduced unemployment rates by more than 5 per cent. Informality has been cut and real minimum wages increased, against a background of tripartite consensus.

We have been able to turn economic growth into better living and working conditions for a large percentage of our population. This shows the viability of converting economic growth into social development.

Admittedly we still have a long way to go in achieving our goal of sustainable development, but we are moving forward and, together with the productive forces, we can go further.

May I just say a few words to the Director-General of this Organization on my country.

Panama is honoured to have been an active contributor to the ILO since 1990. We helped to finance both a project and an office in Panama in support of the development of labour statistics in the region.

This, we are certain, will help develop the knowledge basis of the ILO in our region. The decision to strengthen these ILO functions in Panama underscores the confidence other UN agencies installed in the City of Knowledge (a former military base, now a centre of knowledge and excellence) feel.

I would like to say that the work that you have carried out with such dedication has met with an answer. Today we reiterate our commitment to ratify the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC).

Friends, Panama thanks you once again for the confidence and the honour you have bestowed upon us. In doing so, you have recognized the efforts of a country which believes in dialogue and cooperation, a country which has recovered its canal and its sovereignty, thanks to negotiation and understanding, and which has made the inspiring principles of the ILO its own.

We trust that international conferences such as this one will continue to foster harmonious and frank dialogue as the very best mechanism for solving humankind's most serious problems and will lead us along the path of peace, social justice and development with dignity.

Original Spanish: The PRESIDENT

I would like to express my thanks to you, Mr President, on behalf of this Conference which I am presiding over, and thank you for accepting the ILO's invitation to come and give to us this message of hope. It gives us hope for a better future of the workers and employers of this world.

The confidence that we have that governments such as yours are making huge efforts to remain faithful to the values and objectives of the ILO encourages us to continue the work we are involved in together.

Your Excellency, your presence is an honour to us all in this room. You have in more ways than one shown yourself to be an unconditional supporter of tripartite dialogue which underpins the ILO's work.

It was a privilege for me to be a direct witness of your deep conviction that social dialogue and democratic participation represent the safest ways to achieve social peace, as well as being the best guarantee for good governance, not only in the world of work, but in all the policies which you have developed in Panama.

Dialogue and consultation in your Government are the key and essential tools which you have used

in all your efforts, and they have contributed to maintaining political stability which is indispensable to ensure that a country progresses towards sustainable economic and social development.

Furthermore, the practice of establishing dialogue as a working method has given new impulse to the efforts to implement your country's Decent Work Country Programme. Indeed, it would be remiss of me if I did not mention your deep commitment to the social and labour spheres, which are intimately related to the objectives of decent work. Your plan, your policies, are eminently social, as they are based on the conviction that there can be no eco-

nomie growth or development without social justice. The International Labour Conference fully endorses those views and that approach.

Mr President, on behalf of my colleagues and on behalf of all the participants at this 97th Session of the International Labour Conference, and in my own name, I would once again like to express to you our deepest gratitude for having come here this morning to visit us. Thank you.

I now close the eighth sitting of the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference.

(The Conference adjourned at 10.50 a.m.)

Ninth sitting

Tuesday, 10 June 2008, 10.50 a.m.

Presidents: Ms Diallo, Mr Tabani

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

Original French: The PRESIDENT (Ms DIALLO)

I call to order the ninth plenary sitting of the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference.

We shall now resume the discussion on the Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Report of the Director-General.

Original Russian: Mr LUTSYSHYN (Worker, Ukraine)

The Report of the Director-General of the ILO convincingly shows a thorough understanding of the strategic tasks before the Organization and it shows the concrete steps to be taken to bring about decent work.

In this connection, I would like to thank the ILO for its contribution to the programme of cooperation to realize the concept of decent work in the Ukraine. The trade unions in Ukraine think that decent work means, above all, work which is paid at a decent wage, and today this position is shared by all social partners in the Ukraine. This was confirmed by a series of meetings between the trade unions and the Government and a consultation between the tripartite bodies, and the signing of a memorandum of partnership and cooperation between the Cabinet and the trade unions, as well as the conclusion of a general agreement for 2008–09.

For the first time since independence, an agreement has been reached, based in law, on the establishment of a minimum wage, which is higher than the minimum level of subsistence. Today, nearly 15 per cent of workers receive wages that are lower than this level. At the insistence of the unions there was a general agreement on annual payment which should not be less than 25 per cent below the rise in prices of basic goods and services, and this shows that we are now giving up the policy of suppressing wage increases, which was carried out by former governments. However, if we consider the situation of wages objectively, we can see that despite the rate of increase, current wages are too low to guarantee a decent standard of living. Over 28 per cent of Ukrainians live below the national poverty line, which is about US\$100 per month. The situation is worsening because of the practice of withholding wages, and in May this year the employers did not pay wages to some 250,000 workers in part because of bankruptcy, so the proportion of wages to GDP is very low and in 2007 was less than 50 per cent. I assume that adherence to Conventions and Recom-

mendations related to the minimum wages proportion of GDP will mean that it will be possible to improve the standardizing basis of the ILO and to strengthen its position in the context of promoting decent work.

As for the problems of delayed payment, we have to come to an agreement with the Government on the drafting of a law to establish a wage guarantee fund, which will solve the problem of the backlog of wages owed to workers from bankrupt companies. The draft new labour code, which was approved by Parliament in its first reading, provides for a stricter mechanism for material compensation.

The spread of decent work in the Ukraine is prevented by problems in the labour market and the lack, for many years, of basic planning of labour resources. Despite the fact that many firms need qualified workers and specialists and engineering personnel every year, some 80,000 graduates from universities and vocational and technical colleges remain unemployed. Over 40 per cent of vacancies registered with the state employment services have wages that are still below subsistence level. In this connection, the social partners have agreed to develop and present to Parliament a law on the professional development of workers. A national programme has also been adopted for the protection and development of the country's labour potential until 2017. We consider these to be very important elements in spreading decent work and reducing inequalities. It is possible that the ILO should consider setting minimum standards for human resources development in order to improve training for workers.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that the unions of Ukraine support the policy of the ILO, to promote decent work, which is today a basic criterion of social progress.

Mr ROQUÉ (Secretary, Department of Labour and Employment, Philippines)

I congratulate the Director-General on his Report on how we can take the Decent Work Agenda forward amidst the many strategic challenges it faces today.

This year's session of the Conference occurs indeed at a time where our respective countries are being challenged by varied aspects of insecurity, on the one hand, and the broad range of opportunities for development the world over. While economic upswings, such as the unprecedented movement of capital and investments across the globe, offer us a lot of development potentials, they also result in

economic imbalances and disparities between highly developed and developing countries.

In the event of downturns, developing countries have to cope with limited resources and work doubly hard at sustaining whatever growth and development gains they may have achieved so far.

Today, developing countries like the Philippines are trying to cope with current pressures associated with rising oil prices and food security considerations. While we have been experiencing positive growth at the macro level, we still face the challenge of equitably distributing development outcomes to a majority of our populace during these trying times.

We acknowledge that we cannot speak of development if we do not address the needs of those who remain vulnerable to any form of instability brought about by economic onslaughts.

As the Director-General's Report notes, the Philippines still has to deal with harnessing the full potential of globalization to advance the Filipino people's real – and we must add, felt – development goals. We acknowledge the basic principle rightly emphasized in the Report, that balance and equity can be achieved only through decent work. It is, in fact, this same principle that has inspired the Philippines, particularly its tripartite partners, in pursuing the attainment of decent work from the time it joined several countries in 2002 to pilot the Decent Work Agenda until the present day.

For the third cycle of our National Plan of Action for Decent Work, covering the period 2008–10, we have adopted the theme “narrowing the decent work deficit”, which embodies our goal of reducing decent work gaps to enhance workforce productivity, competitiveness and equity at work.

To achieve these outcomes, we have focused our resources and cooperative efforts on addressing the decent work deficits of sectors that we recognize as being highly vulnerable to the dynamics of the labour market and the global economy. These are contractual workers, workers in business process outsourcing, farm or agricultural workers, workers in the fishing industry, workers in the informal economy, migrant workers and public sector workers.

Our social partners are working hard to finalize our decent work initiatives for these groups, and have already outlined cooperative actions which include the ratification of priority Conventions, the localization of the Decent Work Agenda, the review of our Labour Code, the provision of skills development training, and the integration of core labour standards in other policy instruments affecting workers.

We are pleased to report that today the Philippines has made significant strides in terms of not only integrating decent work into the country's development goals, but also by having developed tools for measuring the actualization of the decent work pillars, such as the Philippine Labour Index, or the PLI.

More recently, we have embarked on interventions addressing the immediate problems of workers relative to the current food and oil crisis. These include, among others, the provision of non-wage benefits, such as rice subsidies and the enactment of legislation providing cheaper medicines, broader coverage of our entrepreneurship programmes, and the enrolment of more workers in the informal

economy to our social security systems and public health programmes.

We are doing all of this because we know that it is only through decent work in the country that we can fully avail of the opportunities for our workers, both locally and globally. There is cause for optimism in this regard, especially since the Philippines is not alone in this aspiration.

We are pleased to report that we have made remarkable progress in pushing the Decent Work Agenda to a level where it converges with the goals of the whole United Nations system and is made integral to the objectives, even of regional cooperation, such as in the Association of South-east Asian Nations.

The Philippines considers these developments to be significant strides towards addressing our decent work deficits. We also see these developments as an indication of better outcomes, maximized use of resources, and the potential attainment of policy cohesion at the national, regional and international levels.

Toward this end, we believe that the ILO should focus on the following actions, together with member States.

First, we look forward to cooperative partnerships towards enhancing the capacities of enterprises and workers to cope with economic downturns through skills or capability building, information sharing and the establishment of social protection mechanisms.

Second, even as we take pride in our strong social dialogue and tripartite mechanisms, we can pursue partnerships towards localizing these mechanisms and expanding their coverage to reflect the whole range of labour and employment issues and concerns.

Third, as we continue to strengthen our institutions supportive of the exercise of freedom of association and collective bargaining, we will need collaborative work so that our dispute settlement mechanisms can better deliver speedy labour justice.

Finally, we call for joint efforts to address our migration and development concerns, particularly because the Philippines has a commitment to uphold the welfare and protection of its workers as they seek opportunities, both in the domestic market and around the world.

May I also add that the second Global Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in Manila, the Philippines, this October, provides an excellent opportunity to better address such concerns altogether, including how we can maximize opportunities and mitigate the risks of migration for sending and receiving countries, as well as for the migrant workers. I would like to invite the tripartite sectors to please come and participate in this important forum.

In closing, allow me to thank the ILO for its continued support of the Philippines and its efforts towards creating decent work for all.

On 15 June, the Philippines will celebrate its 60th year of membership to the ILO. These 60 years lay witness to our rich and strong partnership with the ILO to work towards better labour and employment policies, responsive programmes and, most importantly, towards upholding the core labour standards that are now the heart and soul of Philippine labour and social legislation. Together with our social partners, we look forward to many more years of

collaboration, with decent work as our common goal.

Original Spanish: Mr CORBACHO CHAVES (Minister of Labour and Immigration, Spain)

I would like first of all to congratulate Mr Salamín Jaén, Minister of Labour and Labour Development of Panama, upon his election as President of the 2008 session of the International Labour Conference (ILC). The success of his presidency will be a success for all of us and for the ILO, whose work in promoting the expansion of decent work in the world is something that enjoys the support of Spain and other member States.

Four years ago, the Prime Minister of Spain, Mr Rodríguez Zapatero, addressed a special sitting of the ILC at the beginning of his term of office. He stated on that occasion that, while in the twentieth century, we achieved great advances in the area of human rights and went on to consolidate and extend political and civil rights to growing numbers of countries in the world, the twenty-first century should be the century of social rights.

Since he made that address to this international forum, a full parliamentary term has elapsed in Spain, which ended on 9 March 2008 with the general elections in which the Spanish people independently and in their majority voted for a policy based on economic and social progress. I am pleased to address this assembly for the first time as Minister for Labour and Immigration of the new Spanish Government which took office last April and to say to you that the renewed confidence on the part of the Spanish people through the ballot box refuels our intention to pursue the policies we began in 2004.

Something which really defines the world of work and enterprises today is that it is constantly changing, so that what worked in the past will not necessarily work in the future. If those responsible for developing labour policies do not recognize this, the measures we introduce as a Government will create more problems than they solve. We wish to extend democracy to every nook and cranny of our society but we cannot continue using the same instruments.

Today we live in a globalized world. Everything is closer, everyone is our neighbour. We just have to ensure that globalization does not lead to a drop in standards in the name of progress. This has been the understanding of the ILO, which, since it was set up in 1919, has been able to adjust its efforts to the needs of the time without ever deviating from its constitutional principle of seeking social justice as a basis for universal peace. This Conference is yet more evidence of what I am asserting. Thus the promotion of rural employment to reduce poverty, as discussed in this Conference, stems from the recognition of the decent work deficit in the farming sector at a global level, and is a recognition that migrant workers, who constitute a large percentage of the rural workforce, are particularly vulnerable to abuse, even though they should enjoy equal treatment, as set forth in the ILO Conventions.

The Government of Spain fully endorses the ILO's proposal to pursue the social dimension of economic globalization through the promotion of decent work, an initiative for which we should thank the Director-General, Mr Somavia, and which has been fully recognized by the UN system, which is promoting it as a global goal.

In Spain, we intend to overcome the current economic slowdowns through dialogue between employers and unions, not only for the ethical and constitutional reason that taking into account the interests of the people is a shared responsibility, but because in practical terms our national experience has shown us that it is always a good thing to use that method. Our immigration policy is one such example. Over the course of a few years, the migration balance in Spain has become positive – we have changed from being a country of emigration to a country that receives a foreign workforce. The importance of this matter in Spain is such that 10 per cent of social security recipients are now foreign workers. I would like to encourage greater involvement in this regard and I would like to see that we share the responsibility in the international community for managing immigration flows. We should not burden one country with coping with this transnational process alone. We have to bring regional bodies into the picture, like the European Union in the case of Spain and, in particular, the ILO which has world influence. The Spanish Government has assigned my government department the task of developing migration policy and we are going to try and improve cooperation with the countries of origin, so that joint management of immigration will enable us to adjust demand and supply when it comes to contracting labour outside the country. But this cannot happen if it does not go hand in hand with the promotion of legal and decent work in the recipient country. Integrating people into the labour market is the first step to integrating people successfully into society, as the OECD has rightly said in its reports.

The ILO and its Governing Body, on which Spain wishes to continue serving, as demonstrated in the latest elections, will continue to enjoy the support of Spain in achieving the harmonious economic and social development of all countries and in particular in ensuring that international movements of workers are not caused by underdevelopment and poverty. We should lay the foundations to ensure that today's aspirations become tomorrow's realities.

If we look backwards, as the organization is about to celebrate its 90th anniversary, I think we can be optimistic, because the majority of the labour rights which are now enshrined in constitutions started out as nothing but political illusions which were set forth as goals by those who made a commitment towards equality between nations.

Mr MUKUMA (Minister of Labour and Social Security, Zambia)

One year ago, I informed this important gathering of what Zambia was doing in the areas of enterprise development, social dialogue and decent work.

The focus of my statement today is on this year's agenda, which addresses relevant issues faced by our people. Indeed, a number of our governments in the developing world have embraced economic reforms aimed at improving their business environment and investment climates but in most cases we overlook, in our plans, the needs and aspirations of our rural communities.

My delegation, therefore, supports the recommendation that policies meant to improve the investment climate should promote all types of businesses including rural-based businesses so as to ensure the creation of jobs and reduction of poverty for people in rural areas.

This Conference has been emphatic that governments must always be aware of the problems that characterize the interaction between businesses and the workforce and the need to put in place the legal framework and enforcement mechanisms that would ensure good governance and the respect for basic workers' rights as we make the business environment more flexible. Our observation is that, owing to lack of adequate resources, most countries in the developing world lack proper systems to monitor and enforce legislation to protect workers' rights, particularly those in rural areas. As such, much more needs to be done.

The Director-General's Report discusses the important issue of skills development. This area continues to pose major challenges for productivity in the developing world. Low labour productivity in most of the developing world is largely a result of an inadequately skilled workforce. We therefore support the recommendation to intensify skills development programmes to improve the employability and productivity of workers. Furthermore, tripartite partners should give top priority to programmes on the promotion of productivity and also facilitate the establishment of productivity centres at national and regional levels so as to champion this cause.

Zambia, like many developing countries, faces the challenge of changing the mindset of its people in general, and workers in particular, on issues related to development. The work culture has to improve in order to achieve meaningful development and realize our national economic goals. To this end, and in order to overcome the challenge of productivity in the workplace, Zambia has established a productivity centre and is carrying out productivity sensitization campaigns in order to foster a culture of productivity in its people. However, government alone cannot achieve this mammoth task but we shall count on the support of our social partners.

Let me now turn to the positive proposals drawn on the need to further strengthen the capacity of the ILO, which we wholeheartedly welcome. A strong and effective ILO, at both headquarters and regional offices, will mean enormous benefits for member States from the work already being done by the Office in such daunting areas as the extension of social security to excluded groups in the informal economy, improving social dialogue and in the overall/general implementation of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

In conclusion, my delegation appreciates the quality of the Reports put forward by the Director-General and the fresh insights into complex issues affecting our people. I trust that the final report of this session of the International Labour Conference will outline a clear action plan that will lead to a better and more decent working life for our people. I assure you of the continued cooperation and support of my delegation in the accomplishment of this task.

Ms THIENHONG (*Minister of Labour, Thailand*)

The 97th Session of the International Labour Conference, on both the promotion of rural employment for poverty reduction and skills for improved productivity, employment growth and development, is very significant since Thailand is now implementing employment policies in connection with the Decent Work Decade and is in the process of launching the Millennium Development Goals. Since the majority of the working poor are from urban and

rural areas the topics are timely for us to evaluate the progress achieved.

In order to help the working poor out of poverty, the provision of full and productive employment plus productivity growth are required; both should operate in unison. Increasing and improving productivity is in fact the cornerstone and will enable the urban and rural working poor to gain more income because productivity growth means the reduction of production costs and increased returns on investments. Productivity growth also implies the reduction of child labour and the improvement of working conditions.

Productivity growth requires national policies to improve education, skills training and lifelong learning by providing opportunities to all, including the working poor in the informal sector.

The rural categories of working poor are, of course, our target, and they need to be taken out of poverty. These people normally seek extra jobs to supplement their income during the slack season. The majority of them move to big cities or are employed overseas. Many of them get casual or temporary jobs, but due to lower skills and the lack of re-training most of them end up as marginalized poor or vulnerable migrants overseas.

Thailand is no exception when discussing the abovementioned matters. Though Thailand's labour force is declining, the agricultural sector is still important in regard to the mitigation of uncertainties and risks. The sector has absorbed a lot of laid-off urban workers during the financial crisis, has helped secure food supplies and has been the largest consumer of urban products. Therefore, rural development is the core element of overall development policies.

With a view to rural development in Thailand, over decades, development strategies and priorities are based on a people-centred approach and sufficiency economics are applied, such as the launching of village products, the provision of skills training for unpaid family members, and the introduction of diversified farming. The practice of sufficiency economics also helps us to understand and access real rural development.

Concerning the urban poor, free medical treatment is provided, ageing and disabled persons are protected, extensive skills training is widely provided and can be accessed easily since training and facilities are provided in every community. Besides, there has been an improvement in labour regulations: the Act on the protection of home-based workers is being amended, the extension of the social security scheme has already been implemented to cover self-employed persons, and wage earners in the agricultural sector are being protected.

Regarding human trafficking, in particular the abuse of child labour and forced labour, we would like to declare that such actions are criminal offences, the traffickers must be punished. To us the issues are our grave concern and need integrated responses. The new Act on the prevention and suppression of human trafficking has recently been adopted and implemented, and provides more protection for victims.

Furthermore, there has been close cooperation and dialogue, as well as the conclusion of MOUs between Thailand and its neighbouring countries, so as to improve and legalize the flow of migration.

In conclusion, I also wish to stress the importance of employment policies that place emphasis on life-

long learning and skills updating because it is only in this context that we can hope to achieve all our objectives, including full and productive employment, productivity growth and, finally, the reduction of poverty in the world population.

Original Spanish: Mr YAGUAL (Worker, Ecuador)

The Ecuadorean workers' movement is represented by workers from the oil industry, the health sector, the Leopoldo Izquieta Pérez National Hygiene Institute, SOLCA, León Becerra, the Ecuadorean Red Cross, the malaria eradication service, electricians, municipal workers, drinking water workers, PACIFICTEL, ANDINATEL, port authorities, public workers, the Ecuadorean Social Security Institute, the Guayaquil Board of Benefactors, artisans, heavy goods vehicle drivers, retired workers, domestic workers and others.

Currently, our country is going through a difficult situation because a number of bills before the Constituent Assembly, supported by the President, are aiming to erode the rights of workers. The Government has begun a transformation process in all aspects of republican life in our country. The workers are aware of the historical changes taking place and have contributed to ensure that these changes take place democratically and without infringing workers' rights in Ecuador because their rights are protected by the Constitution and international labour law, including Conventions Nos 87 and 98.

The workers' movement was aware of the need to support the establishment of a new structure for the socio-economic and political development needed in Ecuador in order to change the old public administration system which was, for many years, in the hands of neoliberal and corrupt right-wing parties. We support the Bill No. 8 before the Constituent Assembly on eliminating recruitment by the hour, which is a way for private companies to exploit workers. Our Government and our parliamentarians have forgotten why they were elected and they have turned against the workers, trying to cut the salaries, compensation and other benefits included in the collective agreements as a result of many years of trade union struggles and sacrifice. All the governments, including the current Government, have known who in the public administration is receiving a golden salary and they have never done anything to correct this discrepancy that benefits a corrupt minority. It is to be deplored that this Government, which was voted in by the people to make real changes relating to social justice, has dedicated itself to disregarding the rights of workers, drafting anti-worker bills to disregard the benefits granted in legally binding collective agreements.

On behalf of the Confederation of Workers of Ecuador, I deplore that in my country legally acquired rights, gained through collective bargaining and recognized in the provisions of the Labour Code, are being violated. There is a failure to recognize article 33 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right of workers to bargain collectively for improved conditions. Finally, ILO Conventions Nos 98 and 87, which have been ratified by Ecuador, are being ignored.

Constituent Bill No. 2, published on 28 January 2008 in *Official Gazette* No. 261, Constituent Bill No. 4, published on 14 February 2008 in *Official Gazette* No. 273, and Constituent Bill No. 8, published on 6 May 2008 in *Official Gazette* No. 330,

are of a previously unheard of illegal nature; for example the final provisions of Bill No. 8 establishes that the Bill is mandatory, cannot be opposed, is not subject to complaints or appeal, and cannot be derogated from. It is to enter into force with immediate effect. These Bills are not laws of the Republic because any bill must be approved through a referendum. In this respect, these Bills cannot be recognized as laws and that is why we ask the International Labour Office to insist that the Government of Ecuador does not follow through with the plan to review collective agreements through Bills Nos 2, 4 and 8, which would jeopardize the rights of Ecuadorean workers.

Original Spanish: Mr PLASCENCIA NÚÑEZ (Employer, Mexico)

Our country, in its indefatigable battle to combat poverty and improve employment opportunities for Mexican workers, can only support the efforts of this Organization and its Conference to focus on the basic component of the prevailing human and working relationships.

We would like to comment here on the promotion of rural employment to reduce poverty in the rural areas and on the skills needed to increase productivity, employment and development, which we see as two areas regarding which we can come up with solutions that could do a great deal to improve working and living conditions throughout the world.

Rural employment is after all part of the food chain and, as such, deserves top priority. All the participants in this process should be given their rightful place and should shoulder their responsibilities in this endeavour so that production and processing can provide consumers with quality products at fair prices.

This is the proper approach if industrialists and food producers are to coordinate their effort for their own benefit and for that of the wider world. This is what this Conference needs to focus on, as part of the fight against poverty, a scourge that still plays havoc with the lives of so many people on this planet.

It is undeniable that in large part this sorry state of affairs goes hand in hand with unemployment, but we are convinced that the best way of doing away with poverty once and for all is to offer people jobs as a means not only of making a decent living for themselves and their families but of creating decent conditions for development.

For this, governments have to be more open to the speedy establishment of employment centres offering more and better jobs, and better job opportunities, while at the same time improving existing working conditions. This is the most effective way of combating unemployment and poverty and using deregulation sensibly in an effort to move jobs into the formal sector.

No doubt this will require the necessary political will to promote and enact and enforce appropriate labour legislation, which should be both flexible and well balanced, in order to find a way to resolve this admittedly complex, issue.

After almost 90 years in existence, the ILO's desire to strengthen its ties with its constituents is particularly encouraging. But we all know that it must stick to its fundamental principles, foremost among which is tripartism, which distinguishes it from all other UN organizations, along with social dialogue.

The labour authorities have long adopted tripartism and social dialogue, and we know that the new democratic Government accept these principles as the only means of finding solutions to whatever issues may arise between it and the factors of production. Whatever the issue, dialogue has to be between equals, and this means that prior consultation, rather than surprise tactics, must be the rule if all the protagonists are to be on an equal footing.

President Felipe Calderon and his new administration are engaging a major battle for the physical and legal security of the country, and we have been able to initiate a social dialogue through his secretary, Javier Lozano Alarion, and there is no doubt that we could make this link stronger by means of consultations with all sectors and their ability to respond on any subject that concerns them.

My Confederation is keen to disseminate the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work widely, because we agree that there should be no discrimination whatsoever, especially for any reason such as race, beliefs, social origin, nationality or gender, that the exploitation of workers is an attack on the dignity of humankind, and that it is absolutely necessary to eradicate the worst forms of child labour. We also firmly believe in genuine and effective freedom of association.

We trust that the outcome of this Conference will give a boost to all the activities to which we have referred.

Original Arabic: Ms ARIF (Minister of Social and Labour Affairs, Syrian Arab Republic)

This year's Report entitled: *Decent Work: Some strategic challenges* ahead sounds the alarm concerning some extremely important issues which require reflection and discussion. There is also a need to establish appropriate legislation and mechanisms that will allow for strategies for the future to be planned, in order to attain the best possible balance of freedom of expression and respect for the role of the State regarding organization, as well as the promotion of the function of the market in terms of production. A response must also be provided to the needs of individuals, families and societies, regardless of their levels of income and the categories to which they belong.

Thus the fledgling globalization we see before us today can become a positive element, allowing us to establish a balance between the objectives and policies of all and to reflect our hopes of reducing poverty and making prosperity and security a reality, with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Secondly, I would like to thank the Office for, yet again, addressing the catastrophic situation of Arab workers in the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, and of Syrian workers in the occupied Syrian Golan. The Report paints an extremely clear picture of the situation, which can be summed up in one phrase, "A destructive occupation which violates human rights".

The daily suffering of our workers and employers is the most flagrant modern-day illustration of the violation of human dignity, oppression and humiliation. This can be seen in the uprooting of fruit trees, the denial of access to water sources, measures preventing workers from seeking employment unless they renounce their nationality, not to mention the severest practices which are reported in the media on a daily basis. Viewers can watch as bulldozers

destroy houses, not so that they may be rebuilt, but to prepare the way for more Israeli settlements, thus crushing any hopes the Palestinian owners might have of return.

We all know how the Israeli authorities ignore both Arab and international opinion. They have failed to take into account the health of the Syrian prisoners in their jails. Sitan Wali and Basher Makt serve as examples of the flagrant violation of the most basic values and principles. Mr Makt suffers from a severe heart condition and Mr Wali has undergone an operation to have a kidney removed. There are also 13,000 Palestinian prisoners, whose ordeal we cannot go into now owing to a lack of time.

That is why we call today for the liberation of all our prisoners. We also demand that the families of the prisoners be allowed to visit them, via Quneitra.

Such are the living conditions of the workers in Palestine and the occupied Syrian Golan.

Thus, the International Labour Organization has submitted a number of programme proposals which are somewhat modest in terms of content, but which show that it is no longer possible to abstain from putting forward initiatives, despite the political reasons, the military checkpoints and other obstacles.

Today we are looking at the ILO's proposals. We thank the Organization for this initiative and we hope, above all, that this assembly will issue a true condemnation of the conduct of the Israelis and will call on Israel to respect the principles of international humanitarian law, the International Charter of Human Rights and the instruments of the ILO, especially the Conventions ratified by Israel, but also those fundamental labour Conventions prohibiting discrimination in employment and imposing respect for freedom of association and trade union freedom.

Thirdly, the neutrality of the member States, the positive responses to their action programmes and the active diffusion of decent work programmes in the countries concerned. In this regard, I would like to mention the positive initiative which has led the social partners in my country, Syria, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Regional Director of the Beirut Regional Office, Ms Nada Al-Nashif. This was then followed by the programme implementation stages, beginning with the strengthening of capacity, then the preparation of the social security reform programme in Syria, programmes for the eradication of the worst forms of child labour, the improvement of the labour inspectorate and the work environment, especially in small enterprises, strengthening of private sector and NGO participation in social programmes and a study of the informal sector and the role of women in society.

In this regard, I feel I should refer to an extremely important point which appears on the agenda for our Conference and which is contained in Report V, entitled *Skills for improved productivity, employment growth and development*. This Report addresses a subject which could be of great interest to countries affected by a relative deficit in terms of education and vocational training. The issue in question is the importance of the development of capacities in the improvement of production and its impact on the various economic and social indexes, especially if macroeconomic policies favour the members of the most disadvantaged categories. As a part of its economic policy, the Syrian Government tries to compensate for rising prices through a col-

lection of programmes and specific support funds, such as social benefits, subsidies for agricultural products, export allowances, wage increases and the creation of vocational guidance and training centres.

All of these programmes are implemented taking account of future needs and resources, in accordance with technological progress and the evolution of working conditions. While we feel that we have many reasons to thank the Organization, as represented by the Director-General, we would also wish to make a request that the steps being taken to reduce the bureaucracy and red tape involved in implementing programmes be accelerated. We also hope that there will be a wider scale discussion on the results of the implementation of the programmes in the different countries. We would like to see the appointment of consultants, experts or directors, working part time in the countries where the programmes are being implemented, in order to guarantee secure, precise and speedy implementation.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you all, in particular Ms Nada Al-Nashif and the staff of the ILO Beirut Regional Office.

Mr TOLICH (*Worker, New Zealand*)

I thank you for this chance for the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions to address the plenary today.

The Report outlines the importance of the ILO to all workers, and New Zealand workers are no exception. In the last eight years, New Zealand has gone from being a country that caused great concern within the ILO, due to its very poor labour laws, to a country where workers are again able to engage fairly in collective bargaining. Unions are legitimate social partners, and freedom of association is respected. Alongside this, we have seen significant improvement in the minimum employment codes, including increased wages and leave, and all of these changes are underpinned by the core labour standards.

We are, however, facing significant challenges ourselves in the New Zealand union movement. We have an election this year, and New Zealand workers have the choice between re-electing a worker-friendly Government or electing a hostile one. The main opposition party has a poor reputation on employment law and the recognition of unions, and it has voted against all of the recent improvements to the law. It was the current opposition when in government in 1991 which introduced employment law clearly in breach of the core ILO labour standards. We have no indication that, if elected again, they would not repeat this type of approach. We are doing our best to ensure New Zealand workers know of the choices available at this election and vote to elect a government that will comply with the ILO and protect conditions for New Zealand workers.

As a union movement, we are all considering how we expand union representation to all workers. This is an issue most union movements around the world are facing. It is the reality that, in many countries, union representation is becoming a privilege rather than a right. If it were a right, it would be easily accessible to all workers. Traditional forms of employment legislation, lack of union resources and the continuing changing economy results in many workers not being offered union representation.

In New Zealand, only 22 per cent of workers enjoy the right of union membership. Research shows that many others would join the union if asked.

What is clear is that unions within the current traditional framework are not in a position to offer these workers union membership in an effective way. The reality is that many workers in the New Zealand workforce may never be unionized within the traditional concept of joining a union. There will be no union delegate at the workplace to approach them, and they will not have the type of workplace where filling in a union membership form will be viable. Even if union membership is offered, the nature of the work may mean that little immediate advantage occurs to the worker despite that membership.

The New Zealand unions are considering whether or not engagement with these workers may involve a different form of union participation than traditional membership. It might require a different type of employment law, and ultimately, because this is a worldwide issue, a different kind of approach by the ILO to its understanding of union representation.

This is a complex issue and not one to which we have the answers but what is clear is that New Zealand is a country that would meet most of the expectations of the core labour standards but the outcomes for many workers are not what was imagined when these standards were agreed.

It was appropriate that the SILC Committee at this Conference went back to examining the expectations of the Declaration of Philadelphia. The Declaration was underpinned by social justice, through representation by unions, where workers have a genuine choice to be represented by a union or not; and those that do would have a real say at work. Our challenge, and the challenge of the ILO, is to map out what that means in the modern world of work and develop approaches that deliver that outcome.

Original Arabic: Mr CHAOUCH (Minister of Social Affairs, Solidarity and Tunisians Abroad, Tunisia)

The Report of the Director-General on decent work once again reflects the central position held by the ILO in the UN system, a place which is constantly strengthened by the global consensus around the decent work programme.

Allow me to express my congratulations on the praiseworthy efforts of the Organization – soon about to celebrate the 90th anniversary of its creation – to develop an efficient structure capable of making optimum use of its financial and human resources so that it can support the efforts of member States to promote fair globalization and balanced societies.

The inclusion on the agenda of the Conference of the question of strengthening the capacity of the ILO, for the second time, also testifies to the interest shown in this question.

The annual Report of the Director-General shows that the situation of workers in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories has deteriorated severely, remains a source of major concern, and runs counter to the most basic human rights.

As part of its constant support for the just Palestinian cause, Tunisia reiterates its appeal for support for the regional and international efforts to grant our brothers, the Palestinian people, their legitimate rights and an independent State, while promoting a lasting, just and global peace for all peoples of the region.

Tunisia also calls on the ILO and its tripartite constituents to give new momentum to the technical cooperation programme in Palestine aimed at pro-

moting employment and reducing poverty, in order to meet the growing needs of the Palestinian people living under the unfair regime of the State of Israel.

The Global Report of the Director-General on freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to organize illustrates once again the importance of this issue when it comes to introducing social peace.

In order to reinforce the right to organize, Tunisia has ratified the Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No. 135), and adapted its legislation to the provisions of this Convention.

By way of consolidating the right to bargain, Tunisia is currently holding a new round of negotiations in the public and private sectors. It is the seventh round since 1990, and it is expected that, like the previous rounds, it will lead to an improvement in regulatory provisions and to an agreement on wage increases spread over the next three years.

In order to promote and improve skills and human resources, Tunisia has introduced a major reform of its vocational training system to enable its trainees to acquire the skills necessary to master modern labour methods and techniques.

This year we have introduced a new skills certificate as well as a professional baccalaureate. We have modernized distance learning methods. We have created vocational training schools throughout Tunisia. We are doing everything to further lifelong professional advancement, apprenticeship and training.

Under the impetus of His Excellency, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and with an eye to ensuring a close correlation between the economic and social aspects of development, Tunisia provides the basis for a dignified life and for the social advancement of all layers of the population, especially in underprivileged areas so that we can create a united and balanced society. A number of mechanisms have been introduced to fight poverty, to promote employment, and to make health care and social security available to everyone. These programmes are mainly aimed at the most disadvantaged areas in order to reduce poverty. They have lowered the poverty level to 3.8 per cent this year, compared to 6.2 per cent in 1995, and have expanded the middle class to 80 per cent of the population.

Reports published by the UN show that Tunisia's policies have made it possible for the country to attain the Millennium Development Goals before 2015.

The economic and financial crisis which the world is witnessing at the moment is initially likely to have a negative impact on the human development indicators in developing countries and to threaten international peace and security. That is why the international community, more than ever, must intensify its efforts to consolidate the principle of solidarity amongst peoples and States.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the appeal by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to all rich oil-producing countries to levy US\$1 per barrel of oil as a contribution to world solidarity and to allocate it to the World Solidarity Fund that the United Nations has decided unanimously to set up on the proposal made by our President, Mr Ben Ali, in 1999.

Original Arabic: Ms RIACHI ASSAKER (Government, Lebanon)

The 2008 Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work is based on two central principles: freedom of association and collective bargaining, in addition to other principles, the most important of which are equality, justice and dialogue, since there cannot be successful negotiations with a view to concluding a new social contract if these elements are not present.

We appreciate the Director-General's efforts and the relevance of the arguments contained in his Report, which is all the more important for highlighting the weaknesses and the problems of the world of work. It is for us members of the Conference to show the same diligence and courage in the realization of our objectives.

Lebanon has not yet ratified Convention No. 87, but the discussion on this subject continues at all levels with a view to its ratification.

Lebanon has taken steady steps in order to achieve complementarity among the social partners despite political differences and major differences in ways of facing change. There is no doubt that the principles contained in Conventions Nos 87 and 98 recognize the natural rights of workers, and their implementation is very important if we are to create an environment favourable to decent work. Hence both Conventions have had positive consequences for both workers and employers. We cannot examine social, political and economic realities without taking account of the fact that the world has become a small village where means of communication have speeded up cultural and social exchanges, and that we have entered a new era of seeking the best for humanity.

On account of its geographical location between the three continents of Asia, Europe and Africa, Lebanon is a crossroads for the exchange of information, experiences, skills and culture. Lebanese society has rapidly entered a phase of modernity and evolution, to the point that Lebanon has been called the "Switzerland of the East". We must emphasize the role of different governments which have created a favourable political and social environment, free of all forms of discrimination, particularly between men and women. The culture and democracy of Lebanon have opened many doors for women, who have occupied important political and administrative positions in the Lebanese State and distinguished themselves in the fields of creativity and innovation. Certainly there are still problems which we are examining and seeking to resolve in accordance with international standards. We believe in rapid change but we want such change to be well thought out. It is always important to take time to find the best solutions.

Lebanon is one of the founders of this Organization and one of the first countries to sign the International Bill of Human Rights. Its Constitution respects public freedoms and the primacy of law and social justice, and it excludes all forms of discrimination, whether racial or religious.

Imagine this small country of nearly 10,000 square kilometres, with a population of 3 million, and which has nearly 700 trade unions and 60 workers' and employers' federations, and where women have played a major role in the public sector and in the activities of civil society. In this country, the trade unions can express themselves freely, and

the Government does not intervene in the way they work or in what they do. What is labelled interference by the Government is certainly exaggerated and does not correspond to reality. Freedom of expression is respected in theory and practice, and nobody can place any limits or restraints on it. The Ministry of Labour has created the right framework for cooperation between the social partners, and a committee for cooperation and coordination between the three partners – Government, employers and workers – has been established. We have also encouraged the trade unions to establish a democratic dialogue within trade union circles.

Adopting the principle of direct collective bargaining has opened the way for Lebanese workers to improve certain services provided by the Government, such as social subsidies, just as the Government has paid special attention to the rural environment, providing the means of subsistence and resistance in the face of economic change. Lebanon has been subjected to violent attacks aimed at destroying its economy and the basis of its society, but, thanks to the determination of the Lebanese people, Lebanon has been able to take major steps with regard to respect of fundamental rights. It has encouraged freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, it has abolished all forms of forced labour and achieved the effective elimination of child labour. As stated previously, it is clear that it is not enough to pass laws. The most important thing is to ensure that the laws are enforced.

The content of Convention No. 87 is currently the subject of in-depth discussions with a view to adoption and ratification of the Convention. It should be noted, however, that the first step was to adopt measures authorizing public servants to establish trade unions. We hope that in the near future we will be able to complete the legal procedures enabling public servants to join trade unions, and that we will be able to ratify Convention No. 87.

The same applies to Convention No. 98, discussions of which are well advanced. Collective bargaining has become the basic principle of negotiations between the social partners. This is demonstrated by the fact that collective agreements have been signed in numerous sectors, especially banking, and also in various Government institutions. We sincerely hope that the name of Lebanon will soon appear on the list of countries which have ratified Convention No. 87, and we hope that the Organization will understand the difficult circumstances which Lebanon has been experiencing and which have delayed ratification of the Convention.

We would also like to emphasize the importance of international cooperation in the establishment of fair rules concerning fundamental rights at work and the condemnation of all forms of violation of such rights. We strongly support the fundamental rights of workers in occupied Palestine and in the other occupied Arab territories, who are suffering exploitation and violations of their rights. We also affirm our support for the struggles of workers in all countries where fundamental labour principles and laws are flouted.

Finally, we would like to commend the efforts of the Director-General in producing this report and wish to recall the examples quoted in it, and also the technical cooperation programmes proposed by the Organization, underlining the need for following up these programmes and adapting them to change. We wish everyone involved in seeking the welfare of

workers every success in their fight to achieve justice and equality for all.

(Mr Tabani takes the Chair.)

Original Arabic: Mr RHMANI (Minister of Employment and Vocational Training, Morocco)

Our world is undergoing changes. Economic changes today are the result of globalization, a globalization that is evolving very rapidly and which has consequences for industrial relations, the system and future of social protection, and forms of employment.

With the increases in the cost of energy and basic commodities, economic and social development is often impeded in many countries, especially developing countries. Industrial relations are deteriorating and this is detrimental to the social climate and the realization of workers' fundamental rights unless the international community takes urgent action.

The Kingdom of Morocco, under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, has over the past few years established a range of social policies to combat poverty and vulnerability, promote jobs and generate income, put in place mechanisms of social protection, combat illiteracy and promote vocational training programmes. Such measures form part of integrated policies, the most important of which is the national initiative for human development and policies to improve the situation of children and promote gender equality.

A number of institutions and mechanisms have been created with that aim in mind and are working in partnership with civil society institutions. Progress has been made towards the adoption of a compulsory health insurance scheme.

A number of social dialogue campaigns have been organized recently with a view to modernizing national labour legislation in the public and private sectors, developing social services and strengthening trade union freedom. In all these areas, progress has been made despite divergences that arise for various reasons including the increase in energy and basic commodity prices.

Our country has made considerable efforts to limit the effect of these phenomena on purchasing power of citizens by providing subsidies. The Government will continue its consultations with the social partners in order to pave the way for a new cycle of social dialogue which is due to begin in September.

Ten years have passed since the adoption of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. We have considered the Report: *Freedom of Association in practice: Lessons learned*. This document, which is submitted to the Conference, is of great importance, given the positive effects of freedom of association on labour organization and the development of industrial relations, and its crucial importance to the true exercise of all the rights enjoyed under labour legislation.

As the Report states, the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining is essential to the promotion of democracy, good labour market governance and the conditions for decent work. Our country is currently examining possible ways of overcoming the legal obstacles to the ratification of Convention No. 87. At the same time, we have enacted a modern law on collective bargaining, basing it on international labour standards, including in particular the Collective Bargaining Convention,

1981 (No. 154), and the Collective Bargaining Recommendation, 1981 (No. 163). Collective bargaining has thus been formalized and its tripartite mechanism defined with the establishment of a higher council for collective negotiations.

As regards the social rights of employees, they would be meaningless without social policies defining the responsibilities of enterprises with a view to realizing decent work.

As regards the Report: *Decent Work: Some strategic challenges ahead*, which is regarded as the successor to the Report presented at the previous session of the Conference on decent work and social protection, we regard this Report as an essential Conference document which should guide us in the development of national policy.

I would like to thank the ILO for its technical co-operation activities in the occupied Arab territories aimed at combating poverty and develop industrial relations, in view of the serious deterioration of the Palestinian economy over a number of years as a result of the blockade imposed on the Palestinian people which has had disastrous social consequences. I call on the international community to ensure that this unjust blockade is lifted, so that the right of the Palestinian people to a decent life is protected, and to allow the creation of an independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds as its capital.

I would like to take this opportunity to affirm the unwavering support of the Kingdom of Morocco for the peaceful settlement of regional disputes on the basis of international agreements.

Mr SUBRAMANIAM (*Minister of Human Resources, Malaysia*)

The phenomenon of poverty is pervasive and poses a multitude of challenges to all governments of the member States. This year's discussion on the promotion of rural employment for poverty reduction is relevant and provides a platform to engage the social partners in identifying the nature, magnitude and changing patterns of rural employment in the world. In addition, globalization has brought about changes that have widened the income disparity between the "haves" and the "have nots". The emerging global scenario of rising food and fuel prices is expected to worsen the poverty situation, both nationally and internationally.

In Malaysia, the Government has taken a serious view of the poverty situation and has addressed it uncompromisingly. In 1970, an estimated 50 per cent of the population was below the poverty line. The Government's relentless efforts to eradicate poverty by transforming the economy from an agricultural to an industrial and service-based economy has been instrumental in reducing that figure to 3.6 per cent in 2007. This endeavour has contributed towards sustainable economic development. The well-strategized short- and long-term development plans have resulted in the creation of employment that has enhanced the well-being of our society, both in the rural and urban areas. The country has moved up the economic ladder substantially and the social imbalance has been minimized, despite it being a multiracial country. In this regard, I believe the comprehensive strategy and the attainment of the Global Employment Agenda, as highlighted in the Report, is vital for the promotion of employment in the rural areas.

We are confronted with our fast-changing and turbulent global economy. Understanding the dynamics and determining workable strategies to meet

the challenges requires inputs from various stakeholders. Tripartism is the bedrock of industrial harmony. In this context, Malaysia strongly upholds the spirit of collaboration among the social partners to ensure economic growth. This conducive industrial climate is a testimony to the cordial relations between employers and workers. Employers are rightly concerned about productivity and performance. An organization's competitiveness is essential to ensure growth and job creation. It is also imperative for workers to be competent, productive and disciplined for organizations to stay relevant and competitive. The Government plays a crucial role by facilitating social dialogue to ensure harmonious industrial relations and to create a "win-win" atmosphere.

In this regard, this year's Report: *Skills for improved productivity, employment growth and development*, which was discussed during the Conference, rightly provides the impetus to move forward.

In Malaysia, in order to fast track the national skills training programme, the Government has launched the National Blueprint for Skills Development and Training from 2008 to 2020, on the theme of "Skilled Workforce – Driving Global Competitiveness in Malaysia". Malaysia aspires to develop a competent and holistic workforce. This will not only address the changing economic scenario, but ensure better wages for employees as the nation moves up the value chain.

It is duly recognized that the ILO has played a meaningful role by assisting member States in addressing labour-related issues. Nevertheless, we should not be complacent about the achievements thus far. We believe more can be accomplished by the ILO through its presence in the regional setting. Representatives of the International Labour Organization in the regional offices should have regular communication with the member States of the region to better understand labour-related issues and provide appropriate technical assistance, taking into account the national aspirations of each country. In complementing those efforts, the ILO has a responsibility to constantly review and update ILO instruments in the light of a rapidly changing environment and to suit current needs.

Malaysia supports the efforts of the Governing Body and the Director-General of the International Labour Office in finding a solution to the issues of financing for the purpose of renovation of the ILO headquarters building. We take note of the Governing Body's decision concerning a sale of a plot of land belonging to the ILO for this purpose. In this context, Malaysia, together with other Members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Troika, have put forward a proposal to the Director-General of the ILO for this plot to be sold to interested members of NAM, given the difficulties faced by them in acquiring suitable property for their diplomatic facilities in Geneva.

Malaysia welcomes the continuation of the discussion on strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization in the agenda of the Conference.

Decent work is undeniably fundamental to people's basic aspiration for a decent life. Malaysia supports the ILO's mission to promote the Decent Work Agenda internationally. But it is important that the member States are allowed to set their pri-

orities, and the speed at which each of these components can be achieved.

Malaysia has also implemented the Decent Work Agenda of the ILO with the development of other strategic plans from 2008–10, on the theme of “Realizing decent work”. Our Decent Work Agenda focuses on six priority areas: the creation of job opportunities and the protection of workers’ rights; ensuring harmonious industrial relations; resolving industrial disputes with fairness and justice; implementing dynamic safety and health practices at workplaces; developing a competitive and skilled national workforce; and providing adequate and appropriate social security protection.

We hope to make this Agenda a reality through our corporate vision, which we call “Smart Partnership for Common Goals”.

In conclusion, the topics scheduled for discussion in this Conference affect every member of the Organization. I therefore look forward to a fruitful discussion, focusing on the pragmatic approaches to address these issues.

Mr KIM (*Employer, Republic of Korea*)

The Director-General’s Report suggests that we should seek solutions for decent work which are tailored to the varying needs of different age groups. The proposed “life-cycle” approach seems very relevant. Likewise, the Decent Work Agenda should be implemented with a flexible approach, with account being taken of national diversity and the economic development phases and not merely a “one size fits all” approach.

It is inarguable that decent work is the ultimate goal towards which we should strive; but when the absolute number of jobs is insufficient, the priority in policies needs to be placed on increased employment opportunity, so long as the jobs created are not contrary to the principles of human dignity. Only then does decent work apply. The best solution to the social polarization problem is more jobs.

The Director-General’s Report points out the negative effects of the “financialization” in the context of globalization. In fact, financial instability is felt throughout the world since the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the United States. The instability, however, is attributable to our institutional deficiencies such as poor financial supervision, rather than “financialization” itself.

Given that the high volatility of financial capital might threaten the real economy, we need to come up with proactive measures to avoid the risk, and to develop sound markets, so as to ensure more jobs for this newly emerging industry. Indeed, the development of the financial industry is indispensable for a continuous growth of the traditional chimney industry, which has a high capacity of job absorption.

The new Government in the Republic of Korea, which took office in February this year, has set “job creation” as one of its top policy priorities, and is making every effort for deregulation and the enhancement of corporate competitiveness. In step with these efforts by the Government, Korean employers are also trying to increase investment and competitiveness, so that we can achieve early tangible results with respect to job creation.

I believe that now is the right time for the ILO to devise an employment cognitive strategy. ILO needs to establish a system by which a polished measure, a technical cooperation programme or a new or revised Convention and Recommendation

can be evaluated in advance with regard to their possible contribution to job creation. For this, each and every policy action and programme should be assessed for their impact on employment before and after they are adopted.

As suggested in the Director-General’s Report, it is important to expand the ILO’s knowledge base and research capacity, in order to make it stronger. Still, it should be compatible to the practical purpose of job creation.

We cannot overemphasize the need to reinforce tripartism. However, an increased number of participants do not always guarantee enforced tripartism. Expansion of the participants should be accompanied by representativeness, expertise and efficiency.

I want to see a more pragmatic ILO next year, when the Organization celebrates its 90th anniversary. I expect a report that some member States have just succeeded in creating a sizeable number of jobs, thanks to the ILO’s support and technical co-operation.

Original Portuguese: Mr FONTES LIMA MONTEIRO (Minister of Labour, Family and Solidarity, Cape Verde)

As a Member of this important Organization, Cape Verde has throughout its history strictly respected labour rights and other social rights in a climate of social peace and constant improvements to our democracy.

It is our view that strategies to promote rural employment in order to reduce poverty and to promote skills in order to increase productivity should form part of the action of the public authorities in our countries, on the basis of three fundamental principles for sustainable development, namely economic, social and environmental development, which certainly complement each other.

Like most countries represented here, in Cape Verde poverty and unemployment are also present in rural areas and mostly affect young people and women who are heads of families, despite the fact that the most recent figures suggest a considerable improvement in the living conditions and well-being of the people of Cape Verde and which puts us in a good position to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Given the current world food crisis, and more precisely the increased prices and shortage of cereals and the vulnerability of our country, being in the Sahel region, the Government of Cape Verde made it a priority for this period of office to reduce poverty and increase decent work, in particular in rural areas where these problems are acute.

Aware of this phenomenon, the Government of Cape Verde has been pursuing public policies to reduce poverty with, for example, the national anti-poverty campaign in rural areas, which is having a strong impact on the development of skills, the creation of jobs and the financing of local income-generating initiatives, and also the programme to diversify and modernize agriculture, based in particular on training, the regulation of water catchment areas and basins and the exploitation of natural resources to bring about greater productivity, to satisfy the basic food needs of the population.

In order to meet the challenges of a fair globalization, full employment in rural areas, increased productivity and skills, and the need to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the Government of Cape Verde adopted some important instruments,

including a new Labour Code, already in force, whose texts were thoroughly discussed and agreed with the social partners, and a Memorandum of Understanding signed by all the social partners, which consists of an agreement on strategic consultation for the legislature and regulation of the micro-finance sector.

My country also recognizes the need to strengthen the capacity of the ILO so that the nature and principles which guide this Organization will continue to reflect the concerns of each of our countries, that the worldwide agenda of this Organization be fulfilled and that tripartism in the world of work be strengthened, thus contributing to reducing poverty and promoting full and productive employment throughout the world.

Finally, I reiterate the wish that this session of the Conference is successful and that the bonds which unite us will be even further strengthened to achieve a fair globalization and more social justice.

Original Spanish: Mr HERNÁNDEZ WOHNSIEDLER (Minister of Labour and Social Security, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

We represent a people who, apart from during the war of independence against the Spanish empire, has been subjected to oppression from major world powers. There is something paradoxical about our history: we have immense natural resources and yet extreme poverty in our country. Our natural resources and the value added by our workers have lined the pockets of the most powerful nations in the world and, at the same time, have caused capital flight from our country and the impoverishment of the Venezuelan people.

This situation is similar to that of the so-called "Third World" countries. The transformation of this reality represents the challenge that we Venezuelans want to face. In accordance with the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, education and work are the means available to us to meet the lofty objectives of the State.

The independent development of the nation is inconceivable without the emancipation of the workers. That is why trade union unity is a condition for our development. The historical bloc of social classes capable of bringing about the speedy development of our country, which is made up of the working class, farmers, the middle classes and the bourgeoisie, needs the working class to take a lead role. These workers, who make up nearly the entire population, are being targeted by the action taken by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The payment of the labour debt, the annual increase of salaries, the medical care given to millions of people, including those in the most remote areas of the territory, free education plans ranging from pre-school age to university education, the implementation of housing plans, the broadening of social security and the granting of disability and old-age pensions to an increasingly greater number of individuals are all elements that have been included in programmes that we have initiated in our country.

Over the period of one year we have taught reading and writing skills to 1.5 million people, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was declared by UNESCO to be an illiteracy-free territory in 2005. Extreme poverty fell from 20 to 9.4 per cent of the population in 2007, and for 2005 we have achieved

our Millennium Development Goal of 12.15 per cent.

Important financial and technical resources have been dedicated to farmers and farmer cooperatives have been promoted with the aim of these measures being to level living conditions in rural and urban areas. We have nationalized a steel company called SIDOR CA. It was in the hands of a transnational enterprise. We nationalized it because of ongoing violations of the rights of workers, and a collective agreement was signed, the most beneficial collective agreement in the history of that enterprise.

This policy has met with the resistance of the main plunderer of our wealth. In little more than nine years we have suffered from coups d'état, oil sabotage, lockouts, assassination threats, public statements by high-ranking officials of the North American Government, including President Bush, against President Chávez and attempts to obtain condemnation by international organizations. All these activities have come to no avail because a powerful popular movement, including the armed forces, has thwarted those plots.

We have enjoyed the solidarity of the peoples of the world, especially workers, who have refused to accept what was sought to be imposed by the most powerful empire in history.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is promoting decidedly the integration of Latin American and Caribbean countries, and a basic requirement for this is the social integration of workers. We need to tackle the food and environmental crises together. We enjoy relationships with all countries, but we give priority to the countries of the so-called "Third World".

The Venezuelan Government condemned the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan, and we have withdrawn our ambassador from Israel as a sign of our solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The unequal exchange between nations, the exploitation of one social class by another, discrimination on the basis of race or gender and the exploitation of rural areas by urban areas must come to an end. We describe our Bolivarian revolution as being a revolution of national liberation in transition towards socialism. The hallmark of our revolution is full democracy and full freedom. No media has been censored or shut down, no political party has been harassed, the operation and the creation of no trade union have been hampered, and, despite the action taken to destabilize the Government, amnesty has been decreed for those persons indicted on charges before the Venezuelan courts for involvement in the 2002 coup d'état.

We put forward a reform of the current Constitution to dispel any doubts that could be interpreted as being a violation of ILO Convention No. 87. The referendum of 2 December 2007 rejected that reform. Nevertheless, the National Electoral Council has adopted an electoral regulation for trade union organizations so as to prevent any interference from taking place.

The Bolivarian revolution is guided by the age-old values of civilization, namely, truth, justice, freedom, equality and solidarity. We are committed via democratic means to bring about the changes that come from the depths of our history and we are inspired in doing so by the example and thinking of our liberator, Simón Bolívar.

Original Arabic: Mr HABIB (Minister of Employment, Social Inclusion and Vocational Training, Mauritania)

I am very pleased to be participating in this session and to be examining the Global Report devoted to an essential aspect of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights: freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Juan Somavia and congratulate him on his excellent Global Report and on the quality of the Report with regard to the situation of Palestinian workers in the occupied territories. We agree with him on the importance of a fair globalization which takes into account the struggle against poverty and the need to guarantee decent working conditions for all workers.

Our country has ratified the ILO's core Conventions. This has involved the passing of the necessary laws, such as the Labour Code and its implementing regulations. This legal framework has consolidated trade union pluralism in our country. We have more than ten trade union confederations, not counting the numerous trade unions which are not affiliated to these confederations. This year, thanks to the fruitful cooperation with the International Labour Office, Mauritania has scheduled free and lawful trade union elections in order to determine the level of union representativity of these confederations.

Allow me to point out that the Mauritanian Government has adopted social dialogue as a guideline a social dialogue in all its development strategies. It is in this context that last month, collective bargaining took place, which gathered the social partners together in order to find appropriate solutions to all problems faced by workers.

My country's Government has also set up an employment strategy to combat poverty and create jobs by focusing on vocational training and greater coordination between the labour sector and the sectors responsible for the country's economic policies.

Parallel to all these efforts, the national agency for youth employment is finalizing a number of job-creation programmes for young people by encouraging self-employment.

Furthermore, revenue-generating programmes and labour-intensive programmes aimed at the poorest categories have been established.

With regard to labour conditions, we continue to strive to improve these conditions. For example, the minimum wage was increased by almost 100 per cent for the period 2006–07, and our Government has again approved a wage increase for civil servants of almost 10 per cent as of July 2008. A special programme to compensate for the price rises is in place for low-income workers to enable them to benefit from cooperatives offering low-priced goods.

Furthermore we are working on preparing a national programme to improve the coverage of social security in our country. Our country is therefore continuing its efforts to promote the labour sector and to provide dignified and decent working conditions for all our workers, despite the economic challenges we face because of globalization today, which are mentioned in the Director-General's Report.

In conclusion, I would like to renew our thanks to the ILO for its ongoing technical support to our sec-

tor and, on this occasion, I would like to wish all of you every success at this Conference.

Original French: Mr NKILI (Minister of Labour and Social Security, Cameroon)

The Decent Work Agenda and its four pillars: standards, employment, social protection and social dialogue, are at the heart of the concerns of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon.

From a standard-setting point of view it is worth mentioning that my country has ratified the eight fundamental Conventions which constitute the rights of workers in their professional environment. We are applying these *de facto* and *de jure* and through the PAMODEC II project and the ILO is assisting us in bringing national standards into line with the fundamental Conventions freely ratified. After the validation of the national study on the effectiveness in Cameroon of the ILO Declaration related to the fundamental principles and rights at work, the findings of which pinpoint obstacles to the implementation of these Conventions, Cameroon will, at the end of the month, introduce a study on the process of bringing national texts into line with the fundamental Conventions. The main objective of this study is to evaluate and identify all national texts that do not conform to the international Conventions, and to propose texts that either modify or repeal them.

On the subject of employment, the Declaration on National Employment Policy has been developed and will shortly lead to the shaping of a national employment policy.

On the subject of social protection, one of the major challenges of our country is to extend social security coverage to all workers, both in the formal and informal sectors, and those of the rural world. We hope that the ILO will assist us in this process as indeed it has done in the past.

Finally, social dialogue, thanks to its key instrument, the Synergy Committee, is enabling us to solve social problems in the various sectors of activity. As well as this instrument, Cameroon also has the National Consultative Committee for Labour, which is the main tripartite decision-making body in the field of labour.

To end, Mr President, through me, Cameroon would like to express its support for the activities of the Director-General in the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda. We encourage him to continue along this course and we ensure him of our unflagging support for the implementation of the programmes initiated in Cameroon.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the ILO and in particular the Director-General for the assistance provided to my country in numerous areas.

Original Arabic: Mr. ALLAM (Employer, Egypt)

The issues we are discussing are vital, especially those concerning the social partners and the realization of the Organization's objectives.

At the moment, our world is living through very trying economic crises. The food shortage recently announced in many countries clearly points to the need for cooperation between the various institutions to cope with these crises.

We, the representatives of the employers' organizations of Egypt, believe firmly in the social responsibilities incumbent upon us and in the role we should play to bring about mutual assistance and

communication between the social partners to the benefit of society as a whole.

The employers in Egypt contribute towards providing a wide range of social services. This is a duty we willingly take upon us, because we are aware of our responsibilities as representatives of the private sector and believe that no category should be privileged over any other.

We also believe in the importance of training as a means to improve the capacities of workers and help them increase their wages and living standards. In Egypt, we are, at present, contributing substantial funding to a training programme covering all occupational categories, which provides continuous training – thereby allowing competent workers to earn adequate wages. This training is dispensed in specialized centres in various regions throughout the country, or at factories or within production units. It is provided by a vocational training body which covers 80 per cent of the training costs, i.e. the trainers' wages and equipment used during the courses.

We, in the Egyptian Union of Industries – which represents employers in Egypt – believe that we have a duty and obligation towards a society that has encouraged us and allowed us to succeed. We are also working in the interest of workers, because the different training services that we provide help to train good workers who are committed to their tasks. In return, we help to create a society in which employers are appreciated for what they do, and this consolidates their economic role.

This prestigious Organization, the ILO, which aims to serve both workers and employers and had made decent work its primary objective, strives for the respect of workers' rights so that they might live their lives in dignity and play a productive role in society. It is for that reason that we call upon the right of Arab workers in the occupied territories to have decent work and a life of dignity, commensurate with the objectives of the ILO. The only way to guarantee this is to put an end to the occupation of the territories in Palestine and in the Syrian Golan.

Mr SWEENEY (*Worker, United States*)

It is the 60th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 60th anniversary of the ILO's adoption of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention 1948 (No. 87).

It is also the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and once again under the Declaration's follow-up procedure, we are reviewing the two core Conventions on freedom of association, Nos 87 and 98.

Freedom of association, respect for international workers' rights, and labour standards for workers, governments and employers are at the very core of this Organization. Tripartism is at its heart.

The work of this Conference is crucial to promoting decent work for all, as are the discussions of the Committee on the Application of Standards and the Committees on strengthening the ILO's capacity, rural employment, and skills. For us in the AFL-CIO, the American Labor Movement, the Director-General's Global Report: *Freedom of association in practice: Lessons learned*, is one of the highest priorities because freedom of association is essential to prosperity and equality for working people around the globe. Sadly, the Director-General's Report

notes the truth that the United States, along with China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, India and Brazil – together representing about half of the total labour force of ILO member States – have not ratified the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87). While the conditions vary greatly in these countries with regard fundamental to human rights, labour rights and freedom of association, the Report states that “no significant action towards ratification has been taken over the last four years in these countries”. We are, however, hopeful that the Brazilian Senate will complete the ratification of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), in the near future and we appreciate the good faith efforts of the Brazilian Government. The fact that the United States has not ratified either the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), or the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), while 94 per cent of the other ILO member countries in the Americas have ratified of Convention No. 87, and 91 per cent have ratified Convention No. 98, is clearly shameful. In the United States, independent polls show that 44 million more workers would join a union if they were not intimidated by employers.

Legislation has been introduced in the United States Congress entitled “the Employee Free Choice Act”, which will reform our labour law, enabling workers to fairly choose if they want a union. We intend to do something about that this year and elect a president who will sign it. The United States labour law must be changed to ensure that workers can freely join unions, that large categories of workers currently excluded are protected, and that our laws effectively promote collective bargaining.

The United States elections in November 2008, will give working families in America the opportunity to make the changes our nation so badly needs.

Mr LEE (*Worker, Republic of Korea*)

As we all know this year marks the 60th anniversary of one of the most important ILO Conventions, the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87). Unfortunately, according to the ILO's Global Report this year, some 33 States out of a total of 181 ILO member States have yet to ratify this Convention. I also note that Convention No. 87 is the least ratified of the eight core ILO Conventions. Freedom of association is a fundamental human right that goes hand in hand with the right to collective bargaining. It is therefore important that non-ratifying governments take immediate measures to ratify and implement this Convention.

The Government of the Republic of Korea is no exception. Although it made a commitment to ratify Conventions Nos 87 and 98 during the ILO High-level Mission that took place in March 1998, there has been no progress since then. This is unacceptable particularly since the labour rights situation in the country is one of the worst of all the OECD member States. The practice of arresting trade unionists, using police brutality to quell trade union activities, and other forms of repression, continues to this day. Recently, the President of the Allianz Insurance Union was detained and charged for carrying out his duty, namely organizing strike actions. Also, the leadership of the Migrant Trade Union, an affiliate of the KCTU, was forcibly deported in

March this year. Last November, the Government had already conducted a similar form of repression. These deportations are clearly targeted crackdowns aimed at suppressing trade union activities. The Government should stop this repression and respect the basic labour rights of migrants regardless of their migrant status.

Ten years ago, a very significant step was taken towards the improvement of industrial relations after decades of repression. For the past six years, however the KCTU has never been able to exercise its right to collective bargaining owing to lack of relevant provisions implemented by the Government. In the case of the Korean professors' union, it has not even been recognized as a legal union. I therefore strongly urge the Government, under the new administration of Lee Myung Bak, to immediately launch a process to ratify ILO Conventions Nos 87 and 98 and to reform labour laws and systems to bring them into full compliance with the ILO principles of freedom of association.

I am here today with key leaders of KCTU affiliates representing essential public services such as railways, gas, and power generation. In my country, there are three layers of legal obstacles to these workers exercising their right to strike. They include the replacement of up to 50 per cent of workers, the obligation to maintain essential operations, and emergency mediation systems while compulsory arbitration systems have been abolished. The Government should amend the labour laws in line with the recommendations of the ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association, which has called for limitations on the scope of essential services in the strict sense of the term, thus ensuring the right to strike of these workers.

I also must mention the daunting fact that more than 55 per cent of employees in my country are on irregular contracts – including part-time, temporary, daily, or contracting arrangements. Employers frequently abuse irregular employment and are reluctant to offer permanent employment, in order to maximize profits at the expense of workers.

One recent example is KOSCOM, the Republic of Korea's stock exchange's irregular workers' union, which has been denied the right to collective bargaining. Urgent action is required to limit the use of irregular workers.

Another issue I would like to highlight is the plight of former "comfort women" who were ex-

ploited as sex slaves during the Second World War. The KCTU regrets that the case of comfort women was not discussed in the Committee on the Application of Standards. This case is a matter of fundamental human rights and human dignity. I therefore urge all of ILO constituents to make every possible effort to discuss this case in the Committee on the Application of Standards next year.

We are facing new challenges such as speculative capital, multinational corporations, free trade agreements, the WTO, and climate change, in an era of neo-liberal globalization. Neo-liberal policies make workers more vulnerable regardless of whether they are from developed or developing countries. Currently, there is an increasing trend towards the use of informal and irregular workers who are not protected by labour laws. At the same time, workers' living standards are worsening as a result of privatization of public services such as education and health care.

In this respect, it is very critical to strengthen ILO capacity. I believe that the initiative of decent work for all can be a wide-ranging measure to tackle new challenges which go beyond the role of enacting international standards and supervising and monitoring their implementation.

Additionally, the KCTU wholeheartedly welcomes the tripartite discussion on ILO capacity building and fully supports the Declaration on Social Justice and a Fair Globalization.

Finally, as I address this plenary, millions of workers and their families in the Republic of Korea are joining in peaceful candlelit vigils and protests to express their concerns about the new Government's neo-liberal policies such as privatization, in particular, the agreement to lift the ban on imports of United States beef. The KCTU fully supports and joins in this national protest, which I believe will serve as a further cornerstone of Korean democracy.

I strongly urge the Government to listen to people's demands and to stop the violence against peaceful protestors. It is time for the Government of South Korea to take immediate action in line with public opinion.

Finally, I would like to conclude my speech by paying tribute to our union member, the late Mr Byung Ryul Lee, who sacrificed himself in a recent protest. Our thoughts are with his family and relatives.

(The Conference adjourned at 1.20 p.m.)

Tenth sitting

Tuesday, 10 June 2008, 3 p.m.

President: Mr Louh, Ms Diallo, Mr Salamin

Original Arabic: The PRESIDENT

Ladies and gentlemen, I am particularly pleased to open the tenth sitting of this session of the International Labour Conference.

Before starting our work I shall give the floor to the Clerk of the conference for an announcement.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE 1997 INSTRUMENT OF AMENDMENT TO THE ILO CONSTITUTION BY CAPE VERDE

Original French: The CLERK OF THE CONFERENCE

I have the pleasure to announce that Cape Verde has accepted the 1997 Instrument of Amendment to the ILO Constitution.

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

Original Arabic: The PRESIDENT

We shall now proceed with the presentation and approval of the report of the Standing Orders Committee which can be found in *Provisional Record* No. 2-2. I give the floor to Ms Mabel Gómez Oliver, Chairperson and Report of the Committee to present the report.

Original Spanish: Ms GÓMEZ OLIVER (Government, Mexico; Chairperson and Reporter of the Standing Orders Committee)

It is an honour for me to submit to the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference, the report of the Standing Orders Committee, which met on 30 May and 4 June 2008. The report of the Committee is contained in *Provisional Record* No. 2-2 where you can find more information about the discussions that took place at those two meetings of the Standing Orders Committee.

The Standing Orders Committee examined five items that were submitted to the Conference by the Governing Body. These five items were the following: first, proposed amendments to the Standing Orders of the Conference regarding the verification of credentials; second, we considered an amendment on the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee; third, amendments to promote gender equality; fourth, we considered a number of corrections aimed at harmonizing different language versions and updating references in the text of the Standing Orders; and, finally, the last item on the agenda of the Standing Orders Committee was the revision of the Rules for Regional Meetings.

The Governing Body had made recommendations on each of these items, which were in turn taken up

by the Standing Orders Committee as the basis for its decisions. So, on the first item, the Standing Orders Committee recommends to the Conference that it adopt permanently the *Interim provisions* concerning the verification of credentials which, as the name indicates, were adopted by the Conference in 2004 on a provisional basis for a trial period which runs out at the end of this session of the Conference.

On item 2, the Standing Orders Committee recommends to the Conference that it adopt an amendment to article 5, paragraph, 1 of the Standing Orders of the Conference so that the plenary of the Conference can set up the Credentials Committee at its first sitting immediately after the opening of the session without having to wait for a proposal from the Selection Committee. If this recommendation were adopted, it would enter into force from the next session of the International Labour Conference.

On item 3, the Standing Orders Committee recommends to the Conference that it adopt the amendments to the Standing Orders aimed at promoting gender equality. These amendments modernize the Standing Orders and bring it into line with the ILO Action Plan for Gender Equality, which was adopted by the Governing Body in November 2007.

On item 4, the Standing Orders Committee recommends to the Conference that it adopt a number of minor corrections to the wording of the text to update it and align the various language versions.

Finally, on item 5, the Standing Orders Committee recommends that the Conference confirm the revision of the Rules for Regional Meetings, which was adopted by the Governing Body in March this year. Consistent with this Governing Body decision, the introductory note to the Rules for Regional Meetings will be revised by the Office on the basis of the amendments to the Rules and will be submitted to the Governing Body for consideration in November this year.

With that, I conclude my presentation of the work done by the Standing Orders Committee. I hope that the proposals made through me by the Committee will be adopted by the Conference. In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the distinguished members of the Committee for their enthusiastic participation in our work. I would like, in particular, to give my special thanks to the Vice-Chairpersons of the Committee, Mr Jorge de Regil Gómez of the Employers' group and Mr Ulf Edström of the Workers' group, for their very valuable contributions to this work.

If nobody wishes to take the floor, we will move to the approval of the report of the Standing Orders Committee. This report comprises 34 paragraphs and 2 appendices. I propose that we approve the paragraphs all together. If there is no objection may I take it that paragraphs 1–34 are adopted? Adopted, they are adopted.

(The report – paragraphs 1–34 – is approved.)

The report also contains two appendices which we are going to approve. The first relates to amendments to the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference. Are you ready to approve Appendix I of the report? I see no objection.

(Appendix I is approved.)

The second appendix relates to the Rules of the Regional Meetings. These Rules were amended, inter alia, like the Standing Orders of the Conference, in order to have gender-neutral language. I would recall that the Governing Body recommended to the Conference the adoption of this modified text. Are there any objections? I see none.

(Appendix II is approved.)

Thirty-four paragraphs of the report and its two appendices have been approved. May I take it that the report of the Standing Orders Committee as a whole is now approved?

(The report, as a whole, is approved.)

I would like to thank the Officers of the Standing Orders Committee for their hard work and commitment, and also the members of the Committee and its secretariat for their contribution.

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

We will now resume the discussion of the reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General.

Ms PALLI-PETRALIA (*Minister of Employment and Social Protection, Greece*)

Mr President, ministers, excellencies, vice-presidents, I would like to start by thanking the Director-General for his Report, *Decent Work – Some strategic challenges ahead* that is before us. Mr Somavía has been leading our Organization during the past nine and a half years with efficiency and wisdom, and this is why the Greek Government would welcome his re-election.

The challenges currently faced at the global level, and widespread poverty in large parts of the international community, make it more necessary than ever before for us to stress the importance of the European social model, which encompasses our values and principles: freedom, democracy and respect for human rights. These values underline the priority that must be given to strengthening security for all citizens in the form of full and productive employment and decent work for all. This main challenge is also highlighted in the above Report of the Director-General. It underlines decent work as a parameter of stability and sustainable development.

As a parameter of stability, decent work is a major instrument to reduce threats and exploit opportunities resulting from international economic environmental and social developments.

As a parameter of sustainable development, in respect of the concept of security at work, the continuous fight against poverty, exclusion and discrimination provides the strength that our world needs to face economic crises and the resulting social imbalances.

We must remain focused on increasing the impetus of decent work, which provides a link between the increase of productivity, the enhancement of competitiveness and economic growth in general, and the social necessity of distributing the benefits of such growth equitably.

Social cohesion established through quality at work is a major achievement of such a mechanism. We must emphasize the promotion and protection of the quality of work by means of furthering the Decent Work Agenda as the main aim of the International Labour Organization. In this respect, we welcome the recent adoption by the SILC Committee of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. It is evident that this aim, both at global and at national levels, is not only to create more jobs but also to secure the conditions for better jobs, and this double challenge demands brave and steady steps towards reforms. My country is currently taking these steps.

Greece is realizing its plans for development which are producing measurable results at all levels, based on structural reforms. I would like to mention as examples the high development rate and decrease in unemployment. These reforms serve a final purpose: the integration of all into a society of equal opportunities and the establishment of a strong economy that can create increased wealth, which shall be redistributed to all in a more equitable manner.

Within this framework, we are continuing our efforts towards more extensive welfare benefits for all and a better targeted social expenditure, by putting special emphasis on the elimination of regional imbalances through promoting employment and strengthening the particular competitive advantages of every region in the country.

In this context, our main priority remains the model of full employment and quality at work, which is supported through policies targeted at youth and women, as well as through the extension of protection to all forms of employment, and also by means of facilitating access to decent employment for the unemployed.

At the same time, we have also proceeded to the reform of the social security system, aiming at the creation of a healthy and solid basis that guarantees sustainability and the required modernization of the system.

Moreover, in order to respond to the problem of poverty and social inequalities, in January 2008, we created the National Fund for Social Cohesion. This is a decisive step forward.

Though the problem of poverty will not be eliminated miraculously, I believe that we have set the basis to change things. Therefore, Greece indeed supports the aims of the International Labour Organization towards full and productive employment, having enshrined fundamental principles and rights at work, in its respective national policies.

Consequently, every effort to secure full and productive employment for workers as a whole, and every new link created to strengthen the connection between economic growth and social prosperity shall have not only our agreement, but also our active support.

We shall support every action that translates declarations into tangible benefit: a true value for the citizens that we all represent.

In order to achieve equality in work and life, we must invest in solutions that apply to everyday life, and that always constitute a step towards the better world that all of us are trying to build.

Mr MAVRIKOS (*World Federation of Trade Unions*)

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.” This is how article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948 reads. We have to wonder then, are those millions of human beings around the world who are dying from hunger and lack of water not protected by the Declaration? Thousands of people and children living in conditions of slavery are not benefiting under the Declaration. What can the eight hundred million migrant workers who are living in conditions of complete penury, on only US\$1 a day, expect today from the Declaration?

The considerable debts of poor countries, of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the exploitation of their wealth-producing resources by transnational companies in conformity with the Declaration, the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, the attacks by Israel against the people of Palestine and against the people of Lebanon. Do all of these not violate the Declaration?

All this underlines that we, the International Labour Conference, cannot forget that there is still a serious lack of trade union rights all over the world, and that massive violations of those rights are still taking place.

Another negative which must also not be repeated in the future concerns the Governing Body elections held a few days ago. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which I read out to you at the beginning of my speech, talks about the principles of equality and rights, about logic and about the principle of mutual respect. Are those principles reflected today in the composition of the ILO's Governing Body? The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) is the oldest international trade union organization, founded in 1945, and has a rich militant history and activity. Yet it is today excluded from the Governing Body Workers' group. Is this in accordance with the principles and priorities of the United Nations and of the ILO?

Does this fact reflect any respect for democratic and trade union rights? We all understand that this situation is detrimental to the ILO's prestige, objectiveness and representation. We want an ILO that is pluralist and open to all ideologies without exclusion or discrimination. The WFTU, together with the independent trade unions and democratic trade unionists, will continue its struggle until the end. It will develop an intensive action plan with many demands. To make the election mechanism democratic and proportional and to end the monopoly of all the international organizations and independent bodies need to be represented on the basis of their asymmetrical power through proportional represen-

tation and a rotation system without exclusions and without anyone being treated unfairly.

We wish to declare in public that in the forthcoming elections of the ILO Director-General, we, together with our affiliates and friends, support the re-election of Mr Juan Somavia. We are certain that in the next three years, with his personal creative efforts, positive steps towards the representative composition of the Governing Body will be taken. Since the 15th Congress of the WFTU, the WFTU has been following a new course, it lives in a new period. We are open to acting jointly with trade unions at international, national and local levels, in the interests of the working class against the monopolies and the capitalists. We are open to undertaking common initiatives irrespective of ideological differences, colour, race or language; to resist despite poverty, hunger, thirst, exploitation, or wars; and to act to promote the friendship of the people and international peace. This is, for us, the true meaning of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and this is how we pay tribute to its 60th anniversary.

Mr YUSOF (*Minister of Home Affairs, Brunei Darussalam*)

Brunei Darussalam applauds and also shares other colleagues' appreciation of the comprehensive Report of the Director-General regarding Decent Work, which acts as a guide for our consideration as the prime mover of the Decent Work Agenda.

Brunei Darussalam recognized the ILO as an important institution responsible for promoting international labour standards, social protection and security based on the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the Decent Work Agenda. As one of the recent Members of the ILO, Brunei Darussalam will always strive to undertake labour matters echoing the ILO standards or guidelines.

To date, the conditions of employment in Brunei Darussalam are in a positive state. Employers are aware of the need to fulfil their responsibilities to employees and to the community. The working environment in Brunei Darussalam is such that it supports harmonious negotiations and consultations among tripartite members.

The review of labour regulations and legislations is a key element in the Government's effort to promote a harmonious and sound labour relations environment that is conducive to enterprise and economic development in collaboration with the social partners. This resulted in our new labour laws almost being finalized, namely the Employment Order and the Workplace Safety and Health Order. The new Employment Order takes into account the promotion of decent work and the benchmarking of best practices in labour matters, echoing ILO standards. This new Order also promotes better working conditions, and security and protection of labour rights in the country, whilst the new Workplace Safety and Health Order will strengthen and enhance the safety and health environment of the workplace.

This new legislation is the result of very extensive and intensive social dialogue among tripartite social partners and relevant agencies. Such collaboration and coordination among us expresses how we work in harmony and collaboration and underlines our commitment in Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Darussalam supports the elimination of child labour. Children are our hopes for the future. They should be nurtured and not exploited. We

have recognized the importance of education since childhood as the basic foundation for the future growth and development of the well-being of the people.

Brunei Darussalam introduced new legislation known as the Compulsory Education Order 2007. The main objective of this Order is to ensure that all children between the ages of 6 and 15 years, who satisfy such conditions for receiving primary and lower secondary education, should be formally registered and receive appropriate education in schools. This is one of the initiatives in supporting the nation's economic growth and human resource development. At this auspicious session, I am pleased to announce that Brunei Darussalam has ratified the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). This shows our strong opposition to the exploitation of children and the practice of child labour or anything associated with it.

The findings of the Global Report submitted to this 97th Session of the International Labour Conference provided informative feedback. In this context, it is in our strategic plan to look at our current Trade Unions Act and Trade Disputes Act which were introduced in 1962.

We also noted that this year's International Labour Conference agenda includes a topic on the promotion of rural employment for poverty reduction. The Government on this matter has always encouraged participation of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and individuals to be more responsible and actively participate in helping the community to be more productive and committed to their own well-being to eradicate poverty in our country. This is where community empowerment comes in. Such endeavours are composed of various projects and programmes both in urban and in rural areas.

In our continuous efforts and commitment towards enhancing sustainable economic and social development, Brunei Darussalam has taken steps to facilitate the community by continuously investing not only in education but also in medical and health care, housing infrastructure and basic necessities such as telecommunications, electricity and other public facilities. The provision of free education is available to all in both rural and urban areas. People in the community have equal opportunities to improve themselves through education.

Another key strategy to eradicate poverty is through the development of marketable human resources. In this respect, Brunei Darussalam is actively embarking on its human resources development programme to equip the population with more knowledge, skills and expertise, in order to ensure greater employment opportunities not only in the government sector but also in the private sector. This programme was also run in tandem with Brunei Vision 2035, which aims to establish Brunei Darussalam by that year as a nation to be widely recognized for the accomplishment of its educated and highly skilled people. This coincides with promoting education, training and a culture of lifelong learning, as well as to develop and upgrade the competency of our workforce.

One of our self-sustaining and empowering programmes, managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs through the District Office, is the building of community centres and commercial amenities for communities to venture into the business sector and the informal sector. Such a strategy indeed supports

the community to be more active, productive and self-reliant, which affects employment growth and development.

Other programmes include the provision of various incentives, such as the provision of a paddy price subsidy scheme, basic infrastructure support facilities development, an improved farm management system and other support programmes for rural farmers, the provision of microcredit facilities, and a basic infrastructure for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

In conclusion, the Brunei Darussalam delegation looks forward to sharing new knowledge and information regarding world labour matters and issues. We hope that we will be able to move together towards implementing decent work programmes in ensuring sustainable socio-economic development.

Original French: Ms GOSSELIN (Government, Canada)

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to address the participants of the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference. As the Director-General notes in his Report, globalization is opening new opportunities for economic growth through technology, investment and trade. The challenge for all of us is to identify and pursue policies to ensure fair economic growth, which goes hand in hand with sustainable social progress.

The Government of Canada has a policy of addressing labour issues with its free trade partners. Our labour cooperation agreements include commitments to protecting internationally recognized labour rights and principles and also to effectively enforce labour laws. They also provide a framework for cooperation in order to address labour issues. Through technical cooperation, the ILO assists the parties to these agreements in respecting their commitments.

Earlier this year, the provincial, federal and territorial ministers responsible for these issues approved a strategy based on enhancement of social dialogue and commitment to ILO issues. All of the ministers expressed their support for the mission and objectives of the ILO. They also agreed on the need to modernize the ILO.

Canada's ILO reform agenda is based on three components: strengthened governance; more principles-based standards; and a greater emphasis on practical action in the field that will improve the lives of people.

It is timely for this Conference to consider how the Organization's institutional practices could be strengthened to enable it to better respond to the needs of its Members. The non-binding promotional declaration to be adopted by the Conference recognizes decent work as a fundamental objective and seeks to promote integrated implementation of the ILO's strategic goals. It further recognizes the need for the ILO to enhance internal governance, to increase its knowledge base, develop strong partnerships and make more effective use of its resources, in order to help its constituents to build capacities and realize decent work at the national level. We support the broad objectives of this declaration, although we would have preferred a shorter and more focused document.

The future of the ILO also depends on its ability to respond effectively to the challenges of globalization and to find its place within a reformed United Nations system. In this context, we commend the Director-General's initiative, which en-

gages the ILO within the “One UN” strategy. We support the ILO’s efforts to build partnerships, particularly in the field, with the collaboration of other international organizations, focusing on areas within the ILO’s core mandate where its expertise and its tripartite structure bring added value.

Alongside better governance, a modernized approach to setting standards that are better suited to contemporary social and economic realities is essential. Priority must be given to reviewing, consolidating and updating ILO standards, in order to ensure that they are more meaningful, more relevant, to today’s workplaces and amenable to broad ratification and implementation. But a well-run organization with modern instruments will make a positive difference to the lives of workers and employers only if it is present and active on the ground. The Organization must therefore place greater emphasis on evidence-based analysis and offer practical assistance to its Members to enable them to meet the challenges of the global economy.

I wish to reiterate Canada’s support for the ILO and for the Decent Work Agenda. I also encourage this Organization to move forward with sensible reforms to ensure that it can effectively respond to the changing workplaces of the twenty-first century.

To conclude, I would like to congratulate the winners of the 2008 Decent Work Research Prize – Mr Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel prize-winning economist, and Harry Arthurs, Canada’s leading labour law academic. It is an honour for us that such a prestigious award should have been awarded to a Canadian who, throughout his long and distinguished career, has contributed to the advancement of decent work.

Mr SANDRASEKERA (*Worker, Sri Lanka*)

The Director-General has succinctly encapsulated the salient issues relating to the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. It is absolutely topical that the Global Report is focused on freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

In this regard, I would like to recall the statement of the Global Unions and International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) to the 2007 Annual Meeting of the IMF and the World Bank that took place in Washington on 20–22 October 2007.

Global Unions, after analyzing the various issues confronting particularly the poorer countries of the world, called for a reform of the decision-making structures of the international financial institutions (IFIs) so as to increase the representation of developing countries and to make their operations more transparent, for example, by publishing full reports of board meetings and introducing an open and merit-based selection procedure for the heads of the institutions.

Global Unions have focused on the need for increased coherence between the IFIs and other multi-lateral organizations, including the ILO, to accelerate progress towards the achievement and realization of the Decent Work Agenda and the creation of jobs that provide adequate wages and social protection, and that respect core labour standards.

At this moment in time, there is a serious onslaught on freedom of association and collective bargaining on account of the continued convulsions that countries like my own, Sri Lanka, are experiencing because of escalating fuel prices and the

non-availability of food in adequate quantities at affordable prices.

It may be noted that some governments, inextricably linked to the processes of democracy, are unwittingly infringing on the rights and the freedom of association of workers. Some employers, as well as some government institutions, invoke the intervention of law courts to obtain injunctions against workers’ organizations to block them from exercising their fundamental right to engage in industrial action to win the just demands of the workers.

Collective bargaining and collective agreements are being seriously challenged by the steady and unchecked upward spiral of the prices of goods and services. Consequently, unions entering into collective agreements are faced with the prospect of breaking contractual obligations in terms of agreed wage rates which have become out of date with current prices and the prices of services. Obviously, the remedy lies in linking collective agreement-based wages to the movement of the cost-of-living index providing for the automatic adjustment of wages in tandem with the cost-of-living index and the rate of inflation in each country.

The huge increase in the price of oil affects only the consuming countries and can easily be pegged if oil companies that are cashing in on the price vortex begin to think in terms of social conscience and moderate their huge profit margins. There is no justification for the ruthless quest of profit in the face of the misery that the workers and the ordinary people are suffering given the monolithic weight of oil company profits.

In addition to this global scenario, you are no doubt aware of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka since 1983. As a result of the dismantling of a ceasefire agreement there has been retaliatory action by government troop forces and the militants resulting in the death and maiming of civilians which is taking a high toll on the lives of innocent people.

However, amid this grim scenario, the Government has continued to fulfil its obligation to the ILO by adopting a national plan of action under the Decent Work Agenda and increasingly focusing on productivity, employment growth and development, which is an item on the agenda of this session of the Conference.

So, we have the good, and the not so good, situation in my country, and worldwide. I hope that goodwill will rule the roost in the not too distant future and we can look forward to a better tomorrow.

Original Chinese: Mr HU (*Government, China*)

The Chinese Government applauds the efforts made by the ILO over many years to promote decent work.

The Director-General’s Report *Decent Work: Some strategic challenges ahead*, another piece of evidence of the ILO’s commitment, has outlined challenges to implementing the Decent Work Agenda and has chartered the course for the future of this Organization.

Mr President, dear colleagues, as I am speaking from this podium, my country is still experiencing the great anguish brought to us by a massive earthquake of a rare severity. Since 12 May, tens of thousands have died, hundreds of thousands have suffered injuries and millions have been made homeless. Tens of millions were affected by the earthquake.

However, China has not been beaten by this tragedy. The Chinese people, in a spirit of unity and solidarity, are fighting this natural disaster bravely and endeavouring to rebuild their homes under the strong, effective and orderly arrangements of the Chinese Government.

I am proud of my country, and I am proud of my 1.3 billion countrymen. I am also grateful for the care and support that the people of the world have offered us since the disaster hit one month ago. What you have done has made us feel that we are not alone facing this massive catastrophe, and we are warmed and encouraged because you are with us.

In the face of a disaster of such magnitude, China is striving to move ahead and rising to the challenges and difficulties in respect of human resources and social security. While the earth was still trembling after the major quake, human resources and social security authorities at all levels across the country began all-out efforts to safeguard rights and protect against injuries at work.

Firstly, we made urgent allocations of government funds and social security funds in order to guarantee medical treatment for the affected people in the stricken areas.

Secondly, we provided work injury assessments, indemnity and compensation in a timely fashion, for workers who were injured in their workplace as a result of the earthquake, and in disaster relief action later.

Thirdly, we expressed sympathy and provided services to migrant workers from the stricken areas that were working in other areas, and provided telecommunication access to help them to contact their families.

We also provided a transportation facility for those who requested to go back to their home towns and look for their families, and arranged paid leave for them as much as possible, ensuring the payment of their salary and maintaining their labour relations.

Fourthly, we arranged for the key vocational schools to receive students from earthquake hit areas until they complete their studies, and priority was given to junior and senior middle school graduates among the earthquake orphans.

Fifthly, we reinvigorated efforts for employment assistance in earthquake hit areas, collected employment information suitable to people in the stricken areas from a broad range of resources, and helped them to be employed in labour-receiving localities. We emphasized cash-for-work initiatives and encouraged enterprises in the earthquake-hit areas to employ those affected by the disaster in the reconstruction process by providing job subsidies and social security allowances. We also provided micro-loans and other preferential policies to encourage people in these areas to start their own businesses. We salvaged and recovered social security data damaged during the earthquake without delay and used the reserve fund to issue a timely and full payment of pension and other social security benefits.

We organized one-to-one assistance. Each of the human resources and social security authorities across the country is helping one of their counterparts in an earthquake-hit area to rebuild service windows for the public. This programme involves agencies, such as labour market and social security agencies.

These measures testify to the governing philosophy of the Chinese Government that is putting people first and building an harmonious society.

We believe that the successful implementation of these measures will also serve as a new example and offer new experience for the realization of decent work.

Disaster will be gone and life will go on. The Chinese Government will continue to strengthen exchange and cooperation with ILO Members, share experience and information, advance ILO capacity building and translate consensus on decent work into more positive actions.

Let us work together to achieve economic development, poverty alleviation and decent work for a fair globalization.

Mr VARELA (*Employer, Philippines*)

Not too long ago, decent work was just a mere concept in the minds of its initial advocates. Now it is more than an idea. It has become an agenda, a call to action which, in the words of the Director-General in the Report to the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference *Decent Work: Some strategic challenges ahead*, should “make working life better everywhere”.

The realization of the Decent Work Agenda on a global scale has been the central focus of the ILO since the start of the advocacy of this most important, necessary and laudable theme. Consequently, this issue, which first appeared on the ILO agenda in 1999, has now become a fully-fledged force that has resonated across all regions and won the support of a good majority of the world community.

Progress has been made on translating the ideal of decent work into reality. The desired momentum, however, has not been achieved. There are new formidable restraining forces in our world’s social, political and economic environment, which we must grapple with. In fact, the signposts along the way speak of strategic challenges. As pointed out by the Director-General, there are many difficulties in translating decent work-oriented policies into practice.

Foremost of these challenges is the prevailing global financial crisis that is seriously affecting the world economy and hurting countries both big and small. What started as a problem in the sub-prime lending in the home mortgage market in the United States has, like a virus, caused a worldwide epidemic in the highly interconnected global financial system.

The early signs of recession in the United States, which still stands out as the world’s leading economy, has serious repercussions for the rest of the world. A drastic slow down in American consumer spending is not only causing disturbing ripples for countries that have the United States as a primary export destination: the coming of a period of recession can mean shockwaves. The most disadvantaged sector stands to suffer most.

As if the disturbances in the world of finance are not enough, we are confronted with oil and food soaring prices, which to our dismay have recently reached unprecedented levels. The direct correlation between these sad developments and the sustainability of the war against poverty and hunger, particularly in developing countries, cannot be over-emphasized. In graphic terms, the real issue for so many around the world is one of sustainability, let alone economic growth.

For all its intended benefits, the emergence of a globalized economy has not really and effectively created a level playing field for all. The wider reach of the big players, with their large production and distributions networks, coupled with their financial muscle and dominance in technology, has virtually denied small players a fighting chance.

Another dark part of the global scenario is the spectre of terrorism which has exacted a heavy toll, and continues to torment the societies where it has spread its tentacles. In our state of interconnectivity, the problem of one is also the problem of all. In the global village we carry a common burden. We share the same horizon.

Where, then, do we go from here?

The Report of the Director-General to the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference *Decent Work: Some strategic challenges ahead* is a timely roadmap that can guide all stakeholders in taking the Decent Work Agenda forward until a point is reached when it becomes a reality for all. The real challenge is how to stay on course in the midst of the storm. This challenge is within our grasp. With a unity of purpose and a solidarity of spirit in the pursuit of the Decent Work Agenda, we shall prevail and succeed.

Under the institutional leadership of the ILO and in close partnership with all its stakeholders at international, regional and national levels, we are confident that we shall be able to navigate through the troubled waters. There is no turning back. We must move forward with a resolute will.

Original Arabic: The PRESIDENT

In accordance with the rules of procedure, we have to hear a point of order raised by the Government representative of Serbia.

A Government delegate of Serbia

Thank you Mr Vice-President. We know that Mr Rasic is listed as, I quote, representative, United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. I would like to draw attention to article 2, paragraphs 3, subparagraph (b), of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference, which refers to the right of admission to sittings of the Conference, and according to which "representatives of official international organizations which have been invited by the Conference or the Governing Body" can be represented at the Conference.

We note at the same time that Mr Rasic is, in fact, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG)-Metohija in Kosovo.

Bearing this in mind, in fact, the Republic of Serbia considers that he, as a member of the PISG, cannot represent the UNMIK administration. The representative of the UNMIK in this, and any other conferences, can only be international civil servants, which is not the case with Mr Rasic. Therefore, we request that the name of Mr Rasic be withdrawn from the list of speakers and replaced with any other accredited member/international civil servant who can, in accordance with UN Security Council's Resolution No. 1244, represent the UNMIK.

Original Arabic: Mr PRESIDENT

Given the fact that a point of order has been raised by the Government delegate of Serbia, I would now like to give the floor to the ILO's Legal Adviser in order to obtain a legal opinion and an explanation

on the point that has been raised by Serbia – the matter on which a point of order was raised.

The LEGAL ADVISER TO THE CONFERENCE

Mr Nenad Rasic has been regularly accredited as a member of the delegation of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to this 97th Session of the International Labour Conference. The accreditation has been signed by Mr Joachim Rucker, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and by the same letter, dated 14 May 2008, Mr Rucker conveyed to the Director-General of the ILO and Secretary-General of this Conference the request for Mr Rasic to take the floor in this plenary. This is the situation, so the Office does not see any legal impediment to Mr Rasic taking the floor.

Mr RASIC (representative, United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo)

On behalf of the UNMIK Kosovo, I have the great privilege and honour to speak to you today, and to present to you the great difficulties that we face in creating a society in which there will be equal opportunity for every community that lives in Kosovo.

In creating this kind of society, we are faced with a high unemployment rate and severe poverty which is terrifying for any individual who believes that there are no hungry people on the "old" continent.

In Kosovo, 44 per cent of people are unemployed and 15 per cent of our people are experiencing extreme poverty and struggling to survive as they try to meet their basic human needs. Seventy per cent of the population is under 30 years of age, a fact that provides a great potential and a strong advantage when this group becomes part of modern society in the European Union.

Our vocational training centres are organized to meet international training standards in all areas of potential employment. However, even by using our total training capacities, we can train only 2 per cent of our unemployed per year. To find a solution to this problem, we need to develop a partnership that will lead to a stable and long-term cooperation with the European centres that have a long tradition of training and the capacity to meet the highest professional and technical standards.

Kosovo invests in its youth. We have strategies for strengthening human resources and advanced plans for increasing employment, but we do not have a final product. We cannot provide enough employment opportunities for our young people regardless of their training and qualifications. We do not yet have an economy that is strong enough to absorb all those who are willing to work. We do have great labour potential, but at this moment, this potential is a baggage on our back and a problem for the whole Balkan region in creating a stable economic environment, which we desperately need after all the years of misfortune.

The biggest challenge facing the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in Kosovo is to do something concrete that will give hope to the people and enable them to use their positive energy and channel it in the right direction. Creating a positive environment for employment is the main policy objective of my Ministry because if we do not have work for our people, we will not have the capacity to care for the people who depend on us for their social security needs and a decent standard of living. We cannot achieve these objectives by ourselves. We

need your help, the help of our friends – those individuals, organizations and countries that understand the importance of social and economic stability in society.

Plans and proposals are many, but there are also many obstacles. We need to find a sustainable, long-term solution that will lead to the stabilization of this part of the Balkans. We understand that those problems cannot be solved in a short period of time. We know that achieving a permanent solution will require a long process of struggle for everyone, but with your help, I believe that we can succeed.

One area in which we can start is to develop concrete opportunities for our youth in seasonal or educational employment. Experience and knowledge that our young people gain in other countries would be implemented in building our young society and in building a productive future for Kosovo.

This kind of support would be crucial in rebuilding the trust of all of Kosovo's people in a stable economic future. This is in the best interests of all the people of Kosovo.

I would also like to use this opportunity to ask all of you at this Conference – international employers' organizations, international workers' organizations, governments, all social partners – to be our friend and partner. Join us and help us to build a new inclusive society full of opportunity for the future of all of Kosovo's people.

I am convinced that it is in the best interests of all of us to have economic and social peace in Kosovo and in the Balkans, because this is the only way that we can bring peace to Kosovo. With your help, we can build a better future for everyone. I would once again ask all of you to meet our target because we really want to be a constructive partner for the benefit of all the nations of the Balkans.

Ms UDDÉN SONNEGARD (*State Secretary, Ministry of Employment, Sweden*)

I am honoured to be here today and to take part in this important Conference. The outcome of this Conference might even be called an historic event. I have understood that the work on globalization has been very successful. To me, it is a sign of the effectiveness of the tripartite machinery of the ILO that we now are on our way to adopting a declaration that will assist member States and the Office in pursuing decent work.

First of all, Director-General, allow me to welcome your Report *Decent Work: Some strategic challenges ahead*. The Director-General's answer to the dilemma of globalization is clear. The Decent Work Agenda could be a powerful tool, which can be used in developed and developing countries to establish a necessary balance in the economy.

Sweden supports this approach. Implementing the Decent Work Agenda is part of a valuable process to remove scepticism towards globalization. We need to challenge globalization through a combination of economic development and sustainable social systems that can handle change.

To this end, the key to success is to facilitate employability, adjustment and lifelong learning, topics that also have been discussed at the Conference.

Let me now turn to this year's Global Report, the third one on freedom of association. It is an excellent Report, full of thought-provoking detail. The promotion and realization of freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to organize remain the core tasks of the ILO. I note with satis-

faction that progress in achieving wider ratification has been made during the last four years. Still, it is of great concern that the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) is the least ratified of the eight fundamental Conventions, and that a large proportion of the world's employers and workers is unprotected by this instrument.

The principles of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) are applicable to all workers and employers in every ILO member State. No doubt we should explore new ways of further promoting ratification. However, ratification means little if the instrument is not implemented effectively. Grave violations, such as harassments, imprisonments, disappearances and violence, including killings of trade unionists, still occur, as well as anti-union discrimination and interference. Globalization and a growing willingness to act transnationally give all ILO constituents new opportunities to promote the application of freedom of association and the right to organize. Corporate social responsibility, trade agreements and international framework agreements are good means, which the Swedish Government is also promoting and exploring.

We know that workers who are unionized earn higher wages, work fewer hours, receive more training and have longer job tenure than their non-unionized counterparts. Collective bargaining is an influential determinant of labour market outcome.

To conclude, I am convinced there are ways to meet the challenges amply illustrated by this Conference. Most important, the ILO has, this June, provided us with a new Declaration that I hope can be of great value in upgrading the social dimension of globalization.

Original French: Ms MILQUET (*Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Employment and Equal Opportunities, Belgium*)

Given the key issues facing us at this Conference, I really felt it was essential that I attend in person. I would like to begin by most warmly thanking the Director-General for the high quality of his Report, the relevance of its analysis regarding global instability and also the proposals that it puts forward.

The Report raised one of the most complex and urgent national and international issues, which can be summed up in a few simple words: How can we give globalization a human face and how can we help the Office within the family of multilateral organizations to attain that objective and how can we ensure that work is not considered as a commodity?

We certainly cannot say that the Director-General failed in his duty to alert us regarding this issue, which is both highly political and institutional. He has put before us proposals to strengthen consensus on the basic principles of decent work, which should now serve as an inspiration, or even a model for our national policies, as well as for international cooperation.

I am delighted to welcome this innovative approach, and I see that the four essential principles of development of employment, social security, social dialogue and respect for standards, are now becoming indissolubly linked, and this in itself constitutes significant progress.

On behalf of Belgium, I would like to express the strongest possible support for the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. This follows on very smoothly from the 1998 Declaration on

Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Declaration that was initiated by Michel Hansenne, and indeed complements it in an intelligent and effective fashion, in particular in setting out the fundamental principle which states that failure to respect standards cannot result in comparative advantage.

As Minister for Employment, I would like to make clear both our expectations and also what we are prepared to commit ourselves to, because it is all very well to say, what can the ILO do for its Members, but it is also essential that we think about what we, the member states, can do for the ILO.

Firstly, regarding Belgium's expectations, I would like to begin by saying that we have every confidence in the Director-General and in the Governing Body concerning the implementation of this Declaration. Like the European Union, we would like to emphasize the importance of a number of indications when it comes to the implementation of the text. The follow-up, which we, along with the other EU countries, strongly recommended, must be credible if the aim is to set out the structure of ILO activities concerning decent work over the next few years.

The Office must from now on undertake to organise itself better, with internal governance, in order to respond to the needs of the members, who wish to implement the principles of decent work.

As to our second wish, in order to meet the many challenges referred to by the Director-General in his Report, regional consultation regarding ILO objectives must, in our view, be encouraged.

I noted with interest that we are dealing here with an objective of the European Regional Conference and, in that regard, I will certainly ensure that this Conference really is a first test for the political will to implement the Declaration.

The strategy on decent work has to tie in very closely with the European Union strategy in that regard and vice-versa. The EU, I believe, could further enhance its contribution to the Decent Work Agenda.

With this Declaration, it will now have a benchmark document that it can use as an inspiration for further reflection on how best to improve and further develop its integrated strategy, the so-called Lisbon Strategy. This strategy should, in particular, better express the modernization of employment and social protection policies in order to give social content to flexicurity and to ensure that it can further stimulate and enhance social dialogue in a greater number of non-traditional areas. It should also continue to focus on social rights.

As a country that will assume the Presidency of the European Union in 2010, I can assure you that we will do our utmost to ensure that decent work is fully integrated within the forthcoming development of the Lisbon Strategy and I will be taking this up at the next meeting of the Council of Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs that should look at the forthcoming social agenda.

We must also, however, make the Decent Work Agenda a reality, in partnership with the other multilateral agencies. The ILO cannot do it alone. The Belgian Government, therefore, would like to see policy and practical consultation taking place between the agencies. This kind of inter-agency co-operation will give rise to a global governance approach capable of understanding and imposing real progress in terms of social justice in and between all

the regions of the world. This type of concerted approach will allow us to remove borders and to take a broader unblinkered view, which includes economic management, social and global environmental concerns. Such a vision would reconcile the three indivisible poles of a fair, new world order. When are we going to see a strong ILO/WTO joint declaration, for instance, to give voice to some kind of joint vision in this area?

While we certainly share the vision of a policy of encouragement and non-binding incentives, we wish to maintain the ILO's vital role regarding standard setting and the creation of global social legislation which will gradually cover an ever-greater number of people. Standard setting has always been a priority for Belgium and will continue to be so.

What, then, are the commitments that we are willing to enter into under the auspices of this strategy. Each and every government must commit itself to developing and highlighting the national Decent Work Agenda and this is illustrated very clearly in the Report where the Director-General indicates the many ways in which it is possible to transpose experience from one area to another. I will certainly ensure that, at all levels in Belgium, we do have the same strategy fully integrated within the policies and practices that we follow and I believe that success will depend upon the extent to which each State is able to shoulder its responsibility domestically but also at international level.

Last week, I went on a working visit and I saw that, in fact, decent work is really a "tool box". It is something that is recognized by development agencies throughout the world today. We need to use it to enhance the quality of development policies because that is what is essential, particularly when it comes to fundamental rights, employment, social dialogue and social protection without, of course, overlooking the important issue of equal opportunity.

I can certainly tell you that you can count on Belgium. Thanks to you, from now on we are actually going to be a deputy member of the Governing Body and we wish to serve what we believe to be a profoundly moral cause. In the twenty-first century, when society is becoming increasingly fragmented, we need to create a new model, based on tripartism. This is essential for balanced political governance of any kind. It is certainly something we have traditionally been very committed to in Belgium. We, therefore, have expertise in this area and we can certainly share it with the ILO. We have Luc Cortebecq, who I know has been very much involved in the work of the ILO for many years, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on the Application of Standards. I would like to commend him on all that he has done. He certainly is a major trade unionist within our country but I know he has also done a great deal at an international level.

I believe, then, that we have to have a model based on joint rights which can be shared by all. Equality of treatment for all is more important than fluctuations on the world's stock exchanges.

Original French: Mr BILTGEN (Ministry of Labour and Employment, Luxembourg)

The ILC this year is a particularly important Conference. What is at stake this year is the role that we intend our Organization to play within the UN system in future. But that is not all that is at stake. We

also are concerned with the role that it will play within the context of the globalized international community. This clearly involves, first and foremost, a certain amount of self-understanding of what we are and what we are doing but also it involves some thought being given to the resources that we intend to give to the ILO to allow it to take its rightful place on the global stage.

Decisions this year will shape the activities of our Organization for decades to come. The Government of Luxembourg would like to support the actions taken by our Director-General, Juan Somavia, and we commend his vision and the efforts he makes to incorporate that vision into the texts and everyday work of the Organization. For that reason, I am delighted to announce that the Government of Luxembourg will support Mr Somavia's candidacy for a third term.

I am also delighted to note the results of Mr Somavia's official visit to Luxembourg in October 2007. On that occasion, the Government, Parliament and social partners were able to discuss the Decent Work Agenda and a broad consensus emerged. Luxembourg will be signing a framework cooperation agreement with the ILO, which will relate to financial and technical cooperation, as well as political cooperation. Luxembourg has also committed to making a voluntary budgetary contribution to the work of the ILO.

Through the Decent Work Agenda we can take a cross-cutting and integrated approach to the problems ensuing from globalization. The increasing acceptance of the need for decent work by all those involved in globalization, states and international organizations, even those that are primarily concerned with economic and financial issues, as well as the increasingly specific integration of the concept into cross-cutting policies, fills me with hope.

This development must be set in stone by strengthening the ILO. The Declaration on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity will be the ideal instrument to do so. This is particularly true because decent work is something that relates to a very large number of other sectors. The four strategic objectives that are key to the ILO's employment, social protection, social dialogue and the integration of fundamental rights as human rights, are closely interlinked. But well beyond that, decent work has the capacity to become an instrument that can bring about genuine social, environmental and, indeed, economic progress. This interrelationship is particularly clear if you look at the example of Myanmar. Our Organization was the first to identify the structural problems in that country, through monitoring the application of international labour standards, in particular with regard to forced labour. This process allowed us to come up with a more accurate overall picture of the human rights situation in that country. The Government of Luxembourg wishes to underline its solidarity with the people of Myanmar who are suffering so much from the terrible disaster that has just struck their country. We would call upon the authorities of Myanmar to grant international organizations and NGOs full access to the country in order to enable them to provide all necessary assistance for the people who are suffering so badly. We support the efforts undertaken by the ILO in the context of cooperation with the Burmese authorities in seeking to eradicate forced labour.

Coming back to the Decent Work Agenda, we have to capitalize on the momentum that exists to

consolidate the political will to combine growth, social protection and equity. Although we need the market, the market is not an answer. The market itself does not produce solidarity. Solidarity arises out of joint action being undertaken, action that brings together politics and the market. This is a process that is highlighted by the Lisbon process in the European Union which can serve as a model and a benchmark for us and be tailored to meet the specific needs of each member State, to take due account of its history, culture and level of development.

There is one thing about which we are particularly concerned, an area that we think the ILO should focus on especially in consultation, of course, with other international organizations, and that is the growing financial dependency of international economic relationships.

The financial sector is more or less out of control and decisions are more or less uncontrollable and in the long term will destabilize the world of work. We therefore appeal to the Director-General to envisage strategies to counter the uncontrolled effect of decisions taken in the financial sector. We believe that the real economy must gain the upper hand and put an end to the effects of speculation, and we very much believe that this issue should be looked at at forthcoming ILC.

This problem is also directly related to the world food crisis. Speculation, as well as a lack of basic foodstuffs, is leading to a situation where prices are sky-rocketing and many people cannot buy basic food. Over the past three years the price of food has increased by 83 per cent, and the price of wheat has increased by 181 per cent. This is unacceptable. We need joint efforts and coordination at the international level in order to counter this deplorable trend. The full involvement of the ILO in that process is crucial, particularly, because we really are running the risk of a universal explosion, which would primarily affect the world of work and workers.

If we are to achieve these goals we need resources and procedures. That is why we support all efforts to give the ILO the necessary capacity to play a key role in respect of the proper governance of globalization. It is essential that we give the Organization the budgetary resources it needs, from both regular and voluntary contributions to strengthen its capacity. We need to ensure that the internal operation of the ILO and the Office is adapted in accordance with the content of the Declaration, and the Government of Luxembourg is calling for greater consideration to be given to methods of international governance, better coordination of economic policies and, where possible, permanent institutional cooperation between international organizations to enable a permanent interconnection between the objectives of all relevant actors.

Lastly, we need follow-up and monitoring procedures. We support the proposal for cyclical revision by the ILC. We might also consider some kind of voluntary peer review process that would be made to measure for different member States, the conditions and modalities of which could be decided on the basis of consensus with all States concerned. The tripartite structure of the ILO is extremely well-suited to such an exercise. Thank you for your attention.

When I announced last year to this assembly that it was my last speech as Minister of Labour, I had no idea that the new President of Argentina, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, would honour me by asking me to join her Government. So here I am, representing a Government whose goal is to lessen the burdens on society by fighting poverty through the redistribution of wealth with more and better jobs.

As in 1944, with the Declaration of Philadelphia which affirmed that labour is not a commodity, today, there is broad consensus that there cannot be fair globalization without decent work.

Decent work gave a human face to a process which appeared to be erratic, devoid of values and founded exclusively on capital accumulation and boundless free trade that led to economic and social disasters. Argentina bore witness to these disasters in 2001.

Based on this experience we are pleased that this 97th Session of the Conference has emphatically stated, in the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for Fair Globalization, the commitment by Governments and social partners to social justice, full employment and decent work.

Based on these values, on which we pride ourselves, the ILO is seeking to strengthen itself so as to assist Member countries efficiently and effectively.

It is up to everyone to ensure that the ideals of the Organization and its original essence as a tripartite organization will have an ever-greater influence in other international organizations and in the domestic policies of our countries.

For this reason, we are greatly heartened by the conclusions on an often overlooked issue, the promotion of rural employment for poverty reduction.

The rural sector presents a great challenge for decent work. It calls into question the relationship between developed and developing countries which are affected by incoherent agricultural subsidies. This is a core point in negotiations on climate change and actions to save the planet and preserve food security.

In particular, the rural sector in my country has benefited from greater profitability than in any other sector. Sadly, this is not reflected in job growth, in workers' wages or in social protection. The sector also fails to provide decent work because undeclared labour and child labour in agriculture are more prevalent than in other activities.

This contradiction is further proof that market policies alone will never correct social injustices.

For this reason, we are convinced that when it comes to distribution, the state has the responsibility, through social dialogue as a main instrument, to channel and reallocate resources, demand efforts of those who receive the most and to compensate the most disadvantaged.

This requires us to step up our commitments to ensure the eradication of poverty and provide protection for all.

We want to reiterate in this respect that the priority of our Government is and will be better jobs with the participation of the social partners.

For this reason, the debate on the qualifications of workers merits reflection. Education, ongoing training and learning encourage the development of

competitive advantages in which everyone stands to win: companies, workers and society as a whole.

Nonetheless, governments must first take political decisions to promote and sustain productive development which is based on social inclusion and decent work.

My country has understood this challenge and our economy has grown and helped to bring down poverty and unemployment considerably increasing the creation of businesses and formal labour, with a policy in place for science and technology and for improvements in the quality of education, training and vocational guidance. A comprehensive approach and the full participation of the social partners are required so that public and private investments in training will promote equal opportunities, and all of this should take place in the context of fair and balanced industrial relations.

I would like to conclude by saying a word about social dialogue as a means and an end, as a method and as an institutional response. It is, without a doubt, a path to changing societies for the better. Social dialogue is the embodiment of a democracy and of respect for the interests of all, but it only functions when the common good guides the decisions of the parties and when it serves to improve the lot of all society.

In this spirit, the President of Argentina has called for a bicentennial national agreement. An agreement to agree on. Today, a body as mature as it is efficient, as decisive as necessary.

Our country has promoted the ILO's work at all levels, through collective bargaining and by allowing unions and employers to play a responsible and irreplaceable role in leadership. For social dialogue to be effective, we must ensure that in each sector both sides make commitments and accept undertakings. Each of us should ask ourselves not what can I get, but what can I give? As a guide, we have the ongoing practice of the ILO and the recognition of what its work achieves. There is no future for humanity other than the constructive dialogue of social justice.

Mr BEETS (Government, Netherlands)

We are not celebrating it, but it is exactly 75 years ago that the first Minister of Social Affairs was installed in the Netherlands. It was, in fact, in June 1933 that the Ministry of Social Affairs was established. Unemployment was high, social security still in its infancy, and the President of the Christian Union had himself experienced child labour: when he was 11 years old, he was forced by poverty to leave school to work in a factory.

It took us many, many years to establish a system of social security and we believe, today, it goes without saying that other countries should have this opportunity too. We believe that the basis should be a minimum package of social security measures and this base can be, therefore, regarded as a universal social floor.

The level must be sufficiently high to provide people with the basic social protection to which they are entitled, but not so high that it becomes unattainable. This social floor should be regarded as a starting point, not as a finishing point. It is a floor on which a country can build further and higher and at a rate that is in keeping with a country's economic and social development. This is also how we have built our social security system in the Netherlands over the years. We would like other countries

to have the same experience and the same opportunity. A universal basis for social security protection should serve as the starting point.

The Netherlands considers it important that social security is firmly featured on the ILO's agenda. Social protection is, after all, one of the supporting pillars of the Decent Work Agenda. By strengthening social security and providing sufficient flexibility, we can combat poverty, disadvantage and the negative consequences of globalization. We can promote the growth of employment and healthy working conditions.

The Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs was formed during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Our prime ministers, in those days, hoped that the Ministry could be closed again after the Depression and as soon as unemployment decreased. However, we know now today that constant attention is necessary to promote opportunities for men and women to obtain decent work in conditions of freedom, equality, security and dignity. In other words, it was, it is and it will remain necessary for us to use our best efforts on behalf of the Decent Work Agenda, not only in our country but also worldwide: social justice for a fair globalization.

(Ms Diallo takes the Chair.)

RECORD VOTE ON THE RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING THE ARREARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF COMOROS, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, IRAQ AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Original French: The PRESIDENT

We shall now proceed to the record vote on arrears of contributions.

We now have to interrupt the discussion on the Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of the Director-General in order to proceed to the record vote on resolutions concerning arrears of contributions involving four countries. I would remind you that these resolutions were adopted by the Conference at its fourth sitting last Friday, having been submitted in the first report of the Finance Committee of Government Representatives. They are contained in *Provisional Record* No. 11-1. I would also remind you that these resolutions were put to the vote yesterday, on Monday, 9 June, but could not be adopted in the absence of a quorum.

I am referring to the following resolutions: resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of Comoros; resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of the Central African Republic; resolution concerning the arrears of contribution of Iraq; and resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of the Solomon Islands. I would suggest you adopt these four resolutions together in a single ballot. You will vote for each resolution in order, one after the other, and the result will be announced at the end of the procedure.

As far as the vote is concerned, I would like to remind you that, in accordance with article 13, paragraph 4, of the ILO Constitution, the Conference may, by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by delegates present, permit a Member whose contributions are in arrears to vote if it feels that this failure is for reasons beyond the Member's control.

According to article 19, paragraph 5, of the Standing Orders of the Conference, the vote of the Conference shall be a record vote.

(A record vote is taken.)

The result of the vote on the resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of Comoros is as follows: 321 votes in favour, 9 against, 3 abstentions, quorum 307. Considering that the quorum is 307, and that the required two-thirds majority is 221, the resolution is adopted.

(The resolution is adopted.)

The result of the vote on the resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of the Central African Republic is as follows: 321 votes in favour, 8 against, 4 abstentions, quorum 307. Considering that the quorum is 307, and that the required two-thirds majority is 220, the resolution is adopted.

(The resolution is adopted.)

The result of the vote on the resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of Iraq is as follows: 316 votes in favour, 12 against, 5 abstentions, quorum 307. Considering that the quorum is 307, and that the required two-thirds majority is 219, the resolution is adopted.

(The resolution is adopted.)

The result of the vote on the resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of the Solomon Islands is as follows: 326 votes in favour, 5 against, 2 abstentions, quorum 307. Considering that the quorum is 307, and that the required two-thirds majority is 221, the resolution is adopted.

(The resolution is adopted.)

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

(Mr Salamin takes the Chair.)

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

Original Arabic: Mr TRABELSI (Worker, Tunisia)

This year, the Director-General's Report has two important aspects that I wish to highlight.

Firstly, the Report places the idea of Decent Work and its objectives in the context of today's economic realities, and of the negative impact that may be caused by social unrest around the world, particularly in the countries of the South following the increase in the price of energy and food products.

Secondly, the Report contains an assessment of the initial outcome of the Decent Work Agenda in terms of its achievements and the obstacles that must be overcome. We fully endorse the Director-General's comment that, in this troubled world, this programme can be a source of balance and equity.

Our Organization must correct the growing imbalances between North and South, between rich and poor, between the capital and the workforce. Decent Work must be a means of combating marginalization and poverty, of reducing the vulnerability of labour, and reduce the disparities between nations and social classes, so that mankind can reach its common destiny, where there is no war, extremism or racism, and where the values of democracy and human rights prevail.

In his Report, Mr Somavia touched on progress made in the Decent Work Agenda. But a global

evaluation is now needed to give it a new lease of life.

We support the Director-General's call for priority to be given in 2010 to 2015 to a means of assessing progress in achieving Decent Work objectives in each country. This is a necessary stage in the re-definition of priorities.

It is generally agreed that tripartite social dialogue is the driving force of the Decent Work Agenda. Without social dialogue between independent parties and representatives, decent work is out of the question. Therefore, the defence of freedom of association and trade union and collective bargaining rights is the first step in any Decent Work programme.

We pay tribute to all the work done by the Organization to defend the right to organize and to come to the assistance of the victims of violations of trade union rights all over the world.

The General Workers' Union of Tunisia is optimistic about the new round of negotiations being held in Tunis with a view to improving wages and working conditions and strengthening trade union rights. Some kind of machinery is needed to encourage all United Nations member States to comply with the 1998 Declaration of principles, and more specifically with Conventions Nos 87 and 98, as well as the Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No. 135).

Our organization supports the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions in its campaign to defend trade union rights and freedoms and, by and large, also endorses the complaints lodged against Arab Governments that do not recognize union rights or violate the independence of trade unions.

I am grateful to the Director-General for his special Report on the situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories, the workers of Palestine and the Syrian Golan, whose situation is becoming worse and worse. This dramatic situation is due to the continuing occupation, the annexing of cultivable land, the building of the separation wall, the construction of new colonies and the stepping up of the embargo against Gaza and the West Bank, in violation of all the United Nations' resolutions.

The only hope of this tragedy coming to an end is through a global, just and durable peace, based on withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the creation of an independent Palestinian State with its capital in Al-Quds, together with the application of international resolutions.

Ms AMARELLO-WILLIAMS (*Minister of Labour, Technological Development and Environment, Suriname*)

The report of the Director-General, *Decent Work: Some strategic challenges ahead* covers some very holistic and broad approaches with regard to decent work and the world of work, economic progress and social justice and peace.

We very much appreciate the ideological ground which the ILO provides, to enable competitive societies based on social justice. We also appreciate the ILO for identifying strategies, developing and bringing together the efforts of its member States as part of a broader perspective. It remains a challenge, however, to include the ILO's new development concepts in national development strategies. The ILO should encourage collaboration at the national level between the relevant departments in order to achieve greater endorsement of the decent work concept in society. The integrated approach should

include departments and institutes responsible for finance, development, planning, trade and industry.

We applaud the collaboration between the ILO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). While the UN system is striving for coherence on the national level, teamwork within national administrations should also be growing. Within the Ministry of Labour, Technological Development and Environment emphasis will be put on the promotion of employment, especially in green jobs.

The priority of making full employment and decent work a central objective of national and international policies should be reflected in the expenditures of the UN system.

On the one hand, we agree that economic indicators fail to capture the full extent of people's development goals and, on the other, that material progress is not sustainable if not based on the core values of decent work: freedom, equity, security and dignity.

The Government is highly concerned about the growing informal economy producing jobs of poor quality. In order to estimate the size and determine the trends of the informal economy, I commissioned a ground-breaking survey in cooperation with the General Bureau for Statistics, which was finalized in February 2008 and presented to stakeholders, the media and the public at large. The results show a sizeable informal economy.

One challenge is to enhance the supervision of national minimum standards within the formal economy, to eliminate legal inadequacies in protecting workers and to raise awareness of labour rights and employment relationships with regard to outsourcing and subcontracting.

Social dialogue can overcome the negative impacts of informality in relation to the formal sectors and the adjustment of employment and production patterns. As labour Minister, I established the Commission on Employment Agencies to specifically adjust existing legislation and recommend and formulate new laws within six months.

Clear inequalities between formal and informal work in terms of differences in productivity, incomes and working conditions are a consequence of the unorganized nature of the informal sector. We welcome the debate on more equitable training systems and better education at the Conference, under the agenda item on skills for improved productivity, employment growth and development, for which tripartite commitment is essential.

Social dialogue can be instrumental in bringing the informal economy within the mainstream of the national economy, leading to decent work. At the national level, the Commission for the Establishment of a National Productivity Centre recently made its recommendations, which focused on a broadly endorsed productivity organization under the labour minister with an initial programme for three years.

We would like to thank the ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean for triggering a productivity movement in Suriname, even though, as yet, it still has a long way to go.

A more coherent, holistic approach to Decent Work has everything to do with the "life cycle approach" excellently presented by the Director-General in his Report, *Decent Work: Some strategic challenges ahead*, which takes account of the various stages of life, the transition of the life cycle and the critical Decent Work dimensions at each stage.

This approach and the clarification of the Decent Work concept once again strengthen my belief in Decent Work as a global development policy which deserves more endorsement, not only at the national level, but also within the UN system.

The Labour Ministry has already taken steps to lay the foundation for a new system of labour administration which will bear fruit shortly. Much of the ILO's work is about establishing, through tripartite negotiations, a balanced set of labour institutions. This includes much protective legislation, regulations to support good practice and prevent unacceptable behaviour, patterns of organization, policies and programmes. It covers labour law, collective bargaining, occupational safety and health, working time, periods of rest, trade union representation, employment protection, unemployment benefits, skills development and social protection, as mentioned in the Director-General's Report.

Reports of the Government of Suriname have, for some time, been mentioning the Project on Modernization of the Labour Legislation, guided by the Conventions, Recommendations and codes of practice of the ILO and the four model laws of the Caribbean community. Last week I established four commissions to review and recommend the adjustment of existing legislation or the implementation of new labour laws in six months' to one year's time on the following topics: freedom of association, employment agencies, collective bargaining, and labour inspection.

I hope that the discussions at this Session of the Conference are successful and will contribute to the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda as set forth by the ILO.

Original Lao: Mr FAIPHENG YOA (Vice-Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao People's Democratic Republic)

The issues of freedom of association and collective bargaining, in the era of globalization, are very important for the promotion of the fundamental rights of employees and the rights of employers also in the world at large, in particular, in the Lao People's Democratic Republic where the Lao Federation of Trade Unions is the organization representing the employees and Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the organization representing the employers.

Even though Laos has not yet ratified Convention No. 87 or Convention No. 98, our practice has been in line with the main provisions of those Conventions, as is evidenced in the drafting and implementation of relevant national legislation, which provides for freedom of association and collective bargaining. I am referring here to article 44 of the Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which states clearly that Lao citizens have the right to freedom of speech, press and assembly, and the right to set up associations, and also to stage demonstrations, that are not contrary to the laws of the land. We have the Labour Law, as amended in 2006, the Trade Union Law of 25 December 2007, and the Decree on the Organization and Activities of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, No. 125/PM, dated 24 May 2003. Employers rely upon this Decree to unite their business units into an association.

Today in the Lao People's Democratic Republic there are 25 business associations, 13 provincial chambers of commerce and industry comprising 1,050 companies as members, allowing them to

have uniform and legitimate business activities as well as to establish good relationships in the business units, to protect their legitimate rights and interests, and to protect their rights.

The Constitution, laws and decrees I have mentioned constitute the legal basis for the organization and operation of social organizations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

During the past years, the Lao People's Democratic Republic focused on the study and improvement of national legislation in order to create a firm basis for the implementation of the Conventions Nos 87 and 98, according to the realities and conditions of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the friendly countries and international organizations for their valuable support and assistance, which they provided to us in the past years.

I would also like to express my thanks to the International Labour Organization for its technical support in the implementation of the ILO Annual Cooperation Plan. I hope that we will continue to receive such cooperation and assistance in the years to come.

On this occasion, I wish the 97th session of the International Labour Conference every success.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STRENGTHENING
THE ILO'S CAPACITY: SUBMISSION,
DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL**

Original Spanish: The PRESIDENT

We now move on to the presentation, discussion and adoption of the report and the Declaration and resolution from the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity. The Committee report is contained in *Provisional Record* No. 13, the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization in *Provisional Record* No. 13A and the Resolution on strengthening of ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization in *Provisional Record* No 13A/B. The Conference has these documents before it. These documents may also be seen online, on the web page of this meeting of the ILO Conference. I would ask all of the members of the SILC Committee, Mr Elmiger, the Chairperson, Mr Julien, the Employer Vice-Chairperson, Mr Patel, the Worker Vice-Chairperson, and Mr Paixão Pardo, the Reporter, to come to the podium.

I give the floor to Mr Paixão Pardo, Government member for Brazil and Reporter for the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity, to present the report.

Original Spanish: Mr PAIXÃO PARDO (Government, Brazil; Reporter of the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity)

It is my honour to present the final report of our Committee. I would like to say that when our work began, the members of the Committee were fully aware of the historical importance of the debates that we were embarking upon – taking place as they were in a year of historical commemorations in the area of human rights, including fundamental human rights at work.

The year 2008 marks the anniversary of a number of fundamental instruments. It is the 60th anniversary of the main human rights instrument, which humanity has given itself, namely the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is also the anniver-

sary of the Freedom of Association and the Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No 87), which is key to the existence of the workers' and employers' organizations that are free, independent and democratic. It is also the tenth anniversary of the adoption of one of the basic texts of the Organization, namely the ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

As we can see, the number 8 appears to be propitious to human rights and human rights at work.

Just to give you an idea of how complex this whole exercise was, I would like to remind you that our Commission was made up of around 170 regular delegates. The might give you an idea of the kind of challenges we had to face and the various points of view we had, with regard to the purpose, the content and the form of the work which we had to deal.

Given the dynamic nature of the social issue and the broad scope of the mandate proposed by the Constitution, including the Declaration of Philadelphia and the Declaration on Fundamental Rights and Principles at Work, it is clear that the ILO is a social and political forum which focuses on a very wide range of matters relevant to the world of work, as well as variables of economic progress; and it has two main constitutional means of action to help it in its task: international labour standards and technical cooperation available for their implementation.

In the light of that reality, the text we have before us today enables the Organization to strengthen its capacity to provide assistance to its constituents in the economic and social areas, which this text interrelates, in order to have a direct impact on the living and working conditions of men and women, both in the developed world and in the most industrialized societies.

The well-being and economic development enjoyed by many countries today will most likely be threatened unless the necessary measures are taken to confront the important challenges which no other generation has had to face – and this will have an impact on the creation of decent work. This Declaration might be used as a guide, as a beacon for the generations to come whose working and living conditions will be even harder than those will have known.

The outcome of the work of this Committee is the fruit of a consensus, to meet the challenge whereby poverty and inequality in the world constitute a danger to prosperity everywhere. This Declaration and the resolution submitted for your approval are a means by which our Organization is seeking to ensure that the benefits of globalization are available to all, so that each and everyone might work in conditions of freedom, dignity, security and equality.

Armed with these basic principles, our Committee got down to the task of drafting a text which could stand the test of time and which would be equally valid as the years went by for the ILO. Without wishing to exaggerate, this Committee demonstrated vision and was truly inspired in its work. As has been the case for the last 90 years, the spirit of tripartism is alive and well today and permeated our work – and this may be witnessed in the dynamic and practical nature of this instrument, which will be valuable in helping us to meet the challenges of globalization in all its forms.

We set out to make the scope of the text accessible to the widest possible audience, both within and outside the ILO; a text would be based on the Or-

ganization's fundamental texts, while providing a value added that took account of the various facets of globalization.

The Drafting Group, wisely created by the Committee, worked tirelessly, with determination and with a spirit open to dialogue. It was unsparing in its efforts to prepare a text for the Committee which once it had been approved, would be presented to you in the plenary today. As one of its members pointed out, the Committee has carried out, and I quote, "a more than exemplary work", in which the red and the green lights – agreed upon by the Employers' and the Workers' groups last year were respected.

The Governments, which represented the various regions, demonstrated cooperation and goodwill to reach agreement that were satisfactory to everyone. And this produced a text that balanced the interests of each group, which will enable the ILO to optimize the relationship between decent work and globalization, in order to better serve its constituents.

The discussions tackled the most controversial issues, never losing sight of the aim to link progress and economic globalization with social justice and international labour standards, as a means to achieve the objectives of Decent Work.

The will to strengthen the capacity of the Organization on the inside in order to make it more relevant to the outside, and thus provide assistance to its Members in a world characterized by rapid technological, economic, financial, social and environmental changes; an increase in inequality and, in many cases, an increase in unemployment or under employment; all those factors make us stop and ask questions, but at the same time they help us to see opportunities. The resolution submitted to the Conference opens up the way for us to be able to deal with these issues in a systematic and productive manner.

The ILO cannot replace the voluntary and sovereign action of the member States. But it can, and it must, give itself the relevant means to be able to support both the member States and social partners in applying, at a national level, the constitutional objectives of the four strategic objectives.

The text expresses the commitment that governments must undertake, taking into account their domestic conditions and circumstances, to place full and productive employment at the centre of economic and social policies.

These efforts should be based on the four strategic objectives of the ILO, which are equally important. The text underscores, *inter alia*, the importance of promoting employment by creating a sustainable institutional and economic environment.

From the outset, it was clear that the text would be taking the form of a Declaration and not be standard-related, in the sense that it does not involve any new legally binding obligations. The basic documents of the legal framework of the ILO remain the Constitution and its annex, namely the Declaration of Philadelphia. Furthermore, the methods of implementation provided for under the Declaration and its Follow-up are all designed to promote the improvement of governance and the development of the capacity of the ILO, with a view to understanding and responding better, together with the Members, to the current needs of the Members as they seek to counter the effects of globalization. Similarly, it is also clear that the text,

as well as the resolution, are not going to increase the burdens of the member States when it comes to their reporting obligations.

Although the text might appear long to you, the aim was to seek consensus by merging the various elements that came from the different parties involved in the negotiation of the Committee. The social partners, social actors and the governments strove to obtain satisfaction on the points that were most important to each of the groups, thus respecting at the same time the desires of all the parties; all this was a complicated exercise, but a clear example of tripartism in action.

We were aware of the fact that the text should be easily understood, both by the constituents and the general public; but at the same time it needed to be a text which was significant, relevant, important, substantive and able to stand the test of time. So it was a difficult task, if you bear in mind that we had a great number of situations and different points of view on globalization, represented on our Committee.

The new instrument which I am presenting to you today recognizes and underscores the equal importance and interdependence for decent work of the four strategic objectives of the ILO, which help the ILO to fulfil its constitutional mandate – and this is where the driving force of the text resides. Namely, it puts in an operational scheme the four objectives on employment, social protection, social dialogue and fundamental rights at work.

I would like to express my special thanks to our Chairperson, Mr Elmiger, who expertly presided over the debates in a very practical fashion and insight – and, above all, with a great deal of humour which enabled us in the most heated moments of our debates always to find outcomes that were satisfactory to all of us.

I would like also to avail myself of this opportunity to express my thanks for the contributions we received in a spirit of compromise, commitment and cooperation from the following members: Mr Julien for the Employers' group, assisted by Mr Wilson; Mr Patel from the Workers' group, assisted by Ms Biondi; and the Government representatives of the various regions who, both in the Drafting Group and in the plenary of this Committee, gave us the opportunity to understand the challenges, but also to find solutions to help our members.

I have just received a report from the Chairperson of the Legal Drafting Committee of our Committee, and I feel it would be useful for us to include that report in the minutes of the preparatory work of this Declaration.

It would be remiss of me if I did not express our deep thanks to the Office for its assistance. I am referring here to Mr Kari Tapiola; Mr Francis Maupain, with his experience and wisdom; Mr Emmanuel Reynaud; Mr Javier Escobar; Ms France Auer; Oliver Julien and Ms Froukje Boele, who have helped me tremendously in wording the final report. I should also like to thank the secretariat in general and the Conference services and documentation services, with a special word to the interpreters and the translators who, with their infinite patience and dedication, have enabled us to change our small tower of Babel into something intelligible.

I would now invite you to adopt the report of our Committee.

Original French: Mr JULIEN (Employer, France; Employer Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity)

It is with great joy and without reservation that the Employers' group yesterday approved the report of the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity.

For us, it is a policy document of the utmost importance with regard to the future of the Organization and its missions. The fact that this text was drafted on the basis of consensus and after considerable consultations, involving all States wishing to participate, shows that the ILO can meet challenges when it so wishes.

The fact that the Workers' group and the Employers' group cooperated in an unprecedented fashion is also an element we must not forget. We hope that this bodes well for future progress to be achieved in the interest of the Organization.

Numerous instances of good fortune led to the creation of this Declaration. We know that many people are behind a victory. Allow me to thank Mr Elmiger, our Chairperson, who always had a smile on his face and had an air of confidence; Daniel Funes de Rioja for his kind support throughout the entire process, and Mr Tabani for guiding the work of our group during the very difficult International Labour Conference that took place in June 2007.

My thanks also go to Mr Trotman for his calm wisdom displayed last year, and even more so to Mr Patel, who was my brilliant, efficient and respectful partner during the 2008 Conference.

I would also like to thank the irreplaceable tandem composed of Ms Biondi and Mr Wilton. This was an alliance of the old and the new world, where few things escaped them and they demonstrated over and over again their intellectual agility and their kindness in this project.

Finally, the Organization has contracted, during this Conference, a further debt, a debt that may prove even more difficult to repay than debts of the past. Without concerning the major contributors of this Organization, I am referring to the permanent, dedicated role played by Mr Maupain in devising the SILC project. Thank you very much Francis, on behalf of all Members.

I have said that the foundation underlying this Declaration is you, you the constituent members, who give value to this text; you who subscribe to it fully; you who will also be responsible for making it effective.

This Declaration commits all of us, and calls on the Office to bring about change. Yes, I said change. Change in order to better ascertain the needs of those it serves. Change to better assist them to face a globalization which is difficult but positive for the majority of citizens, workers and companies. Change to implement questions of governance and put them at the heart of the Office's actions. Change when it comes to delivering more whilst adhering to our fundamental values.

That is why these two texts, both the Declaration and the resolution, raised great expectations. There were great expectations on the part of the Employers, but also in the other groups, and these expectations now have to be met. And now means Friday, at the Governing Body, after the adoption of our report this afternoon.

It is the Governing Body, with the support of the Director-General and thanks to his future initiatives,

that will have to implement the commitments contained in the Declaration.

Without a Director-General devoted to serving these strategic objectives, and without a Governing Body capable of committing itself towards strengthening capacities, we will not succeed. Consensus must continue, and it must involve all players working towards development, social justice and employment. We feel that with this Declaration, the Organization is equipped with the best tool it has ever had to meet the challenges of globalization.

For us Employers, it is the strong signal and a call for efficiency. With this tool, the ILO can once again become a leader on the international scene, not just with words but through its actions, because, at the end of the road, there are men and women. And as Pierre Reverdy said, those who seek are more important than what they are seeking.

Thank you for your attention.

Mr PATEL (*Worker, South Africa; Worker Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity*)

Today is a historic and solemn occasion and the Conference is asked to make a very important decision.

Two weeks ago in our Committee we recalled that there are moments in the history of social dialogue when big challenges require solutions with the same level of ambition. We face one such moment now. What this Conference is asked to do is to rise to the moment and adopt an authoritative document that will provide guidance to the people of our nations, to the constituents of this Organization and to the implementation arm of the ILO, namely the International Labour Office.

We can be timid and find only a few small adjustments and refinements to suggest and so postpone to another generation the task of addressing the challenges that confront this generation. There is a precedent for this in international forums, plenty of moments of failure of imagination, but we are inspired by the many instances, too, where boldness and courage prevailed. Examples of this were seen in 1919, with the formation of the International Labour Organization, and in 1944, with the adoption of the Declaration of Philadelphia.

In the draft Declaration before us today, we do not have a failure of imagination, but instead a confirmation that tripartism can produce outcomes that are timely, appropriate and bold.

The Declaration we are asked to adopt is an excellent document and it has been developed step by step through consensus in the Committee. It addresses big themes that will certainly resonate with contemporary concerns of societies, with workers, entrepreneurs and governments, and we hope it also anticipates the emerging issues of the future.

It is the gift of this generation to the next, a belief that a different reality is possible, that instead of a world of income inequality, of high levels of unemployment and poverty, of vulnerability of economies to external shocks, of growth of unprotected work and the informal economy and the erosion of the employment relationship, we can build a world based on social justice.

It is a statement about the present and about the future, about helping to create a world in which social justice is at the heart of the global economy and in which decent work is a critical tool to get it there. It is a world we create for ourselves and also for our

children, for our little Zamirs, and Pablos and Zodwas and Jiangs and Amilcars and Marias and Iqraas.

Globalization evokes mixed emotions in all of us. It creates pain and enormous challenges. Sometimes the pain associated with this vast impersonal phenomenon makes so many people want to retreat into our national corners, fearful of that world with its challenges. But globalization can also hold enormous opportunities, opportunities for nations and for people with its promise of growth and of innovation. It does not do so either inevitably or evenly.

Globalization is not a take-it or leave-it package, it is something that human beings can shape.

So we are confronted with an opportunity, an opportunity to step out of our corners and to shape that world, to make it the world we want. Of course our efforts can only be modest. The ILO itself can only do so much, but to do the best we can is the start and the Declaration is a solid start.

As economies globalize, so too will those institutions that arise from economic activities, and here it is important to refer to the globalization of industrial relations. The process is already under way and yet there is an important role for the ILO and its constituents to shape it. Through a process of discussion and agreement in the Committee, and I wish to acknowledge this was, crucially, agreement with our Employer colleagues, we found language to recognize the internationalization of business and business dialogue, to see that globalization of production makes the role of social dialogue within and across borders more relevant than ever. In a deft and bold move, the Declaration calls for partnerships between the ILO and multinational enterprises together with trade unions operating at the global sectoral level.

What we have achieved is indeed significant. The Declaration has a central purpose: to place social justice at the heart of globalization. It establishes a key means to do so: Decent Work. It summarizes the components of the Decent Work Agenda, namely the four strategic objectives of the ILO. It establishes a recurrent follow-up, namely, the annual review of the components of Decent Work and the introduction of the voluntary peer-review system. It confirms the ILO's unique machinery: its standard setting and the supervisory system built on tripartism.

It points to freedom of association, collective bargaining and the centrality of the employment relationship as more valid than ever, foundations laid in the twentieth century on which we can build and through which we can achieve social justice in this twenty-first century.

The Declaration vision is backed up with real implementation substance, strong partnerships, clear follow-up mechanisms and a strong effective office and operational machinery.

On partners, the Declaration identifies three important sets of partners: governments with representative organizations of workers and employers; global companies and global unions; and the other United Nations agencies and multinational institutions.

It gives content and shape to decent work, but it also provides a conception of decent work's components as inseparable and inter-related, which provides a challenge to every ILO staff member and every member State to implement the decent work strategic objectives as a whole.

To recognize the special role of freedom of association and collective bargaining to enable all of the decent work strategic objectives to be achieved, it calls for policy coherence based on social justice outcomes and consolidates decent work's status as the cross-cutting objective of the global community, but it is a coherence that affects the Organization as much as it affects its partners, thus a coherence within the ILO, within the multilateral system and within member States.

The Declaration recalls and affirms the ILO mandate to examine all economic and financial policies in the light of the objective of social justice, and in a contemporary reflection it points to the role of the ILO to examine trade and financial market policies to achieve the aim of placing employment at the heart of economic policies.

It is particularly important to developing countries to help address the enormous challenges we face in Africa, Latin America and Asia. In this context, I wish to highlight the dual character of one key article of the document in its call that violation of fundamental principles and rights at work cannot be the basis for legitimate comparative advantage. Neither should labour standards be used for protectionist purposes.

In 1998, we developed a first package of standards for universal ratification, namely the core labour standards. In this Declaration we developed a second package of standards to be promoted everywhere, in all countries, namely the governance standards covering tripartism, employment policy and labour inspection. The identification of gender and non-discrimination as cross-cutting issues in all aspects of decent work is particularly important.

The Declaration creates the opportunity for us to establish a clear role for the ILO in building a global social floor that ensures among others the extension of social security to all, a basic income for all in need thereof, a minimum living wage and safe and healthy working conditions. It identifies a key role for sustainable enterprises together with a strong social economy and a viable public sector. It is a bold mandate, a bold set of commitments. It requires an ILO with a world-class operational capacity in research, analysis, policy development and advocacy. This will require changes internally in the Organization but it will place the ILO in a better position to address the challenges of the present.

Good outcomes are always the result of a team effort. We had a great team, my colleague Emmanuel Julien who brought vision to our discussion, Frances Maupain, Jean-Jacques Elmiger, Sergio Pardo, my fellow Worker colleagues, our Employer colleagues, representatives from all Governments and my Worker Chairperson, Leroy Trotman, together with Mr Tabani led the way for us last year.

All co-architects of what we hope will be an enduring document and a relevant document and already a document crafted in a remarkable spirit of cooperation and partnership.

Towards the end of the Second World War, as a new international system arose from the ashes and damage of conflict, it was intended to give a special role to the ILO and social justice. These ideas were captured in the 1944 Declaration of Philadelphia and were intended to shape the new world order. This social justice Declaration draws on the 1944 Declaration, but it does so through more than simply paying homage to the Declaration of Philadelphia – it makes this important part of the ILO Con-

stitution come alive in the social justice Declaration. It exposes it to a contemporary audience, it contextualizes it in today's challenges.

As Philadelphia has remained relevant some 64 years later, so we hope that 64 years from now, this Declaration will inspire working women and men, who will guide entrepreneurs large and small and shape the policies of governments from North and South.

It deserves to be adopted by acclamation and the trade unionists from all nations assembled here today will give it our full support.

Original French: Mr ELMIGER (Government, Switzerland; Chairperson of the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity)

It was Albert Thomas who once said that the ILO is like a car in which the engine is the Workers, the steering wheel the Governments and the brakes the Employers. Well, here today, the impression of the unique experience we have just gone through has proved quite the contrary. There is a shared willingness, with everyone moving in the same direction. Governments and social partners are striving together to remould the ILO for the greater good. I have seen them striving together to face up to the challenges that affect everyone but that bear little resemblance to the problems faced by the tripartite constituents in the past. This recrafting had become urgent. In some respects, the ILO after the Cold War was a bit like a boat whose passengers could not agree on a destination. That was borne out, for instance, by the difficulties that appeared every year when trying to establish an agenda for the Conference.

In the course of the work of the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity, we remembered where we were all going and that we are all responsible for getting there. We know what our destination is. Our destination is described for us in the Constitution of the ILO. What we now have is a compass and we have agreed together on how that compass is set. It is fixed on a strategy, aimed at bringing together the four strategic objectives in accordance with the basic principle of decent work, which was at the heart of this exercise.

In concrete terms, we agreed on the role to be played by States and the ILO in moving together towards our common destination. Firstly then, the role of States. We all agreed that it is up to each State to respect its commitments and to choose the way in which they wish to combine the strategic objectives in order to adapt them in the best possible way to their needs and circumstances. In doing so, they can count on the ILO to provide them with the support and guidance they need in order to take forward their strategy. Our Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization demonstrates how important it is that States fully shoulder their responsibilities in view of the challenges of globalization. Their very legitimacy is at stake because globalization does not absolve States of their responsibilities with regard to social policy.

Turning now to the role of the Organization, which is crucial within our Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. There was total unanimity within our Committee that the ILO should play to the full its role as a benchmark, capable of producing reliable data and analyses of the economic and social realities, while continuing to accomplish its standard-setting mission. It has

struck me the extent to which Employers and Workers, as well as Governments, are calling for a more effective ILO, in terms of expertise, knowledge and analysis.

As the discussions went on, we became convinced that reshaping our Organization was not a matter of resources or additional commitments. It was a matter of streamlining practices that are no longer relevant.

The Governing Body and the Office will find in the annex to our Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization and in the resolution on strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization very precise guidance regarding the tasks they should now undertake in order to take our work forward. It is clear to me that the list given is not exhaustive and that the process will, without doubt, lead to the consideration of other institutional practices.

I would like to pay tribute to the whole team that made it possible for the Report and the related documents to be submitted here to you today. It is a pleasure for me to express my thanks to the Vice-Chairpersons, Mr Emmanuel Julien and Mr Ebrahim Patel, who worked with me on this Committee and made it possible to forge the basis for a new consensus. Needless to say, I also thank the Reporters whose dedication and commitment allowed the Committee to operate as smoothly as it did. Thanks also go to all of my Government colleagues and friends; I was able to count on their support and commitment, which allowed me to lead substantive discussions. Thanks also to the secretariat, to the representatives of the secretariat who were sitting alongside me on the podium and also to the solidarity of the whole secretariat without which it would not be possible for us to have the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization or the resolution on strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization. I would like to thank the interpreters, who have made it possible for us to speak to one another with understanding and who were extremely flexible in time management and in being available to assist us when required. Thanks also to Mr Francis Maupain, who began this long and dangerous exercise. I know that he had been considering this issue for years, but thanks to him, thanks to his determination, we have been able to produce something that will be of value to our Organization in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to endorse the comments made yesterday by Mr Patel when he underscored the fact that we should not misuse historical references. He is absolutely right to say that history alone will judge the work done by the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity but, far from suggesting that history just happens to us, it is up to all of us to shape the future that is opening up before us, and the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization and the resolution on strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization show us the road to take.

Original Spanish: The PRESIDENT

I now declare open the general discussion on the Report of the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity.

Mr LOGAR (Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Slovenia, speaking on behalf of the European Union)

I take the floor on behalf of the European Union. It is an honour for me to have the opportunity to speak at this historical moment of the adoption of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.

The European Union would like to express its appreciation for the constructive approach and the spirit of consensus shown throughout the process of adopting the Declaration. We see it as an excellent example of tripartite negotiations that has brought us to a successful outcome, in the interest of Governments, Workers and Employers.

The European Union welcomes the adoption of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization which gives a strong political message and represents a promotional framework which takes account of the present context of globalization. For the first time since the Declaration of Philadelphia, constituents have engaged in an overall reflection on the way in which the basic changes that have affected the international system have repercussions on the implementation of the ILO's mandate. Since the beginning of the third process, the general view has been that the ILO needs to be strengthened to enable it to respond better to its Members' needs, to tackle changes arising from the globalization process and that knowledge-based governance and the credibility of the ILO need to be further improved.

It goes without saying, Mr President, that the Declaration before us is an important tool and promotional framework for the achievement of these goals, as well as the ILO's strategic objectives that comprise the Decent Work Agenda. For the European Union, Decent Work is not a temporary, fashionable issue but a policy tool that structures the entire ILO agenda. Decent Work is also an integral part of established policies, as agreed by all European Union institutions. Many other multilateral organizations, both regional and global, have taken up Decent Work at the highest level and are integrating it into the relevant policies. All these developments are of direct relevance for both the ILO and its constituents. I would also like to highlight that coordinated action, based on an integrated approach, is required in order to adequately implement the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. In this respect, we welcome the adoption of the resolution which details the modalities of implementation. The Governing Body, together with the Director-General, face a very demanding task in implementing this resolution.

Mr President, allow me to conclude by saying that the European Union and its member States will also continue to take an active part in future activities related to the promotion and implementation of the Declaration. We will make every effort to contribute to constructive dialogue with other constituents and to a successful follow-up that will result in a positive impact on the globe.

Mr AJUZIE (Labour Attaché, Permanent Mission, Geneva, speaking on behalf of the Africa group)

On behalf of the Africa group, Nigeria will commend the entire members of the SILC Committee for having done excellent work in going to the uphill task of reconciling different views at the committee level as each regional group argued its case in the course of discussion on the basic document

presented to that Committee by the Office. We wish to publicly recognize the able way in which the Chairperson of the Committee directed the affairs throughout the entire session and throughout the discussions, starting from the United States Conference of 2007 down to the current Conference.

The Africa group as a body joined other members of the Committee to discuss all the draft reports at the Committee plenary up to the point of drafting, and indeed, legal drafting. We also participated in the heated debates to ensure that the concerns of the less developed of the world were integrated in the elements of these important documents, the Declaration texts. We are particularly happy to state that the interests of the Africa group, along with other less developed countries, have been properly integrated. We were also happy to participate in determining the title of the Declaration document itself, which, we believe, was an integral topic in terms of admitting the importance of decent work and its strategic objectives as they affect the mandate of the ILO. We believe strongly that the theme adopted enables the ILO to work on its own internal horizontal governance, while bearing in mind its relationship with its constituent members and partnership with other international agencies.

We also observed that the consultative sessions were indeed inclusive, thorough and indeed interest-accommodating. We here congratulate other members who are in a position to make room to shift from their initial positions. In all, we thank the men and women responsible for drafting who integrated the outcome of the deliberations into the final work before all of us this afternoon. We will not fail to thank the African country members who participated in presenting and supporting the cases of our regional grouping. Above all, we believe strongly that the Declaration to the world will position the ILO to deliver strongly its mandates to its constituent members. We therefore do not hesitate to support the passage of this Declaration at this Conference.

Original French: Mr BOISNEL (Government, France)

France fully and happily endorses the statement made on behalf of the European Union by the Slovenian Presidency, through the Ambassador of Slovenia.

We would like to add some brief comments to it. France welcomes very much the agreement within its content and method, because only very open and in-depth consultation can lead to true consensus, like the consensus we are witnessing today, and it is good to remember that that is the case.

In opening up the task of strengthening the capacity of the ILO, which has been led with talent and determination by Francis Maupin from the outset, the ILO has set itself the goal of two meetings. The first of these meetings which is happening today, with justified solemnity is a meeting between the Organization and its future, and it is therefore quite appropriate that only a few moments ago, Chairperson Elmiger, spoke about the re-establishment of the ILO.

We needed a strategic vision, a forward-looking vision, underpinned by a strong and clear political message, and this message, we have it in the form of the 2008 Declaration, which will make its mark on the history of the Organization. Indeed, this text, which was commented upon in an outstanding fashion by all of the partners who have been involved in

its construction, brings together many important elements. First of all, the permanent ideals of the Organization, attested to by the many solid references to the Declaration of Philadelphia, the presence of which we find throughout this Declaration. These ideals are linked to an important and sustainable direction which the Organization is taking in giving a social and fair dimension to the globalization process and, with your permission, I would like to speak here about “processes” in the plural, because what we tend to call globalization is, in reality, neither uniform nor complete – far from it – and this is therefore a long-term objective for the ILO.

So, in order to link together these elements, which represent the heart of the agreement which we have come to, to implement them concretely, we have, at our disposal, an operational tool. This tool is Decent Work, a concept created here in the ILO, the pillars of which are inextricably linked in an integrated approach, but the dosage of which depends entirely on national circumstances.

The ILO has also set itself a second meeting which is a meeting with itself, which we could call modernization because we want a stronger ILO. In this regard, I am sure we all agree much remains to be done. This was the spirit behind the annex to the Declaration, and the resolution that supports it.

Regarding monitoring, implementation, and governance, we will never tire of saying that the whole of this project is reliant on strengthening the capacity of the ILO and that the project includes a package of reforms with different scopes and deadlines. Some relate directly to the Conference, and many relate to the Governing Body, and we are going to be addressing them very soon. All of these aspects mobilize fully the Office and the Director-General, whose task it is to give us initiatives, to give us proposals, to give us food for thought, to be able to make decisions, to make progress.

This calls for a considerable rigour, commitment and transparency, but in that regard France wishes to participate in and contribute to that process, not only as a national delegation but also in view of its forthcoming presidency of the European Union. France will take over the presidency from Slovenia, and wishes to thank and commend Slovenia for its outstanding work in the negotiation which has led us this evening to this tripartite and collective success.

Ms PONTICELLI (Government, United States)

As the Conference adopts this new Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, we should recognize that this is, in fact, the beginning, not the end, of our work. Looking ahead towards the implementation of the Declaration, we would suggest four important areas for consideration.

First, the process of implementing the Declaration must be open and transparent and Governments must be full participants in the process.

Second, the ability of the Office to promote its strategic objectives and assist its constituents must be the primary focus of the follow-up to this non-binding promotional text. To accomplish this mission, the ILO must strengthen its research capacity, improve monitoring and evaluation of ILO programmes and activities for impact, as well as output, strengthen human resources development, develop a rational and responsive field structure and improve implementation of results-based management.

With respect to the three new mechanisms mentioned in this document, recurring Conference discussions, country reviews and voluntary peer reviews, their focus should be on evaluation of the concrete impact of the ILO's efforts to assist its Members.

Third, because it will fall to the Governing Body to sort out and resolve many and varied issues, we can support the establishment of a Governing Body Steering Committee as a first step. We believe, however, that such a group should not be permanent. Ultimately, the Governing Body and its relevant committees must be responsible for implementation.

Fourth, implementation of the Declaration should be within existing resources and should not increase reporting burdens on Members.

Over the past two years, we have all become familiar with the acronym SILC (Survey on Income and Living Conditions). That acronym will now disappear, but the words it represented and the concept behind it, strengthening the ILO's capacity, should remain the Declaration's core purpose.

In conclusion, we look forward to a process of open dialogue and hope that, with effort and good will, the results of these long and often difficult discussions will lead to a strengthened and improved ILO that fulfils its mandate as the centre of excellence for labour issues.

Original Spanish: The PRESIDENT

We shall now move on to the adoption of the texts submitted by the Committee. First of all I propose the approval of the report, per se, in other words, the summary of the discussions in paragraphs 1–311.

If there are no objections, I shall consider that the report is approved.

(The report— paragraphs 1–311 – is approved.)

**DECLARATION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR A
FAIR GLOBALIZATION: ADOPTION**

Original Spanish: The PRESIDENT

I now submit for adoption the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.

Since there are no objections, I shall consider the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization is adopted.

(The Declaration is adopted by acclamation.)

**RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING THE ILO'S
CAPACITY TO ASSIST ITS MEMBERS' EFFORTS
TO REACH ITS OBJECTIVES IN THE CONTEXT
OF GLOBALIZATION: ADOPTION**

Original Spanish: The PRESIDENT

We will now proceed to the adoption of the resolution on strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization.

Since there are no objections, I shall consider the resolution on strengthening the ILO's capacity to assist its Members' efforts to reach its objectives in the context of globalization is adopted.

(The resolution is adopted and the report, as a whole, is approved.)

The Secretary-General of the Conference and myself, as President of the Conference, will now sign this historic Declaration of the ILO.

We know that the important result achieved today with the adoption of these texts is the fruit of several years of work. Hence our gratitude to the officers of the Committee on Strengthening the ILO's Capacity, the members of the Committee and everybody who contributed to this effort.

(Ms Diallo takes the Chair.)

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

Mr GAN (Government, Singapore)

The year 2007 was a good year for Singapore's economy and labour market. GDP grew by 7.7 per cent. The unemployment rate fell to 1.6 per cent, the lowest in a decade, as a result of record employment growth.

An important factor of our success is Singapore's flexible labour market. Our local population is complemented by the foreign workforce. This gives our companies access to the labour and skills that they need, from both local and foreign sources.

The foreign workforce makes a vital contribution to our economy. At the same time, we emphasize very strongly skills training and upgrading for our workforce to ensure they remain relevant.

Singapore recently announced the ten-year Continuing Education and Training (CET) Master Plan. Under this Master Plan, we want to make a lot of training qualifications portable, establish stronger links between our CET Master Plan and pre-employment training and education systems, and set up more CET centres to deliver quality training for adult learners.

By 2010, Singapore will have increased our annual training capacity by more than three-fold through new CET centres in growth sectors. The Master Plan will provide opportunities for all workers, especially the half a million Singaporean workers with lower educational qualifications or skills.

With increasing life expectancy, our workers need to continue working longer before retirement. Singapore therefore plans to implement legislation by 2012 to enable workers to work to the age of 65, beyond the statutory retirement age of 62. This will be done through the concept of re-employment which is currently being promoted by our tripartite partners.

Apart from working longer, there is also a need to help workers stretch their retirement savings to last longer. In fact, to last for life. Singapore has therefore recently introduced the new National Lifelong Income Scheme, or CPF LIFE for short, to provide a lifelong income for our workers in their retirement.

This year, Singapore also faces the challenge of high inflation and the rising cost of living due to high global commodity prices. The tripartite partners have agreed that companies could consider giving a one-off special payment to rank-and-file workers with a heavier weightage for low-wage workers. This, together with recently introduced government measures, will help them cope with inflation.

Singapore's initiatives to enhance employability and income sustainability of our workers represent

our efforts to achieve the ILO's objective of providing decent work for all. Tripartism plays a crucial role in tackling economic and employment challenges in Singapore, founded on mutual trust, common understanding and a shared purpose. We will continue to seek collaboration rather than confrontation, to achieve greater synergy and a win-win-win solution for workers, employers and Government.

Singapore has recently been elected as a titular member of the ILO Governing Body for the Association of Southeast Asian National (ASEAN) region. We thank two member States who supported our candidature. As a titular member, Singapore will strive to do its best to represent ASEAN's collective interests at the ILO, promote closer ASEAN-ILO collaboration, and further the ILO objective of enhancing the overall well-being of our workers.

In conclusion, the Singaporean delegation looks forward to a fruitful discussion on the various issues on the agenda. I am confident that under your able leadership, the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference will be a successful one.

Original Spanish: Ms ROZAS (Worker, Chile)

We are now well into the first decade of a new century and yet, despite that, we are still discussing freedom of association and the rights of workers to collective bargaining.

Our country has subscribed to the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), but they are ignored in terms of application. The interests of companies and capital override these essential rights of workers, the aim of which is to improve the distribution of the wealth generated by labour.

The way in which work has been organized using outsourcing is an attempt on the part of companies to avoid responsibility. These companies hide behind subcontracting, fail to honour contracts or indeed the proliferation of different company names. This is something which fragments the labour force and makes employment more precarious, hampering unionization and effective collective bargaining, which, in our country, only accounts for 9 per cent of bargaining. Thousands of people work on a seasonal temporary or casual basis and they are legally prevented from organizing and bargaining over their rights. They also are forced to accept working conditions and pay which do not meet any labour standards and which in no way bear any relation to decent work. Similarly, there is a real risk that you lose your job or you will be passed over for promotion if you belong to a union, when the bosses themselves have set up parallel unions.

In Chile, the economy has experienced sustained growth, and has modernized in many areas. However, there has still not been an increase in the minimum wage and there is a lack of freedom of association. This is not just because of a lack of appropriate legislation. The most important cause is that the majority of employers carry out policies and have cultures which are against the unions. The rate of unionization is 13 per cent, and only 7 per cent of the labour force is involved in collective bargaining. Half the very few negotiations that exist are unregulated instruments and they are very often imposed by the company.

Chilean legislation only allows for bargaining within the company and very often these companies are then subdivided under various company names, the aim being to ensure that workers cannot unite to have increased bargaining power. In addition, this is something which encourages parallel unions, encouraging bargaining processes with groups or workers on the fringe of the trade union. As for strikes, Chilean legislation authorizes companies, and I think it is the only place in the world where this is the case, to contract strike breakers to replace those who are trying to exercise that right.

Collective bargaining is an instrument which allows for wealth distribution. The absence of this element in conditions of equality is one of the reasons why Chile is one of the countries on our continent with the highest levels of inequality. According to studies carried out by international organizations, there are huge wage gaps and so a lack of social protection. The same companies and the same international capital that, in their countries of origin, particularly in Europe, have to deal with fairer labour standards and rights, find in developing countries a cheap and available unemployed labour, thanks to a lack of legislation which properly protects labour rights. Outsourcing, which finds its expression in subcontracting, has become a perverse form of exploitation and sometimes even leads to the humiliation of the labour force, particularly women.

Subcontracting is, of course, not a bad thing in itself. The problem is that, in our countries, it has departed from its original aim. It was designed initially so that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) specializing in certain fields would be in a position to operate effectively, providing services to so-called main companies. However, in Chile, in practice subcontracting has simply been used to cut labour costs, resulting in precarity of employments and workers whose rights are unprotected and who are exposed to high risks in terms of accidents and occupational disease. It is therefore very difficult properly to exercise fundamental labour rights. This is why we stress the need for frank, direct and permanent dialogue between employers and workers in our country.

The Unitary Labour Central (CUT) in Chile is ready for social dialogue in which employers and workers would be able to agree on policies which would benefit the economic growth of both the country and the companies, but with clear mechanisms ensuring wealth distribution and decent labour standards. We want a tripartite dialogue, to explore the possibilities of establishing a good practices symbol for products and services in our country, so that domestic and foreign consumers will be aware as to whether these products are in fact manufactured according to acceptable labour standards or whether they are the result of social dumping.

Economic development must be for the benefit of the people, not the market. A country with freedom of association, good collective bargaining practices, permanent social dialogue, and social justice is a country that can enjoy social peace. In these conditions, it is possible to produce more and better quality products because the population benefits from decent work.

I would like to thank you on behalf of the Chilean workers, and certainly wish well to our friend and indeed compatriot, Juan Somavia. I would like to

thank him for all the support he has provided to the union movement in Chile and the country. We are very proud of him and we certainly hope that he will be successful in his upcoming tasks.

Original Arabic: Mr HAMADEH (Employer, Lebanon)

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for having waited so patiently. I am afraid to say that I have an objection to raise concerning the fact that the order of the speakers' list has not been respected. I am therefore withdrawing my statement and would like to ask that this be placed on the record.

Original Vietnamese: Mr NGUYEN (Vice-Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Viet Nam)

It is my great honour to address this important Conference on behalf of the Government of Viet Nam. I would like to extend our warmest regards to the President. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Director-General on his comprehensive Global Report entitled *Freedom of association in practice: Lessons learned*.

In Viet Nam, we always promote the right of workers and employers to establish and participate in organizations, to have their rights and interests protected by law. We also realize that the more important thing is to see how these rights are respected in practice, and therefore note, with special interest, the positive trends pointed out in the Global Report.

Despite these achievements, we also realize that new challenges are emerging for the world, as well as for every country. In Viet Nam, freedom of association, the right to organize and collective bargaining are clearly stated in the Constitution, as well as in the Labour Code, the Law on Trade Unions and a number of other legal documents. So far, collective bargaining agreements have been signed in more than 90 per cent of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and 30 per cent of non-state enterprises. The Government of Viet Nam also pays special attention to activities to promote the signing of collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) at both enterprise and sector levels, for example, capacity-building activities and providing guidance for representatives of workers and employers to negotiate and sign CBAs. In particular, in 2007, the National Tripartite Commission was established, promoting the role of social partners in social dialogue, and building sound industrial relations in Viet Nam. With technical support from the ILO, industrial relations services have been established in seven key industrial provinces, operating on a regular basis.

We also greatly appreciate the inclusion of the promotion of rural employment for poverty reduction and building skills for improved productivity, employment growth and development on the agenda of the Conference. We agree that the Report on promoting rural employment is timely in this context, in the face of a possible global food crisis and increasing demand for decent work in rural and informal sectors. So far, the Government of Viet Nam has promulgated policies to support farmers who lose their land due to rapid urbanization. Programmes on vocational training for workers in these areas, especially farmers and people with disabilities, have been put in place.

In 2007, with support from the state budget and other sources of funding, the programme has provided vocational training for about 400,000 rural workers, young people from ethnic minorities, workers with disabilities and people in poor house-

holds, with a view to creating jobs and reducing poverty.

Upgrading skills and vocational training are given high priority in Viet Nam's socio-economic development policies and are considered to be driving forces for improved productivity, competitiveness and sustainable development. A law on vocational training has been promulgated and took effect on 1 June 2007. Under this new law, the system of vocational training across our country will continue to receive strong investments, especially from the private sector. The number of vocational training institutions and participants in training courses increases every year. Vocational training projects have been integrated into the National Target Programme on Poverty Reduction.

Embarking on 2008, in a context of increasing prices, Viet Nam's economy is also facing new challenges, including inflation, trade deficit and slowed economic growth.

In this new context, to keep the momentum of growth, the Government of Viet Nam continues to finalize the system of labour laws, build sound industrial relations and promote consultation with employers' and workers' representatives.

I have the honour to inform you that just recently, on 16 May 2008, the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam signed Decision No. 616 on the ratification of the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144), bringing the total number of ratified Conventions to 18. At the moment, with technical support from the ILO, the Government of Viet Nam is studying the conditions for possible ratification of a number of instruments, including the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105), the Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184), and the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983 (No. 159).

During the past years, considerable progress has been made in terms of cooperation between the ILO and tripartite organizations. In December 2007, the Government of Viet Nam and the ILO, together with social partners, successfully conducted the first ever Viet Nam employment forum, with the theme of growth, employment and decent work. At the forum, measures were highlighted to implement the national cooperation framework between the ILO and Viet Nam on promoting decent work in Viet Nam during the period 2006–10. The Government of Viet Nam and the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the two sides for the period 2008–10. Within the cooperation framework, a number of programmes have been developed.

In the future, we will give priority to labour market development, human resources development, upgrading skills, improving the quality of employment, promoting social dialogue and sound industrial relations, reforming wage policies and implementing voluntary social insurance schemes for farmers and workers in the informal sector.

On this occasion, on behalf of the Government of Viet Nam, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for the assistance given to Viet Nam by the ILO and other countries during the past years, and look forward to further cooperation and assistance in the coming years.

Today's economy is troubled by lack of jobs, the high prices of housing, food and oil, the instability of financial markets and the slowing down of global growth. It is therefore vital to carefully evaluate the impact of current crisis on workers and vulnerable low-skilled workers, in particular, while bearing in mind the twofold role of labour that is economic and social.

Over the past year, a major aspect disturbing the international labour markets is that the number of jobs available has been far less than expected given growth performance. In fact, the recent phase of economic growth in both developed and developing countries has not been accompanied by a proportional increase in employment – a jobless growth. This tendency reduces the ability to pursue desirable goals. In developed countries, for example, the ageing of the population introduces a note of caution to ensure that workers may enjoy their right to a pension and that solidarity among generations be respected.

In developing countries, the current stage of economic development failed to deliver an improvement in the quality of jobs. Africa provides a clear example. While in this region there is a high employment-to-population ratio, employment is strongly associated with poverty. The lack of educational and professional opportunities and the slow growth of labour productivity too often force poor people to work in order to survive, regardless of the quality and decency of work.

The presence of a large number of working poor is another major aspect of the international markets. In sub-Saharan Africa, in 2007, the share of working poor at US\$1 a day was greater than 50 per cent, and the share of those earning US\$2 a day, was over 85 per cent. Such a disadvantage is compounded by an uneven financial and trade relationship with more powerful and more technologically advanced partners. Pope Benedict XVI has observed, "In many situations the weak must bow not to the demands of justice, but to the naked power of those stronger than themselves".

Caught up in the present economic difficulties, young people, women, small farmers and disabled persons all find it difficult to offer their contribution in the world of work, and to obtain the jobs for which they are suited and for which they have been prepared.

For some time, the ILO has provided effective leadership in promoting decent work, consistent with human dignity, in both developed and developing countries. In this context, care should be taken not to reduce the concept of decency to simply better-paid jobs and healthier working conditions. Human dignity calls for a wider concept, work is an opportunity for a person to discover herself in action and to develop the web of relationships she is inserted in, allowing her to fulfil her vocation by fully exploiting her talents. In other words, a decent job is one that allows an expression of personal freedom and the responsibility for self-realization that will lead to an integral development of the human being. The creation of more decent and productive jobs involves a cooperative effort of workers, employers and the State in the tripartite tradition of the ILO. In this framework, transnational corporations and other business enterprises assume a critical role. An additional element evident in in-

ternational labour markets refers mainly to developed countries: work flexibility. Flexibility seems one of the prominent features of the current face of globalization and, when referred to the labour market, it is often a source of serious concerns and worries. In some sectors of the economy, flexibility offers advantages to both employers and workers, while in others it could become an unacceptable form of precarious and exploitative work. In any case, flexibility requires a policy where the offers by employers and the workers need preferences meet in a cooperative and just way.

Despite these problems, the debate on flexibility allows us to give centrality to the human person and labour market policies. In fact, flexibility shifts the attention from the work/job to the person that undertakes it.

However, there are few doubts of the fact that these changes in the labour market imply transition costs that can be relevant. Flexibility can be associated with greater uncertainty and economic volatility that could be a source of concern, particularly for families.

This is certainly true for low-skilled workers, who inevitably have a weaker bargaining power in relation to employers in the labour market. In fact, one of the consequences of the increasing flexibility is that it tends to widen the gap between high skills and low skills, giving an increasing premium to the former.

In the current debate on the international work market, all analysis and policies should take into consideration two basic facts. First, the relevance of the subjective dimension of work. What gives value to the job is not what is being produced but who is the one who undertakes it. And then, the social dimension. Work is a social activity undertaken by the individual within society.

In conclusion, the subjective and social dimensions of work shed new light on a critical aspect of current globalization: the international movement of workers. Labour cannot be considered as other anonymous factors of production, such as capital: while complementary to them, it takes priority over production.

In the fluctuation of the economy, the ILO can continue to play an active and critical role in the world in reducing persistent social gaps. The strategy of productivity and job creation, universal access to knowledge, technology and increased competence, cooperation, all elements that support sustainable development, will enable the Organization to reach its goal.

The international community faces several challenges. In addressing them, a decisive factor sustains all of them: the dignity of the human person. If such a premise is the starting point, policies can be designed and challenges and problems faced with a sense of confidence, and creative solutions will follow for the realization of the common good.

(Mr Louh takes the Chair.)

Original Arabic: Mr ABDULLAH ALI (representative, Palestinian Authority)

Allow me, first of all, to communicate to you the greetings of the Palestinian people and to express our appreciation, the appreciation of the Palestinian authorities, for all the efforts being made by the ILO in the interests, in the service of humanity, particularly in respect of conserving the concept of tripar-

tism and the strengthening of social responsibility and working towards gender equality, prohibiting child labour, and the strengthening of all efforts which make it possible to move towards sustainable development.

Allow me to express our sincerest thanks to the Director-General, Mr Juan Somavia, for his efforts, as leader of this Organization to bring it closer to its objectives. I would like to thank him more particularly for his Report on the situation of Arab workers in the occupied territories, which has enabled all participants to have a clear picture of the situation and of all the violations that we experience in the hands of the Israeli occupying forces. We wish to thank the efforts of the Regional Director of the Organization to strengthen the role of the Organization and broaden all initiatives. We would also call for the ILO to strengthen the follow-up for production partnerships and support all employers with all the operational difficulties they face on a daily basis, in order that they may strengthen their capacity to deal with the policy of marginalization, expropriation and expulsions, implemented by the occupying forces.

It is with great pleasure that we heard the proposal made by the Director of the Arab Labour Organization to hold an international conference to strengthen and support Arab workers in the Palestinian territories.

I would also like to express my thanks to the Organization for launching the technical cooperation programme, which was recently signed in order to develop the capacities of the Palestinian Ministry of Labour and our production partners with regard to professional training and cooperation.

The Report of the Director-General was fairly comprehensive and clearly described the situation of our citizens and the economy in the occupied territories. In this regard, I would like to concentrate on the Palestinian authorities' efforts to improve the very precarious and terrible situation faced by our people.

From the humanitarian point of view, we have continued our cooperation with various donors and agencies of the United Nations, as well as with international organizations and agencies to try and remedy the situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which has become a prison for 1.5 million citizens. These organizations have always met our basic requirements in respect of medicines, petrol, electricity and water, and have enabled us to maintain education and health services, as well as providing assistance to the poor and helping to ensure that the wages of some 70,000 people are being paid regularly.

From the political point of view, we welcomed the Annapolis Conference with great hope, since it gave a real opportunity to put an end to the occupational and final a solution for the two States concerned.

From the economic point of view, the Palestinian authorities have been successful, thanks to these efforts by the Palestinian authority, the public sector and the donors, as well as the private sector. We have continued our work to develop a medium-term reform, 2008–10, with the participation of production partners and, owing to the donor conference that took Paris in December 2007, generous promises were made, to the tune of US\$7.7 billion. This shows the trust that the international community has in our people.

Regarding investment in Bethlehem, last May a meeting was held in which a large number of personalities, businessmen, investors and others from across the world participated. This resulted in investment agreements, which amounted to US\$1.4 billion, making it possible to create some 35,000 job opportunities.

In the sphere of reform and good governance, we have made considerable progress in managing public monies, thanks to a single budget through which all income and expenditure passes, and this has created a much greater degree of review and transparency. The reforms are continuing in respect of supremacy of law and justice.

The Palestinian authority has respected all the promises it made in Anapolis and Paris, particularly those taken within the framework of the Road Map, but unfortunately Israel is continuing, and even accelerating, its violations through the confiscation of territory and the construction of the separation wall, and there are increasing acts of aggression, detention, destruction, expropriation, and the closing of points where we can pass from one area to the other and the construction of an increasing number of barriers, as well as other policies and acts of aggression which are intended to impede our economy.

This Israeli policy will destroy all the efforts undertaken during the Anapolis Conference which is leading to an atmosphere of great pessimism.

The Palestinian authority is working with great confidence, on the basis of its true belief in peace, and we hope that we shall be able to come back to the negotiating table and recreate confidence. We are making all these efforts because we believe it is the only way to strengthen our people and allow them to remain on their territory and gain independence.

We are certain that this path will lead to global unanimity concerning the need to bring an end to the Israeli occupational and violation of international law that we have been suffering since Israel's creation in 1967, and to bring peace to our region.

Thank you for your attention and I wish you every success in your countries and in your discussions. May the peace of God be with you all.

Mr AHMED (*Worker, Pakistan*)

We congratulate the ILO Governing Body and the International Labour Office on the Decent Work Agenda and all its work relating to employment, standards, social dialogue, social protection, and safety and health. We esteem the statesmanship of the Director-General, Mr Somavia, in placing the ILO in the international arena as well as including Decent Work in the agenda of the United Nations.

We offer our appreciation to the members and officers of the various committees who have ensured a positive conclusion and given their full support.

The Director-General's Report rightly highlights, on page 1, that "we find ourselves in the midst of global financial turmoil, soaring food prices and economic downturn". Almost 1.2 billion people are living below US\$2 a day, and another 100 million will fall into the trap as a result of this upheaval. Therefore, it calls for international action since there was an outflow of capital from developing countries in 2006 amounting to US\$70 billion. Policies ensuring poverty reduction need to be reviewed and the new liberalism has to respect the fundamental rights of workers and ensure the provision of basic needs. The transfer of technology and knowl-

edge in developing countries has to be implemented and social protection for the informal sector and the rural poor has to be provided, with respect for the gender issue.

It also required international financial regulations to overcome financial crises such as those of East Asia and Argentina and the United States sub-prime mortgage crisis, as pointed out in the Director-General's Report. It also required the overcoming of extremist forces because Pakistan is a front line State in the war against terrorism and facing the backlash of war.

Against this background, the general election was held in Pakistan on 18 February. Unfortunately, our national leader Benazir Bhutto was brutally assassinated. With the support of the teeming masses and the working class, the Democrats won the election and we have had a social dialogue with the political parties while holding the election, to include Decent Work in the agenda and also labour issues. And that is the reason the Prime Minister of Pakistan has declared his intent in his first speech to bring labour law into conformity with the ILO Convention. We rightly expect and urge the Government of Pakistan to repeal the labour laws which are not in conformity with the ILO Convention, vis-à-vis, unskilled workers employed in both the public and private sector, adopt a national economic self-reliance policy to provide decent work and participation in industrial relations, ensure the welfare of workers and human capital development by providing free education to all males and females with an eye to meeting the labour market requirements, provide social protection for the rural poor and abolish feudalism.

We have recently held a national tripartite conference on decent work for all, which was inaugurated by the ILO Asia-Pacific regional directorate and we have also recently embarked on a Decent Work Country Programme. We therefore urge the ILO to extend technical cooperation for the benefit of all stakeholders and promote the concept of Decent Work.

We assure our full support to the people in their struggle for the right of self-determination and urge the Government and the ILO to extend technical assistance to work on unemployment and rising poverty, because it is urgently required for the peace of millions.

We are celebrating the 90th anniversary of the ILO next year and commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Committee on Freedom of Association. In line with the principles outlined by the founding fathers, we declare that labour is not a commodity and that international peace can only be achieved if it is based on social justice. This is still valid and needs to be continued. We expect that all the participants of this great historic Conference will continue to pursue these objectives both nationally and internationally.

We wish the Conference every success in reaching positive conclusions for a better tomorrow for the workers and wish all participants success in their work back in their own countries.

Original French: Ms SIPTEY (Minister of the Civil Service and Labour, Niger)

We can see from reading the Reports of the Chairperson of the Governing Body and of our Director-General that the ILO, has made much headway over the last few years, particularly in the field of promoting Decent Work. This progress can be

seen in the strong support of States and of the social partners for the concept of Decent Work. There is, however, a high risk of this progress being severely challenged by the economic crisis which threatens the world, especially in relation to finance and in foodstuff. In this respect the Report of the Director-General, *Decent Work: Some strategic challenges ahead*, is more topical than ever because it focuses on the Decent Work Agenda as a response to this crisis.

We agree entirely with the analysis in the Report regarding the shortcomings of globalization which has focused on economic growth to the detriment of social progress and the environment. This situation has led to grave inequalities between countries as well as between individuals. As expected, it is the developing countries who have been worst hit by the crisis with widespread price rises, in particular on foodstuffs which are the staples of life. In Africa and in Niger particularly, the Government, has decided to act in full awareness of its responsibilities and face up to this crisis, which is a fight for survival because of the explosion of the cost of living. We have adopted, as a matter of urgency, very far-reaching measures, which are aimed at alleviating the plight of our citizens. For instance, the duty free importation of a whole range of foodstuffs, the regulation of fuel prices achieved through subsidization, improving the purchasing power of public servants whose income has up until now always been below the cost of living, and increasing pensions.

Practically speaking, it should be noted that our Government has decided to opt for concentrating on agriculture during the dry season by developing crop irrigation. The plans to build the Kandadii Dam, which has the support of several partners, are about to get under way. We cannot refer to the special initiatives for combating poverty in Niger, without mentioning the President's special programme which, for almost ten years, has been providing various initiatives to provide basic social infrastructure, such as schools, clinics, water tanks, to recover degraded soil, and to create jobs for the rural population. This programme, apart from the specific results we have been looking at, contributes to getting unemployed people back to work through the creation of thousands of jobs. All this is to say that each country has to tackle the economic and social problems we face in the world today in its own way. However, in the current globalization context, the isolated actions of States are not enough. One of the first things we need to do is review the very basis of globalization so as to base international trade on the principle of fairness. It is also urgent that each of us should be aware of the close link between world peace, social justice and the struggle to combat poverty as laid down in the Preamble to the ILO Constitution and to take appropriate action.

In order for us to face up to today's challenges we need to define and implement a global strategy to fight poverty so as guarantee for each individual a decent living in order to eliminate inequality and injustice. The Decent Work Agenda is based on these values, and as I see it, it is the right way to face the challenges ahead. In conclusion, I would call on all to strive energetically towards a fair globalization, so that our discussions on this important topic over the last few years have not been in vain.

We believe that this session of the Conference will be very successful under the leadership of its President. We are pleased to see the Report entitled *Decent Work – Some strategic challenges ahead*, submitted by the Director-General to the Conference, which comprehensively reviews and analyses the highly effective work and the great achievements of the ILO and its tripartite constituents in realizing Decent Work, and which explains in detail the challenges and arduous tasks to be faced in the future.

The deepening of economic globalization is having a far-reaching impact on the global economy. While long-standing problems, such as poverty and employment, remain unresolved, new issues, such as population issues, food and energy, are emerging as concerns of the whole world. These issues can all be attributed to the fact that the unreasonable and unfair international political and economic order has not been changed, and that the imbalance in development and the gap between the rich and the poor has further widened. The international community is working towards fairness, equality and a win-win situation.

Under these new conditions, the ILO should continue its past effective and successful practices, to make a bigger contribution to the building of a fair and reasonable international economic order. We believe that with the advantages and experience of the ILO and the collective wisdom of the tripartite constituents brought fully into play, the realization of decent work and fair globalization can be achieved, while maintaining the sustainable development of the world economy and the international community. A harmonious and fair world will be built with our joint efforts.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of reform and an opening-up policy in China. China has made marked achievements during those 30 years, with its gross domestic product (GDP) increasing by 9.8 per cent annually, and the rate of China's contribution to the world economy exceeding 10 per cent and to world trade exceeding 12 per cent. Sustainable and rapid economic growth is an overriding precondition and lays a solid foundation for the boosting of national strength, improvement of people's lives and a solution to the issue of employment.

In recent years, over 10 million jobseekers have found employment each year. In 2007, 12.4 million jobseekers found employment in the Chinese labour market, which set the highest record in history. In the new stage of development, the Chinese Government has embarked on the road of people-oriented and scientific development to promote economic development in a sound and fast way. Great efforts have been made to expand employment and support entrepreneurship as a driving force for expanding employment. All this will surely contribute to the improvement of people's livelihood, to workers' contribution to development and to a better life for all citizens in China.

We believe that the steady and healthy development of companies can make an important contribution to economic growth, employment expansion and realization of decent work. The China Enterprise Confederation (CEC), as the Employer representative participating in the national tripartite mechanism in China, has committed itself to im-

proving the competitiveness of companies, expanding employment and urging companies to safeguard workers' legitimate rights and interests. Following the recent earthquake, of which you are all aware, which took place in the Sichuan province in China, over 20 days ago, the Chinese business community has worked energetically to undertake their corporate social responsibility and were united with the entire Chinese nation in this difficult moment, and they tried their best to help with disaster relief, re-employment of earthquake victims and post-earthquake reconstruction.

We attach great importance to the Decent Work Agenda and take an active part in promoting the implementation of Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs). We will, as always, strengthen our exchanges and cooperation with the ILO and employers' organizations of various countries, in our joint efforts for the realization of decent work and prosperity and development of the whole world.

Original French: Ms NTAP (Minister of Public Services, Employment, Labour and Professional Organizations, Senegal)

First of all, I would like to communicate to you the thanks of His Excellency Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, for the warm welcome given to him following his statement as guest at the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference. The Government of Senegal considers that the current crisis, which the world is facing, the most recent developments of which are the unprecedented food crisis, clearly highlights the value of the concept of decent work launched by our Organization under the leadership of the present Director-General.

Senegal adopted the philosophy and ideas which underpin this concept early on by ratifying, in the first years after its independence, among other fundamental texts Convention No. 87 and Convention No. 98, which are the core of the Global Report on the follow-up to the Declaration, which this year focuses on freedom of association and the real recognition of the right to collective bargaining. But we did not stop at ratification. Despite constraints, we have been able to ensure the effective implementation of the principles contained in the legal instruments to which our country is party. In this regard, in Senegal no employers' or workers' trade union is prohibited. This means that there is true pluralism, which is a corollary to freedom of association and a characteristic of the world of work in our country.

In addition to this, freedom of association in the world of work also concerns the informal sector where it has led to the creation of very dynamic organizations, which are able to deal with the multiple concerns of that sector, including those that are specific to rural areas.

As regards collective bargaining, the 1997 Labour Code enshrined the right to direct and collective expression for workers in their enterprises. This has enabled us to establish an effective means of stimulating social dialogue at all levels. We have thus been able to reach several agreements which have satisfied the State, workers and employers in the private sector. We cherish the hope that we shall achieve the same results in the current discussions, under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour, between the social partners with a view to concluding a social agreement in a vital sector: oil and hydrocarbons.

On behalf of the large delegation present at this present session of the ILO Conference, it is an honour for me to thank the ILO for its contribution to our success, thanks to its technical cooperation programme. In this context, I am happy to note the will which has already been expressed by the Subregional Office in Dakar, to assist us in the implementation of a major project which we are in the process of launching, which is the negotiation of a national, economic, national agreement on stability and economic growth, with a view to ensuring that we can establish growth within a peaceful context, thanks to quality social dialogue.

Social protection is another component of decent work, which is central to our Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. In this regard we have made considerable progress, including the possibility for the wage-earning spouse to be responsible for the hospitalization and medical costs of the non-wage-earning spouse, the increase in family allowances and the level of compensation for accidents in the workplace and old age pensions, as well as the adoption of a strategy to extend social protection to the informal sector, including in the rural areas. These achievements, particularly those I have just mentioned, represent an important step in the efforts to overcome marginalization in Senegal. These are listed in the document we have distributed, and we have further copies available for any of the distinguished delegates who may wish to receive them.

The real success and encouraging headway we have made in Senegal demonstrate that the implementation of the core values of decent work can make it possible for developing countries such as ours to overcome and take up many challenges. The Government of Senegal is committed to seizing the opportunity offered by the 90th anniversary of the ILO to further disseminate the ideals of our Organization through the Director-General's ILO Century Project.

Mr THAILUAN (*Worker, Thailand*)

I would like to recall my reports to the Conference over the last five years. I have continuously informed you about the situation of subcontracted workers in Thailand. I have mentioned the double-standard employment in the outsourcing system, resulting in subcontracted workers doing the same work as permanent workers, but for a lower salary without any fringe benefits. The total number of subcontracted workers is now 2 million.

The second issue I have mentioned concerns the tripartite system. The Government still had authority to appoint members on the part of employers' and workers' representatives, and it appeared that the number of Government representatives was not proportionate to the membership and the number of Government representatives in the tripartite committee outweighed workers' and employers' representatives. This results in weak tripartism in Thailand. These two problems have never been solved.

It is my great pleasure to inform you that during the amendment of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand in 2007, I proposed an amendment to ensure protection of subcontracted workers and the payment of equal wages and benefits to both subcontracted workers and permanent workers. I also proposed that the employers' and workers' representatives in the tripartite system be elected to their positions. The committee of the Constitution drafting assembly agreed to my proposal. My proposal

on the election of the employers' and workers' representatives has appeared in the Constitution, under article 84, paragraph 7, since 27 August 2007. After the Constitution came into force, the Labour Protection Act was amended on 27 May 2008. However, there is at present a problem concerning lay-offs and business closures. According to the Labour Protection Act, when an employer terminates an employee's employment or closes its business, it is liable to pay severance pay. However, most employers refuse to pay and employees cannot force them to pay because the law allows the right to confiscate the employers' property only as the third recourse. In this matter, I am going to request the Government to set up a fund to provide against this risk for employees and I will report the result to the Conference next year.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the President for providing me with the opportunity to speak at this session of the Conference. Thank you.

Mr SETYOKO (*Government, Indonesia*)

As the Director-General points out in his Report, it is a fact that we are now facing a challenging situation in the global economy. Rising oil prices, the food crisis and the impacts of global warming have aroused major concerns, including the sustainability of enterprises and employment conditions. Enterprises need to be more efficient in their production processes and the utilization of resources. As a result, we can see new patterns in business mechanisms and employment relations. Outsourcing and global sourcing, as well as new and efficient technologies, are being applied in order to make enterprises more competitive. Although Indonesia's economic growth has been remarkably stable and strong in the past decade, we still hear questions about the quality of economic growth and its impact on poverty reduction, social cohesion, growth and inequality, including in our living environment. The majority of Indonesia's economic development is supported by informal economy activities. Consequently, we have to deal with workers engaged in medium and small enterprises, including self-employed workers. These workers are vulnerable and need special guidance and protection.

The ILO's Decent Work Agenda is an admirable concept, including from a social policy perspective, in dealing with globalization, particularly in situations of economic turmoil such as we are currently witnessing. It will guide us effectively in implementing our "triple-track strategy", which is pro-growth, pro-jobs and pro-poor. The creation of productive employment, rights at work, social dialogue and social protection are strong pillars to be applied in any socio-economic situation, especially when we consider the capacity of our men and women to power development and social justice from the perspectives of growth and equality.

The promotion of an investment climate is one of our policies in order to strengthen our economic growth and to create more and better jobs, as well as productive employment. The Government is working actively to improve the quality of our human resources, in particular by raising skills, competencies and productivity awareness, in order to improve national productivity.

The ILO in Indonesia is a partner in these efforts. We therefore welcome the discussion on skills for improved productivity, employment growth and development to be held during this Conference. I

am of the opinion that globalization and foreign direct investment should benefit all Indonesian job-seekers and workers, not only those with the right skills and competency, but also low-skill and vulnerable workers who usually operate in the informal economy, such as farmers and fishermen living in rural areas. We believe that foreign investment could also provide a more effective transfer of know-how and improve our labour productivity in the workplace. Indonesian workers, both in formal and informal employment, can enjoy their freedom of association and right to organize, to express their collective interests.

Indeed, this year we are commemorating the tenth anniversary of the ratification of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87). We applaud this 97th Session of the International Labour Conference for discussing the issue of rural employment for poverty reduction. It is timely, and a good start for the ILO, and particularly for the developing countries, to pay closer attention to the employment conditions and social security of the majority who continue to live a traditional way of life.

In the area of labour and employment, we have been affected by some significant effects of climate change such as floods, high tides and unpredictable seasons that have hit farmers and fishermen in various regions. In some cases, industries have had to deal with the problem of waste that pollutes areas where people live. Climate change and environmental problems are significantly influencing employment and labour markets, resulting in the disappearance of large numbers of jobs, which will need to be replaced by the creation of others. Therefore, the ILO, hand in hand with the tripartite constituents, has to support measures on climate change, such as employment transition programmes, including the creation of green jobs, re-employment programmes, training and education, as well as bridging compensation.

Finally, we would like to see a stronger ILO, especially in terms of assisting all constituents in the context of the social dimension of globalization by focusing on the real needs of constituents in developing pathways toward decent work goals.

Mr ZHELYAZKOV (*Employer, Bulgaria*)

The Bulgarian employers share the conclusions drawn in the Director-General's Report, especially those under point 2 concerning freedom of association and freedom of determination of agreement rules, which match closely Bulgaria's common practice in the field.

During the last year, Bulgarian employers realized important achievements, not only in endorsing and promoting social dialogue in this country but also in achieving an economic growth of considerable scale. The successful social dialogue, based on the Pact for the Economic and Social Growth of the Republic of Bulgaria up to 2009, signed for the first time in the history of Bulgaria, has been continued, leading to an increase in salaries and personal income, a reduction in social insurance payments, accelerated economic growth and the creation of new jobs.

As a European Union Member State, in 2007 we operated under really favourable conditions, characterized by a 10 per cent tax rate; since 2008, the personal income tax rate is also 10 per cent. These indicators are amongst the lowest in Europe. Tax

reform, reflected in the substantial improvement of the business climate, which is expected to make even further progress as a result of cutting red tape, will reduce the number, scope and terms of licences and permission regimes.

The Bulgarian employers consider human resources as most important and actively apply the vocational training approach, combined with multiple stimuli aimed at promoting labour productivity. To achieve this, we work continuously to implement a new type of policy, intended to provide human resources matching precisely the needs of the Bulgarian employers, by promoting controlled migration and by structuring state education in accordance with labour market challenges. Negotiations on the definition of minimal insurance income, differentiated by main economic activity and qualification group of professions, are being held on a yearly basis; a direct result is the increase in living standards in this country, plus a substantial decrease in the informal economy.

Our success in improving the business climate, would, however, be useless unless integrated measures are adopted by all ILO Members so as to make it possible to address promptly a number of challenges, which could be defined as key to the success not only of Bulgarian companies, but worldwide.

First, sustainable action should be undertaken to prevent unfavourable climate change by ensuring ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by all countries. This is the most important topic on today's global agenda because, unless all the countries around the globe meet their commitment to reduce carbon emissions dramatically, competition will compel non-ratifying countries to produce cheaper, but more environmentally unfriendly goods, thus placing the socially responsible companies of the European Union, which comply with carbon emission restraint rules in an unfavourable position.

Second, progress how to be achieved in the next WTO round of negotiations because the price dumping practised by some countries in certain sectors does have a very negative effect, harming not only the market positions and performance of socially responsible companies but also the labour markets in social economies.

Given these challenges, we would like to appeal for a considerable involvement of the ILO in addressing them adequately in the nearest possible future.

Original Spanish: Mr MUGA (Employer, Chile)

On behalf of the Confederation of Production and Trade, representing the Chilean employers, I would like to take this opportunity at this important forum of the United Nations to express particular satisfaction with the topics on the agenda of the past two sessions of the International Labour Conference. We would particularly like to highlight the analysis of the conditions required for the development of sustainable enterprises and the study of the professional qualifications needed to increase productivity.

The promotion of decent work requires sustainable enterprises within which the capacities and contributions of all actors can be developed and recognized. Serious and transparent consideration of this kind of topic, closely related to productive activity, training and employment within the tripartite framework of the ILO, is of interest to employers, workers and governments, and contributes to a bet-

ter understanding and knowledge of the different interests and realities of all the parties involved in labour relations.

In turn, may this prestigious and global forum, prioritize shared knowledge and constructive discussion regarding the circumstances in which companies carry out their activities may it contribute to the generation of the level of trust needed for an effective social dialogue within our countries and within our companies.

When workers and employers establish a dialogue on the basis of shared information which takes into account the reality of the work and the company's production activities, communication becomes easier, which makes it possible to reach agreements on modern and appropriate labour relations for a world that is constantly changing and facing new challenges.

At the national level, we would like to highlight some of the announcements on labour issues made recently by the President of the Republic, Ms Michelle Bachelet, that we believe we are on the right track are especially interested in the proposal to create a national system of trade union training and the willingness to tackle situations which might be abuses of the trade union movement. Both of these ideas correspond to an objective we share: providing better training to our interlocutors in order to facilitate social dialogue and so that they understand the relevance of improving labour relations within companies for the benefit of all stakeholders. We hope that the efforts aimed at providing better trade union training will be open to all workers who are interested irrespective of their affiliation, and that the training will be carried out through a decentralized modern and open system, in which universities and higher education institutions may participate to provide the necessary qualifications.

The Chilean employers' sector has much experience in these fields and we hope that it will be duly considered by the responsible authorities.

We must recognize that this is an area in which we must continue to make progress for which we renew our efforts to properly train small and medium-sized enterprise owners, as well as those in larger enterprises, who mix with workers on a daily basis.

Here, we identify an area in which we believe we can make headway and which focuses on the same idea of creating the best conditions for social dialogue.

We would also like to stress that the President of the Republic has clearly emphasized the importance of prioritizing collective bargaining within enterprises, because it is within companies that labour relations are developed and the daily challenges of commercial activities arise. This is very relevant in Chile where we were concerned recently by the unusual violence seen in some labour conflicts by workers and agents not connected with the enterprises. This use of violence has threatened the peace and has imposed views which are not shared by the majority of Chilean workers.

By contrast, Chilean employers have reinforced their willingness to engage in dialogue and respect for the rule of law. We are convinced that, through dialogue, we will contribute not just to improving labour relations but also to increasing the growth of the country and the creation of more and better jobs. In this way, we can face up to the challenges of equity, which are a source of concern for us all.

Chile is a country which readily embraces social peace and understanding. In this context, the employers are on the path which respects the law and seeks dialogue.

Within the context of globalization where companies face the daily challenge of competition, we would like to emphasize our conviction that the way ahead is based on modern and cooperative labour relations, and not in concepts of conflict and ideals which have been overcome.

Proof of the above is the reform that will come into force in the coming weeks. This consolidates the individual capitalization system and the private administration of funds to which we have allied a new pillar of solidarity. All this has been achieved through dialogue and has particularly benefited the poorest.

Finally, we would like to express our hope that the election of the Director-General of the ILO, which will take place at the end of this year, will follow the trend of the past years. In other words, while guaranteeing the proper management of this important Agency of the United Nations, we would like to include topics on the agenda that unite workers and employers in their vision of the future, setting out the joint challenges which we must face through cooperation and dialogue. In this regard, we propose that issues such as the link between education and employment, youth employment, equal opportunities and the relationship between flexibility and security should be included on the agenda of future sessions of the Conference.

Mr SUNMONU (*representative, Organization of African Trade Union Unity*)

We totally agree with the Director-General that the Decent Work Agenda should be taken forward. For it to be taken forward, however, the present neo-liberal economic policies need to be changed into a people-centred economic paradigm.

The present neo-liberal economic paradigm puts profit before people, and market before welfare. Today, financial speculation has replaced productive investment.

We perfectly agree with the statement in paragraph 24 of the Director-General's Report which says: "This 'financialization' of the economy has contributed to changing the nature and strategic outlook of enterprises, which in turn has an effect on workers, social dialogue and labour relations and social stability. The attraction of short-term gains from various new financial products and speculative opportunities led to resources being siphoned off from the productive economy."

In other words, what we are witnessing today is "casino economy", an economy based on financial speculation, jeopardizing decent work and the livelihood of millions of workers and peoples all over the world.

In the process, millions of people are thrown into poverty, widening social gaps, thus engendering social and political instability.

Africa has started to show the way forward for the Decent Work Agenda. At the concluding meeting of the Fifth Ordinary Session of the African Union Tripartite Labour and Social Affairs Commission held in Geneva on 11 June 2007, the Commission unanimously adopted an OATUU-sponsored resolution calling on African countries to link the Decent Work Agenda with the Basic Needs Development

Agenda, in order to include decent work for all in Africa.

What are the basic needs we are talking about? They are: food; housing; health; education; water; electricity; transport; and communications. One does not have to be an economist to know that the satisfaction of these eight basic needs will produce the ninth basic need, which is decent work.

The task before the ILO's tripartite constituents, governments, employers and workers, as well as the International Labour Office, is to develop the necessary political will and strategies to link the Decent Work Agenda with the Basic Needs Development Agenda.

This strategic link will solve many socio-economic problems throughout the world. These include poverty, unemployment, the food crisis, social instability, and so on and so forth.

Each of the eight basic needs will generate millions of decent work opportunities, wealth for individuals, enterprises and countries, food self-sufficiency and food security, as well as peace, happiness and prosperity for all countries.

The Ninth Ordinary OATUU Congress, which was held in Tripoli, Libya, from 10 to 15 May 2008, has also adopted the link between the Decent Work Agenda and the Basic Needs Development Agenda.

The little time left for me does not allow me to speak on other aspects of the Director-General's Report. However, our organization supports the strengthening of the ILO and its tripartite constituents.

It is, therefore, unacceptable that the ILO should continue with the policy of "zero real growth" in its regular budget.

We therefore call on the ILO Governing Body to review its policy and give the ILO the necessary financial resources to strengthen its capacity and that of its tripartite constituents.

I would like to express OATUU's appreciation to the ILO's Africa Regional Office and its outgoing Regional Director, Ms Regina Amadi-Njoku, for the technical and financial support it gave to the OATUU and its affiliates for our capacity-building programmes.

We express the same appreciation to the Bureau for Workers Activities (ACTRAV) and the social protection sector. We look forward to the technical and financial support of all sectors of the ILO, and the field offices in Africa, for our capacity-building programmes.

Allow me some comments on the Director-General's Report: *The situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories*. It is sad to note that the situation of Palestinian workers and peoples in the occupied Arab territories has not improved in spite of the optimism of last year.

From the Report, one can safely conclude that the Palestinians and other Arabs in the occupied Arab territories are in one big prison, denied of their trade union and other human rights, as well as basic land, water and electricity, surrounded by the illegal apartheid wall built by the Israeli occupation forces.

All this amounts to genocide of the Palestinian people for which the OATUU calls on the United Nations to take urgent action. The OATUU calls on Israel to withdraw from all the occupied Palestinian land, the Golan Heights of Syria and the Shebaa farms of Lebanon.

OATUU also calls for the establishment of the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as capital,

side by side with the State of Israel. There can be no peace in the Middle East without justice for the Palestinian people.

I would like to say that the African workers support the African tripartite decision to support the election, for the third time, of the Director-General, Juan Somavia.

Original Spanish: Mr BARRETO (Worker, Paraguay)

While thanking the ILO for its cooperation with our country, I would like to speak about the situation we are going through following a long period of conflicts and the difficulties we have experienced in attempting to install real democracy. We did, of course, go through a period of totalitarian rule. Time has now moved on since 1989, but still the problems persist, and have even been observed by the ILO direct contacts missions which noted non-compliance with many Conventions. The Committee of Experts has also constantly noted that there is a non-compliance with the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98). No progress has been noted regarding the main points dealt with by the Committee of Experts. For example, the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and Convention No. 87 relating to the obligation of the Ministry of Justice and Labour to register trade unions.

We insist that, with regard to becoming a trade union official it is the statutes of the trade union which set the criteria for the constitution of the trade union and not the government. The right of civil servants to have recourse to strikes is not respected because of draconian laws which say, contrary to the Constitution, that they constitute an essential service. The former Government advised the ILO that it had implicitly repealed rules and regulations which were contrary to the Constitution. But we insist that the trade union rights should be established in legislation in a specific manner, otherwise corrupt judges will apply legislation in the interest of the employers.

As a great thinker once said "He who remains silent in the face of injustice is as guilty as the perpetrator of that injustice." The legal system has deteriorated significantly since 2000, when the "criminalization of the social struggle" first began. Numerous acts of violence and intimidation against trade union officials go unpunished and unanswered by the Supreme Court. One example of this is the arbitrary detention of trade union and community leaders. Trade union officials have been accused of corruption in relation to the Workers' National Bank, just when they were quite rightly condemning the uncontrolled privatization of state enterprises as well as the Government's failure to respect the freedom of association, freedom to organize and collective bargaining. A number of personalities, both in the country and outside the country, including the ILO, have stated their innocence, but the media of the powerful privatizing entrepreneurs presented them to the public as bank robbers.

Nelson Mandela said the voice of the ILO passes through the walls of prisons, and I knew that I was not alone; and I agree with that because the ILO has always been with me when I was unjustly imprisoned. I thank you for that Mr President, Director-General and members.

The members of the direct contacts mission which visited Paraguay in 2000 and 2001 were able to meet trade union leaders who were imprisoned and trade union representatives of the Single Confederation of Workers (CUT), the Paraguayan Confederation of Workers (CPT) and the Trade Union Confederation of State Employees of Paraguay (CESITP).

The members of the direct contacts mission and the members of the Committee on Freedom of Association, as well as the Governing Body, demanded through Reports Nos 328 and 329, that the case should be brought to a conclusion for various reasons, including: the retroactive application of a law that could only be prejudicial to the trade union officials. Moreover, the period of imprisonment more than exceeded the minimum and maximum penalties for the offences of which they were unjustly accused.

The various Governments and administrations have referred to the separation of the three powers of State, a principle that must be respected. However, this should not imply a lack of respect for law and justice or the use of the law for one's own end. However, in this case there was nothing but scam and harassment for the country's trade union officials, for having called into question the actions of the Government and the powerful media barons.

We believe that Paraguayan labour law violates freedom of association and collective bargaining, 60 years on from its birth and 46 years after its ratification by Paraguay. Even now, we are not allowed to create independent trade unions or register existing ones and practically no collective agreements have been signed. The State law has no policy regarding the respect of these rights and the fundamental ILO Conventions. We have no forum where we can resolve labour or legal disputes over freedom of association or even collective bargaining.

We have a new Government and we wish success to the Lugo administration which will take office on the 15 of August. Hopefully, a Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security will be created that will bury forever discrimination and next year we will be informing you of the progress made, rather than denouncing violations of national and international Conventions and laws, as we are doing today.

Mr President, Director-General, the strategic objectives referred to in this Report: basic social services; support for sustainable enterprises; promoting training and tackling climate change; rights in the workplace and the strengthening of tripartism all announce a new era for the ILO and the world. That, along with other reasons, is why we support your approach, so that all of us together may work on the basis of tripartism and achieve a better and more just planet.

Mr MAGAYA (*Minister of Labour, Public Service and Human Resources Development, Sudan*)

As always, the Director-General's Report is an important document for our deliberations. The first major issue relates to the over-arching theme of the Report, in addition to agenda items which require extra attention and effort from all partners.

The theme of social policy of current interest is not a new issue in its content. In such matters, the vision is very important in all cases and at all levels, globally, regionally or nationally. In Sudan, as part of Africa and the African Union, part of our vision

is to work for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful region driven by its own people, and to be a dynamic force in the global arena.

This vision is meant to address the situation of the low level of social development, where the incidence of poverty is acute and also on the increase. The decline of most human development indicators that we can observe is a result of the significant slow down in social development.

This is the case despite the economic growth recorded. Moreover, if poverty reduction presupposes rapid and sustainable economic growth, the latter should be sufficiently equitable in order not to trigger the marginalization of the disadvantaged segments of the population. Social integration, increased investment, job creation and the protection of already available jobs are the key elements of our plan and strategy in Sudan. And what is more important for us, is to trigger a growth process that meets clear-cut criteria, and investment in human resources for meaningful grassroots social development to satisfy basic needs such as healthcare, education, vocational training, and general well-being. This strategy includes the rural population and the informal sector. Reduction and eradication of poverty implies the development of macro, small and medium-sized rural and urban enterprises in order to create jobs.

The top priority of the policy is to human resources-oriented investment, with a heavy involvement of the private sector in this human resource development.

The second priority issue in the strategy is economic integration, which will lead to prosperity and long-term social development.

The ideas cited should culminate in an environment of good governance, thereby enabling civil society, with special consideration to workers, to become dynamic, economic and social players.

We are very satisfied with the Report: ILO Programme Implementation 2006–07, and we are asking and requesting more improvement; this does not mean we are undermining the efforts of the Director-General and his team, but I think assisting the member States to overcome problems is a more positive policy than condemning. Furthermore, technical assistance is the main fruitful action for the ILO to strengthen its role and improve the situation of labour standards and social dialogue in the member States.

Our scale of preference concerning the joint work with the ILO gives priority to the development of an accurate information system, with special emphasis on labour market surveys to enable the drafting of constructive labour policies which will help in creating productive employment, and also help in the elaboration of effective policies for economic and employment distribution.

After concluding the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, there were many positive activities which took place. We managed to start the first part of the labour market survey with our own capacity and we are now expecting assistance from the ILO and the international community for participating in the rest.

Moreover, we managed to conduct the population census. These two activities are really paving the way for future stability, sustained peace, sustainable development, democracy and tangible improvement in the work of labour standards that we have already

started. With the assistance of the ILO, we shall achieve our mutual objectives.

As a result of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement implementation, many developments have taken place in Sudan, especially in the fields of wealth and power sharing, poverty reduction, job creation, human resource development, capacity building and social services. This has been executed as a part of the comprehensive matrix.

The two partners of the CPA reached an agreement two days ago on the implementation of the Abuja Protocol, agreeing to set up new security arrangements and provide funds for the reconstruction and resettlement of the people in Abuja.

On the other hand, the CPA itself became a base on which the Darfur peace agreement was built. Sudan is still continuing its effort to bring an end to the problem in Darfur peacefully, despite the complications that the rebel movements are creating on the ground – and what happened in Omdurman is a clear example.

The Government of National Unity in Sudan has committed itself to peace, and we hope that this year will be the year of peace for the people of Sudan in general, and the people of Darfur in particular.

Last, but not least, the Director-General's Report reflected the miserable situation that the workers and the people of Palestine and the other occupied territories face as a result of Israel's occupation and repression. The issues come up repeatedly in our deliberations and reflect the failure to make any progress in that area. Maybe the reasons may be attributed to the mandate of urgency of the ILO, which leads to logical and practical suggestions for the ILO to find other means and ways for new joint efforts with other information partners so as to put an end to the suffering of the population and workers in Palestine and other occupied Arab countries.

Mr STAN (*Worker, Romania*)

I have the pleasure to address you on behalf of the Romanian Workers' delegation and to present here, before the highest forum of tripartite social dialogue, the greetings of over 5 million workers of my country.

At the same time, I ask permission to congratulate the Governing Body and the Director-General on their excellent Reports. I want to underline the rich content of the data and judgements concerning trade union freedom and the right to collective bargaining.

The theme of the 97th Session of the Conference is generous, and at the same time very topical, especially given the process of globalization and the appearance of a number of economic difficulties at the international level.

I would like to express our concern about the difficulties that persist in Romanian legislation especially the implementation of the regulations concerning freedom of association, collective bargaining and the observance of collective agreements.

The maintenance of a number of excessive regulations governing the right to collective action is used to block complaints lodged by the workers through the courts, as well as the free exercise of the right to strike.

The increasingly frequent violation by many companies of the right to organize provided for in the ILO's core standards and in Romanian legislation must find an appropriate solution immediately.

These solutions are tied to the improvement of the capability of the labour inspectorate and of the legal system.

The settlement of civil servants' wages only by administrative decision, despite the legal rights of the workers to information and consultation, is a violation of the ILO's principles and good practices.

The recent visit of the ILO mission to Romania and its conclusions should be sufficient grounds for the Romanian Government and Parliament to correct their shortcomings urgently. It is only through tripartite social dialogue that this can be done.

Decent work was declared a major goal for Romania. Unfortunately, in the last two years, the Government has not succeeded in ratifying Convention No. 150, which raises big issues regarding our Government's commitments. In fact, the social partners were excluded from the process, and the Government utilized the services of NGOs with no relevant expertise in the labour market.

For Romania, in the context of globalization, solving these problems concerning freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining is not enough. What is needed is to increase the role of the ILO, both in its capacity to debate and elaborate rules and regulations and in terms of its expertise and monitoring activities, so that the appropriate solution to the challenge facing the labour market can be found through tripartite social dialogue.

Mr EVANS (*representative, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*)

I am glad to have the opportunity to address this Conference on the issues contained in the Director-General's Report on behalf of the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), which groups 55 union centres in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and is a partner of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the Global Union Federations in the Council of Global Unions.

This Session of the Conference is taking place at a critical time for workers throughout the world. It is all too clear that the financial crisis that has spread from the United States risks becoming the most serious economic crisis since the 1930s, dragging economies into recession, putting workers on the dole and slowing growth globally. This is compounded by the unprecedented rise in fuel and commodity prices and the resulting food crisis in developing countries that will be discussed at the high-level panel here at the ILO tomorrow.

These interrelated crises come on top of the shocking surge in inequality over the past two decades. The growing disparities in wealth and polarization that are taking place in the global economy are neither morally defensible nor economically or politically sustainable. The benefits of globalization are accruing to a few at the top of the income scale, whilst the overall share of wages and national income has been falling like never before.

Inequality of incomes has been rising in 17 out of 20 countries surveyed by the OECD. There is also a disturbing rise in inequality in developing countries.

It would be wrong to lay all the blame for this situation at the door of globalization. There was a shortage of decent work before the current acceleration of inequality. However, one fact about the global supply chain that, according to some business leaders, had replaced multinational enterprises

as the dominant form of business model, is that it has given employers and investors an exit option in any country. We see increasing threats by employers to relocate activities to other countries, or to engage in regulatory arbitrage. With financial globalization, we are also seeing growing pressure for short-term profit from new financial investors, such as private equity and hedge funds. These are working against long-term value creation, decent work and sustainable development.

Confronting this growing inequality as well as the need to link employment strategies for green jobs with the struggle against climate change were the central challenges that the global trade union movement presented in our statement at the meetings of the G8 labour ministers last month in Niigata, and to the OECD finance ministers last week in Paris.

Regrettably, we found too few of our concerns, or reference to social justice in the conclusions of those meetings. But I would like to congratulate the ILO and the Committee that developed the strong Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization that has been adopted by acclamation by this Conference earlier this evening. The Declaration includes progressive and clear language on workers' fundamental rights. The right to organize is a basic human right, but we also know that when workers are free to form unions, this is a key part of the solution to growing inequality. Where unions exist and bargain, there is less low pay, more secure work, less corruption, often more efficient economies, and certainly more just societies. But the Declaration is more than just about words, however good they may be. It also sets out a strategic vision of how to engineer change in the global economy, by ensuring that the ILO's objective of decent work is generalized within the global governance institutions.

We, as unions, have our own responsibilities to organize the new global labour force, and we are responding to this at the international level, as shown by the acceleration in the negotiation of the now more than 50 international framework agreements with multinational companies.

However, we also need action by governments. ILO core labour standards must become an international benchmark applied through different international institutions including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the OECD.

I feel it is now time to move forward, with a new and updated cooperation agreement between the ILO and the OECD. This should cover the progression of decent work through the OECD's Development Assistance Committee recommendations on aid.

This would ensure that existing OECD countries respect workers' rights to organize, as well as insisting that new members, who are now in accession negotiations with the OECD, should respect these rights. It should cover more effective application of instruments, such as the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises, and we want to work with companies to ensure that the guidelines are applied more effectively in regions such as China and with governments to develop more effectively operating national contact points, still too few of which do their job properly. The high-level round table between the OECD and the ILO to be held in two

weeks time in Paris, gives us a major opportunity to move this cooperation forward.

In the TUAC we look forward in the weeks and months ahead to reinforcing our work with our global union partners to apply the Declaration that you adopted today. We can make a difference and we have to make a difference to ensure that no one, I repeat no one, will be denied the right to join a union or have a decent job, or fear for the future of their children.

Original French: Mr RAMBELOSON (Government, Madagascar)

The Report of the Director-General enables the Members here present to appreciate, quite justly, the efforts carried out by the international community. It corresponds to the realities witnessed and lived by the different member countries, and the problems which have arisen.

Madagascar wishes to organize itself in order to achieve more social justice by means of the MAP, the Madagascar Action Plan. This contains many challenges, too many to be listed here but the essence is to be able to achieve a substantial reduction of poverty in the next five years.

This document, drawn up within the framework of a participatory methodology implicitly contains the components of employment and social protection.

By proceeding with the ratification of all Conventions relating to fundamental labour rights, the Government of Madagascar wished to express its firm desire to promote the key attributes of labour, based on the fundamental principles and rights at work, social dialogue, employment and decent work.

From this perspective, several achievements should be stressed. First, implementation of the framework document for national employment policy and national programmes to support employment has begun. The national committee to follow up the promotion of employment and the Madagascar office for the promotion of employment have been set up. These national policies have been applied at all decentralized levels, i.e. in the communes and regions.

Second, the operation to update labour legislation in Madagascar is being concluded. This activity aims at harmonizing the labour laws with the imperatives of development and international standards. This second aspect is accompanied by action to strengthen the capacity for intervention of the administrative and labour inspection system.

In this regard, let us stress the recent recruitment of new labour inspectors and labour controllers.

Third, the improvement of a system of social protection of the workers. This is reflected in a study of the benefits of the national provident scheme, the establishment of a programme to fight against HIV/AIDS in the workplace and, more recently, the solemn declaration of the national labour council to draw up and implement a national occupational safety and health policy.

However, the task is enormous because many challenges still have to be faced. First of all, despite a fresh dynamism in investment and microfinancing, employment is rare and precarious in the private sector. This problem is explained partly by the lack of qualifications of the workforce faced with new technologies and by the existence in the market of an excessive number of jobseekers. The integration of the employment dimension into the programming mechanisms, follow-up and evaluation

and public investment, as well as the different programme and projects, is all still to be carried out. Secondly, as far as social dialogue goes, although it is true that laws and regulations in force provide for different essential structures, in practice improvement is still needed, particularly at enterprise and regional level.

Thirdly, despite the efforts to strengthen labour inspection, the technical and material deficiencies are still serious obstacles to overcome in the effective application of legislation as regards the protection of workers' rights. The same goes for the very low level of knowledge of the law on the part of many workers and employers.

As regards social security, it is still very weak in terms of quality of benefits, risks and populations covered. I am thinking, for example, of the informal sector, involving the majority of the active population, and rural occupations.

In the light of all that is at stake and in order to continue existing activities, political and strategic improvements have been made, such as sectoral policies and programmes aiming at establishing the best conditions for implementing the five-year MAP development plan and the setting up of a national system of follow-up and evaluation indicators.

As regards employment and social security, the Government, through the Ministry of Public Works, Labour and Social Legislation is seeking to reduce social exclusion and promote a labour market which encourages the creation of employment. As regards the implementation of the MAP, a sectoral programme has been drawn up for the promotion of full employment and decent work. All of this is based on the framework document for national employment policy and the national programmes to support employment referred to above.

I think it is essential to stress here that the drawing up of a Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP), advocated by the International Labour Organization, is wholly appropriate and in full harmony with the strategies and programmes drawn up within the framework of the implementation of the MAP. Madagascar, with the effective support of the ILO, is completing the drafting of its DWCP with cross-cutting participation of government departments, social partners and organizations active in the fields of employment and social protection.

The main objectives to be achieved are: firstly, to encourage the access of vulnerable groups to employment by reinforcing their employability and making sectors that generate employment more dynamic. To do this, a vast programme to reinforce capacities and improve access to microcredit programmes is planned. Secondly, to improve working conditions through promotion of social dialogue, fundamental rights at work and social protection.

For the achievement of all these strategies, the International Labour Organization is playing an essential role through technical cooperation programmes currently under way, particularly on fundamental principles and rights at work, HIV/AIDS in the workplace and the elimination of child labour, as well as activities undertaken by the ILO with the social partners.

All these activities will contribute to reducing poverty through employment, thanks to the technical assistance of the International Labour Organization. In this respect, Madagascar would like to express its gratitude to the Director-General and his

whole team for this cooperation and hopes that this can continue.

Working one's way out of poverty requires bringing the Philadelphia Declaration of 60 years ago up to date. Madagascar is attaching great importance to the MAP for overcoming this poverty. The Report of the Director-General is a true framework of action for countries such as mine and will certainly be a source of inspiration for giving a social content to our development policy.

Original French: Mr JOUBIER (Worker, France)

Our world is in crisis. The financial crisis is giving rise to fears of a slowdown in global growth and therefore threats to employment. In addition to this crisis, there is the food crisis. Food riots are increasing in number.

Risks linked to climate change are becoming clearer and are underlining the inadequacy of measures that have been taken to combat climate change. Globalization may have led to a reduction in absolute poverty, but it is also sparking a considerable increase in inequalities in all countries and between countries.

Precarious and casual labour is on the increase, as is the informal economy, both in developing countries and developed countries. The slowdown in growth, price hikes in raw materials and, in particular, oil, and increasing food prices may plunge people back into the poverty from which they had started to escape.

The social, economic and environmental challenges are inseparably linked, and it is here that the ILO's Decent Work Agenda tries to bring a coherent and global response to poverty, to workers' needs and the needs of their families.

We support the Director-General's Report entitled *Decent work: Some strategic challenges ahead*. We very much welcome the recognition of and also the international support for these orientations and we hope that this will help policies adopted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO), to be turned around so that they will work in favour of workers' rights.

However, this concept is a very flexible one in its content, because it allows each state to have responsibility but it must not jeopardize the universal standard-setting nature of the ILO. It is true that the context within which the ILO is evolving now is completely different to the context we had nearly 90 years ago. Consensus-seeking in order to draft new standards to improve the situation of workers in the world is more difficult. But the mandate defined by the ILO Constitution, and subsequently completed by the Declaration of Philadelphia, is still very relevant today. Poverty, wherever it exists in the world, is a danger for the prosperity of all and also a source of threat and danger to peace.

I do not share the request made by the Employers to make the Conventions more flexible. This would act as a brake on job creation. Following the complaint lodged, we welcome the decision taken by the Governing Body to request the French Government to review its law on the new recruitment contract which had a two-year probationary period, contrary to the Termination of Employment Convention, 1982 (No. 158), ratified by France.

Job creation must not be done in such a way that it simply increases considerably precarious work, with all the consequences that has on every aspect

of the lives of wage earners both inside and outside the workplace.

I also welcome the adoption of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. This Declaration puts the Decent Work Agenda at the heart of the ILO's activities, but I have to confess that I fail to understand the Employers' group's refusal to put the notion of decent work in the title.

Having said that, bearing in mind the discussions we had last year, I think we can only welcome the consensus achieved this year.

To conclude, allow me to stress the fact that the ILO must obtain sufficient resources, given the social challenges created by globalization. Zero budgetary growth cannot be a positive policy. The world of work needs a stronger and more effective ILO.

Original Arabic: Mr DJEMAM (representative, International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions)

We appreciate the Director-General's Report on the follow-up to the Declaration of principles and we would like to see the Conventions referred to in it implemented, particularly Convention No. 87 on freedom of association, whose 60th anniversary is being celebrated this year, and Convention No. 98 on collective bargaining.

We believe that these Conventions constitute the very basis of workers' rights, of the struggle against poverty and of the implementation of the Decent Work Country Programmes and Decent Work in general. As such, they are conducive to greater peace and justice between workers and employers, particularly in the Arab world.

On the subject of respect for labour rights and workers' rights, our Organization has declared 2008 as the Year of the Right to Work for all workers in the Arab world, and we are going to have a continuous campaign to achieve that goal.

Given current economic and social developments and the challenges posed by globalization – particularly since the various regimes in the Arab world continue to ignore social rights completely – workers' rights are an integral part of human rights.

This situation has caused dramatic suffering for workers, particularly women, young people and migrants. That is why we are determined that our Organization should be independent, truly representing the workers. We speak on their behalf in order to ensure that there is greater stability in our part of the world and that 2008 sees the constitution of trade unions in those countries of the Arab world where such organizations do not exist.

We shall continue our efforts to ensure that any barriers to the exercise of trade union rights are eliminated, and we hope to encourage countries which have not yet ratified Conventions Nos 87 and 98 on freedom of association, to do so and to comply with their provisions, particularly as regards the right of migrant workers to become members of trade union organizations. We hope that trade unionists around the world will support this campaign and that the International Labour Organization will assist us to achieve our goals.

As regards the situation of the Palestinian workers and Arab workers in the occupied territories, the Report of the Director-General reflects realities which demonstrate clearly that Israel is continuing its policy of discrimination and colonization. This can be seen in their occupation of the Golan Heights and other Arab territories, their disregard of the principles of international law and the resolutions of

the United Nations and their pursuit of the construction of the separation wall, which they are doing with the support of the United States. These criminal practices against our people, against the Palestinians and against those in the south of Lebanon and in the Golan Heights have to be condemned, and we thank the Director-General of the ILO for his support.

We would like to reaffirm our will and continue our struggle to restore peace in the Arab territories and to bring about an end to Israeli occupation. We call upon the Director-General and all those concerned to assist us in our efforts to strengthen the resistance of Palestinians in dealing with the Israeli occupation, with a view to the creation of an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem Al-Quds as its capital.

We would also like to state our support for the United Arab Emirates and the efforts they have made. We would like them to regain sovereignty over the three occupied islands. We also call upon all parties to bring about an end to the occupation of Iraq by the American forces and to restore peace in Darfur. We call upon all the parties concerned to seek solutions for peace. The terrorist forces in Algeria are continuing their assassination of innocent citizens, thus undermining the stability and peace created by Mr Bouteflika through national reconciliation and efforts made to achieve that end.

Mr EASTMAN (representative, Education International)

No one at this Conference would disagree that one of the keys to decent work for all is education for all. An education for all by the year 2015 is one of the most important Millennium Development Goals, yet the prospects for the people who work in education, the people we count on to provide quality education for all, have never been more bleak.

Today in education we are witnessing de-professionalization on a massive scale. So-called volunteers and unqualified persons on low pay are replacing qualified teachers.

Statistics show more children enrolled in schools, although not necessarily completing basic education, but also that standards are falling. The ILO must help reverse this dangerous trend. UNESCO states that by the year 2015 the world will need 18 million qualified teachers. We are not getting them, so unqualified people are recruited instead.

Employment conditions for teachers are worsening. The 2007 report of the ILO UNESCO Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendation on the Status of Teachers (CEART) set forth powerful evidence for what we at Education International have known for some time. Conditions for teachers are declining.

In many countries, core labour standards are still not fully applied to the teaching profession, or not applied at all. There are 60 million teachers in the world. It is in the nature of our profession to be in every community, and to live as communities live. This being so, the majority of our members – we estimate 75 per cent – live below the poverty line. When natural disasters strike, our members die with the children they teach, in the rubble of badly constructed school buildings.

The financial crisis is hitting national education budgets everywhere, but particularly in low-income countries. There are delays in the payment of teachers' salaries, while poorly remunerated teachers are

also suffering from the sharp increase in food and commodity prices.

Yet teachers, qualified teachers, remain the key to quality education for all. "Teachers Matter" is this year's slogan for World Teachers Day on 5 October.

The CEART report has also made it abundantly clear that it is time for action on conditions for teachers. Action by governments, together with the social partners, and engaging with education unions through social dialogue, is the way forward.

Our education unions are ready to play their role as social partners. It is up to governments, and other economic partners, to take up the challenge by engaging with us.

Already in countries ravaged by the scourge of HIV/AIDS, education unions are playing an important role in campaigns for prevention through education. The one bright spot is the evidence that we, with the ILO, are making some headway against another scourge – that of child labour. Our theme for this year's World Day Against Child Labour is "All children in school, not at work!"

The dark spots are there too. In Colombia, teacher trade unionists are a particular target and like elsewhere, when repression reigns, so does impunity.

There is long-standing denial of freedom of association in Ethiopia, where the authorities continue to ignore the findings of the ILO, and in Zimbabwe, where teachers are under attack simply because many of them staff polling stations during the elections.

The continued assertion of the ILO's role is imperative for the Decent Work Agenda and fair globalization. We particularly welcome the new Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. It is time to take this agenda to every workplace in every community, thereby building equality, dignity, education for all and a better world for all people.

At the same time, the constituents must do a much better job in achieving gender equity, including here at this International Labour Conference itself. In addition, the ILO's sectoral programme is crucially important in taking the Agenda to every part of our workforce around the globe, as an essential part of the ILO's strategic contribution.

So I thank you this evening for this small opportunity on behalf of education and Education International, to play our part in supporting the initiatives of the ILO and using the Decent Work Agenda to ensure a better life for children through education, and therefore helping their parents' communities as much as we can.

Mr VILLAVIZA (*Worker, Philippines*)

On behalf of the workers of the Philippines, I wish to congratulate the Director-General for the successful programmes and activities that the ILO has undertaken to promote decent work for all. Decent work is globally accepted as the social foundation of the global economy and a vital element in the fight against poverty and inequality. The daunting challenge is to sustain actions and make globalization work for workers and their families.

Just as the Director-General's Report rightly pointed out, greater focus on coherence, challenges and new forms of cooperation to keep pace with accelerating change in the global world of work is necessary.

We also note with keen interest the Global Report: *Freedom of association in practice: Lessons*

learned. We agree that progress on many fronts has been made, but much more needs to be done, including in labour law and practice. The defining challenge will be the ability of the tripartite partners to think innovatively and act urgently to realize decent work principles and actions.

Organizing campaigns in many enterprises remain difficult for the Philippine unions. The range of strategies and actions to thwart union organization in the country prospers, despite a new law which aims to reduce restraints in freedom of association. Despite this, we need to organize more and to develop other initiatives that will ensure stronger trade union influence in shaping policies and action to achieve fair globalization.

The coping strategies of trade unions of the tripartite sectors need to be rethought and adjusted in these times of soaring oil and commodity prices, and financial challenges.

More than ever, with these fearsome developments, support is necessary for advocacy and practical measures to protect workers and communities – rural or otherwise – against exploitation, discrimination and abuse, and to promote opportunities for better access to resources, credits, technology, training and social protection.

For workers and their families, sustainable and quality jobs and livelihood, better social services, education and training opportunities, health care and respect for fundamental workers rights – not GDP or GNP – are the only meaningful measures of genuine economic growth.

Each and every worker, formal or informal, man or woman, young or old, local or migrant, deserves decent work and a decent life.

This year is particularly important for the Philippines. This year, we celebrate 60 years of partnership with the ILO. I take this opportunity to thank the ILO for its efforts that have significantly contributed in making improvements in the Philippines.

With ILO support, the country's Decent Work Country Programme has helped create an atmosphere of great promise in sharing the gains from the growth of the Philippine economy.

We call on the ILO to continue support to assist the country in fulfilling this promise.

Increased support is also necessary to ensure that social responsibility of enterprises begins with respect and adherence to core labour standards and decent work. Social responsibility should start with the elimination, or at least reduction, of exploitation of workers in enterprises. This means that trade unions should be free to prosper in enterprises. This means that trade unions should be unhindered in their operations and in making their important contributions to the Decent Work Agenda. We expect and would appreciate ILO support in this trade union development work.

Original Russian: Mr GRYSCHENKO (Employer, Ukraine)

I would like to express the gratitude of the Ukrainian Employers' Federation, both to the Director-General of the ILO, Mr Somavia, and to the Secretary-General of the IOE, Mr Peñalosa.

We would like to say how fully we support the ideas in the Global Report of our Director-General and underline how important decent work is for ensuring sustainable development. In the world of globalization, open borders and increasing competition, we face challenges that can only be met through an integrated approach to sustainable de-

velopment, which would bring together economic and social dimensions as well as taking into account the environment.

In our view, employers' organizations and trade unions should focus on their efforts on finding the necessary balance between flexibility and social welfare guarantees. This would, on the one hand, provide for the sustainable development of enterprises and, on the other, would provide sound safeguards for the worker in the labour market. Governments, for their part, must create the necessary conditions to achieve this balance.

The development of viable enterprises and the achievement of stable figures for employment and social protection are closely interlinked and can only be achieved through collectively planned action at the national and global levels. The ILO plays a crucial role in this, since tripartism is the cornerstone of its strategy. In today's world, employers' organizations are crying out for the ILO's standards and principles to be applied at the national level. This will give the impetus for both employers' and workers' organizations to prepare to devolve many of the powers they enjoy at the national level, to the level of individual enterprises. It is at this level that employers and workers can provide the flexibility that will enable an enterprise to prevail in a fiercely competitive globalized world. We support the ILO's position that, now more than ever, we need to understand that freedom of association establishes the necessary conditions to participate freely in collective bargaining. This is relevant and timely for Ukraine, since we sat down together with the trade unions to work on the new Labour Code, during which we discussed this very issue. This would be a good moment for the ILO to systematize the lessons learned from successful experience offered by private sector employers who have tackled these problems.

This year the Federation of Ukrainian Employers, with ILO support, held a national forum on employment protection in which other employers' organizations and trade unions participated. We were yet again convinced that the establishment of conditions for decent work and the provision of regulations on employment protection and workers' health through increasing the competitiveness of enterprises, can be achieved through the mechanism of social dialogue. Even though we have Recommendation No. 152 and the 1996 Recommendation on Tripartite Consultations at National Level on Economic and Social Policy Issues, which remain pertinent, these texts do not cover all aspects of the problems entrained by globalization because they are purely recommendations. There are many obstacles slowing down the process of strengthening social dialogue at the national level. Each country is unique and its form of social dialogue will therefore be unique to it. At the same time, we are concerned that it might be possible to interpret the principles of social dialogue in such a way that the essence of the process is distorted thereby complicating the realization of these principles.

We consider it timely and appropriate at the current stage of development of our society, to start preparing for a special convention on the fundamental principles of social dialogue. We call on the Conference, the Governing Body and our Director-General to consider whether this proposal might be implemented. We consider that enshrining these principles in international standards would facilitate

a more effective adaptation of national communities to the challenges of globalization and the natural transition to establishing social democracy in our country.

In conclusion, I should draw attention to how important it is to note how significantly the influence of the ILO has increased, and thank, yet again, the direction of the Organization for the invaluable help and support it continues to provide to Ukraine. The ILO has played a very tangible part in restructuring our labour relations in tune with the dynamic of the democratic development of our country.

Mr SEN (*representative, Trade Unions International of Public and Allied Employees*)

The Director-General's introduction to the 97th Session of the International Labour Conference with his Report, *ILO Programme implementation 2006–07* is a detailed document and deals with many important aspects of the world of work.

According to the Report, "The concept of decent work received strong global support". It goes on to list details of technical cooperation rendered by the ILO to different countries in this area. But unfortunately, the ferocity of the neo-liberalization dictated by internationally-financed capital is directing the world economy and public policies to reverse the ILO's Decent Work Agenda and all of the postulates which are in the interests of labour. I am sorry to say that tripartite social dialogues, though very encouraging concepts, are being trampled on by the steamroller of exploitation, by global capital and, consequently, the policy dictated to national governments, whether in the developing world or in the developed world, is not in line with this concept.

Obviously, the developing world is suffering the most, as this is where numerous hapless victims of merciless, offensive or neo-liberal economic policies are found. Actually, never in the past have workers and employees been subjected to so much merciless exploitation as they are now, since the onset of the policy of neo-liberal globalization. Thus, despite the ILO's efforts to raise awareness of these issues among all the social components in different countries, it fails to indicate any remedy for this unbearable situation but merely enumerates certain grim facts.

The Report of the 96th International Labour Conference mentioned widening inequality between countries and within countries. The Report cited that the overall gap between the poorest and the richest countries had widened substantially. Average per capita income in the richest countries is now 112 per cent higher than those in the 20 poorest countries compared to the 49-fold difference in the early 1960s. The Report further points out that the richest 1 per cent of adults owned 40 per cent of global assets in 2000, and that the richest 10 per cent of adults accounted for 85 per cent of the world total. In contrast, the bottom half of the world's population owned barely 1 per cent of global wealth. The Report concludes that the number of people living in extreme poverty, while falling as a share of the world's population, remains high in absolute terms. The Report notes that extreme poverty is not declining in Africa.

As regards joblessness, various ILO surveys have indicated a continuing grim unemployment situation in the world. In developing countries it is worst. The Report says that regular full-time employment should be the overwhelmingly dominant form of

employment, and that unemployment benefits should be available to all labour force participants.

But the Report of the 97th International Labour Conference failed to shed any light on how these issues could be tackled, except by raising awareness among the social components. As Trade Unions International deals mainly with the interests of public services, we feel that the conditions of the public service at the global level are seriously worsening day by day. The offensive neo-liberal globalization is affecting the public services most prominently. Fair globalization urged by the ILO has proved to be a utopia. Without radical social, economic and political change, it does not seem possible to protect workers or the poor's interests or even reduce inequality slightly.

In conclusion, I would urge the ILO, as a tripartite body, to pledge to defend workers' interests, play a truly democratic role with all its agencies and incorporate all segments of the trade union movement according to the proportion of their strength without any monopoly or domination by any particular segment.

Original French: Mr COSTACHE (Employer, Romania)

This is the second year of Romania's membership of the European Union and our employers' organization wishes to speak on the world stage with a single voice to become an important partner for other similar European or international organizations.

Our goal, together with the social partners, is to draft and implement development strategies for our country. No policy or measures could ever be effective without ongoing dialogue between the stakeholders, among which the employers bear the lion's share of the responsibility. The most important solutions for economic development are, among others: increasing productivity; strengthening lifelong education; decent work; and harmonizing a country's laws with international standards.

One of the current initiatives under way in our Organization is to launch the fight to combat poverty and to continue to encourage private sector initiatives.

Our intention is to participate in rural development in order to make rural business more successful, while respecting and protecting the environment. We need modern, efficient environmentally-aware and European-standard agriculture.

Another problem of concern is how to educate our young people so as to give them a real chance of access to the labour market and provide for their initial and ongoing training; and, within the context of technological and economic development, provide for the needs of enterprises.

Romania today faces the worrying problem of migration of our young people who are tempted to leave Romania with their families and move to greater Europe. It is time for employers to offer solutions to the Government, which, in turn, needs to apply them so as to resolve this problem of migration – and, at the same time, deal with the sudden human resources crisis that has ensued.

Of particular importance for us is the development of a business climate that will be competitive, efficient and credible, aimed at raising the standard of living to a decent level and providing more purchasing power for our people.

All these ideas can be implemented by means of dialogue in shared projects where the social partners

participate together. We need a strategy at the local and the national level to give the social partners the power to take decisions or to work through consultations.

We commit ourselves to support the actions of the ILO whose role it is to open up new prospects – to create a new world order, negotiated between the social partners on an equal footing and to bring about new ways of life.

Original Spanish: Mr PEREZ (Worker, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

We, the workers of the world, have to continue our fight against the unjust relations imposed on us by capital, unjust relations, which, to a greater or lesser extent, governments allow. Workers have to fight against exploitation, oppression, wars and other imperialist aggression. We have to fight against the multinationals, against all types of discrimination and, particularly now, discrimination against immigrants. We must stand steadfast in our defence of human rights and now, more than ever, in defence of nature and, indeed, our own species.

Workers are a social class based on struggle. No ideology, no institution, despite its power, will be able to change us. Nobody, nothing, will stop us in that regard. The ILO deals with some of the complaints against these unjust relations. Many problems, not to say tragedies, are still unresolved in our countries and that has been the case for a long time. We have to bear in mind that many issues are never resolved, which leads to serious consequences for humanity.

Most of the cases that come to the attention of the ILO have to do with violations of freedom of association or violations against decent work. There is much discussion of that here, discussion of countries who violate freedom of association, and there are continuing campaigns for and decent wages. However, we do not really know, as regards the list of countries that is drawn up, if they are really the ones who violate freedom of association to the greatest extent. What we see really in the world with regard to decent wages is unequal distribution of wealth and, of course, this is not just our problem.

You are probably aware of the figures made available by the UN organizations, but allow me to recall a few that bring shame on us all. Of the 6,550,000,000 people on this planet, 5,100,000,000 of them are in developing countries, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); 1 billion live on less than \$1 a day, according to the World Bank; 1,100,000,000 have no access to drinking water, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); 2,600,000,000, 42 per cent of the global population, have no access to sanitation or mains drinking water, according to UNICEF; 854 million go hungry in the world, 850 million of whom live in developing countries, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); 300 million children go hungry, according to UNICEF; and 8.4 million children toil under the worst forms of child labour, according to UNICEF.

I am making this statement on behalf of the Workers' delegation from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. We are workers and we are proud. We are Latin Americans and Caribbean, and we are proud of that fact, too. We are descendants of Indians and Africans and a mix of races, and we are proud of that fact. Workers, along with most Vene-

zuelans, are deeply attached to, and deeply respect freedom, equality, democratic freedoms, human rights, dignity and solidarity. However, workers in Venezuela are suffering because of these unjust relations imposed by capital. Capital exists and stands in the way of labour. Its logic holds sway even when its representatives want to, for the benefit of other countries, paint a picture that is the opposite of reality, as they do here, in other words, a picture that is the opposite of what Venezuela really is.

Ironically, over the last few years, we see the delegates of capital, or as they prefer to call themselves here, the employers, amongst the lobbies and meetings and pressure, do all they can to keep Venezuela on the list of countries that most violate freedom of association. In a plenary, a representative of the Employers' group, said that next year, if Venezuela is not included in the list, there would be no list. It is a war against the Government, but the height of the irony is that, the Venezuelan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Manufacturer's Associations (FEDECAMARAS) uses the representative of a minority Venezuelan union to do its work. They refuse to come along and attend as a member of their country's Workers' delegation, but they play the victim and propose in public meetings of the ILO that Venezuela should be on the list of those who violate freedom of association. What good leaders we have at FEDECAMARAS. Outside Venezuela they defend freedom of association. If it were possible we would come along to the ILO and legalize the hundreds of trade unions that the Venezuelan employers refuse to recognize in our country and, indeed, the employers fire the people who try to have this done.

Distinguished representatives of this Conference, I would like to ask you, although of course this has been said elsewhere and in other Conferences in the past, what can we expect from this duo consisting of FEDECAMERAS and CTV, who are responsible for a coup d'état against a legitimate and democratic Government, and who say that they did it because they were defending democracy?

They organized a lock-out and sabotage in the oil industry, their argument being that this was to ensure that free enterprise and freedom to work here is respected. You can see this from document A4.2, points 89–101.

To conclude on this point of freedom of association, I would call for us to be under no illusions. Whilst the employers claim to be defending the freedom of association, they are, in fact, violating that right in Venezuela.

The Venezuelan Government has to stand firm on this. We do not want to see a repetition of what happened under the previous Labour Minister during the past 15 months. He delayed and failed to legalize many unions simply because they were different to his own union leanings. And he wanted to create a new spurious union.

This practice actually cost him his job as Minister, when the President of the Republic listened to the claims of the workers and their trade unions during the conflict in the biggest steel works in South America, Techint-Sidor. The struggle of the workers unmasked this Minister.

We believe that the new Labour Minister, who addressed this Conference today, will be as respectful of freedom of association as were other ministers before him. As a new Minister who has been in office throughout President Chavez' Government, he is the exception.

The struggle of the Sidor workers not only removed a Minister but also challenged a very powerful multinational, Ferry and Techin, which has now been re-nationalized. It was set up in Venezuela more than 11 years ago.

When Sidor was privatized it imposed subhuman conditions, watering down collective conventions and outsourcing 10,000 workers. The state company at one point had 15,000 permanent workers, all with the right to collective bargaining; once it was privatized it only had 4,506 permanent workers, with no entitlement to a decent wage, and 10,000 were outsourced with no rights as regards collective bargaining, and no rights to health care or a decent pension.

Since nationalization, the process of reinstating those who were outsourced to the Figa company has now started. We hope that this kind of practice will be stopped here and in other work centres, because thousands of people in Venezuela work as outsourced workers for big corporations.

I can give you another example, this time of a Brazilian multinational company, which won many state contracts, including the massive construction of three bridges over the River Orinoco and several metro lines in a number of cities. However, this company uses the covert practice of outsourcing, hiring people for less than three months and systematically practising indiscriminate dismissal.

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform all the delegates at this Conference that the workers in our country are also suffering from the usual problems arising from the behaviour of employers and limitations of labour legislation. We are suffering from food shortages too. We know that there is a real food crisis that has become exacerbated everywhere in the last few months.

The development of biofuels, the farming subsidies, the effects of pollution and the destruction of our planet, all affect the production of food. But, in Venezuela, in addition, there are many industrialists and traders who use food shortages irresponsibly and criminally to put pressure on the Government and to foment unrest against the Government.

We salute our class brothers everywhere, especially in Colombia, Palestine and Iraq, who are suffering from repression in the claws of imperialism.

(The Conference adjourned at 10.05 p.m.)



Vote par appel nominal sur la résolution concernant les arriérés de contributions des Comores

Record vote on the Resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of Comoros

Votación nominal relativa a la resolución sobre las contribuciones atrasadas de la Unión de las Comoras

Pour/For/En Pro: 321

Contre/Against/En contra: 9

Abstentions/Abstentions/Abstenciones: 3

Quorum: 307

Maj./May.: 221

Pour/For/En Pro: 321

Afrique du Sud/South Africa/Sudáfrica

NDEBELE, Mr (G)
LETOABA, Mr (G)
VAN VUUREN, Mr (E)
PATEL, Mr(T/W)

Algérie/Algeria/Argelia

ZAIDI, M. (G)
KHELIF, M. (G)
MEGATELI, M. (E)
AÏT ALI, M.(T/W)

Allemagne/Germany/Alemania

HOFFMANN, Ms (G)
VOGT, Mr (G)
GERSTEIN, Ms (E)
KÜHL, Ms(T/W)

Arabie saoudite/Saudi Arabia/Arabia Saudita

ALBWARDI, Mr (G)
ALYAHYA, Mr (G)
ALKANHAL, Mr (E)
RADHWAN, Mr(T/W)

Argentine/Argentina

RIAL, Sra. (G)
DUMONT, Sr. (G)
MARTINEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Arménie/Armenia

MARTIROSYAN, Ms (G)
ASATRYAN, Mr (G)
PILOSYAN, Mr (E)
TUMASYAN, Mr(T/W)

Australie/Australia

SMYTHE, Mr (G)
YARDLEY, Mr (G)
NANCE, Mr (E)
TATE, Ms(T/W)

Autriche/Austria

ZWERENZ, Mr (G)
DEMBSHER, Ms (G)
TOMEK, Mr (E)
BÖGNER, Ms(T/W)

Bahamas

SMITH, Ms (E)

Bahreïn/Bahrain/Bahrein

HUM Aidan, Mr (G)
ALMAHFOOD, Mr(T/W)

Bangladesh

AHMED, Mr (E)

Barbade/Barbados

SIMMONS, Mr (G)
TROTMAN, Mr(T/W)

Belgique/Belgium/Bélgica

VAN HOLM, M. (G)
VANDAMME, M. (G)
DA COSTA, M. (E)
CORTEBEECK, M.(T/W)

Bénin/Benin

KORA ZAKI LEADI, Mme (G)
AZONGBE DJIDJOHO, Mme (G)
ZANOU, M. (E)
LOKOSSOU, M.(T/W)

Brésil/Brazil/Brasil

LUPI, Sr. (G)
BARBOSA, Sr. (G)
BENEVIDES GADELHA, Sr. (E)
FELICIO, Sr.(T/W)

Bulgarie/Bulgaria

DIMITROV, Mr (G)
DRAGANOV, Mr (G)
ZHELYAZKOV, Mr (E)

Burundi

NIBIZI, Mme(T/W)

Cambodge/Cambodia/Camboya

D'AMICO, Ms (E)

Canada/Canadá

ROBINSON, Ms (G)
L'HEUREUX, Ms (G)
REGENBOGEN, Ms (E)
BYERS, Ms(T/W)

Chili/Chile

PORTALES, Sr. (G)
ANDRADE, Sr. (G)
MUGA, Sr. (E)
DIAZ, Sr.(T/W)

Chine/China

LU, Ms (G)
LI, Mr (G)
CHEN, Mr (E)
JIANG, Mr(T/W)

Chypre/Cyprus/Chipre

HADJICHRYSANTHOU, Mr (G)
NICOLAOU, Mr (G)

Colombie/Colombia

FORERO UCROS, Sra. (G)
GOMEZ ESGUERRA, Sr.(T/W)

République de Corée/Republic of Korea/República de Corea

KANG, Mr(T/W)

Costa Rica
GAMBOA ACUÑA, Srta. (G)
ROJAS VÍLCHEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Croatie/Croatia/Croacia
SOCANAC, Mr (G)
HORVATIC, Ms (E)
SOBOTA, Ms(T/W)

Cuba
NAVARRO FERNÁNDEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Danemark/Denmark/Dinamarca
LILJEQVIST, Ms (G)
WESTH, Ms (G)
GADE, Mr (E)
OHRT, Mr(T/W)

Egypte/Egypt/Egipto
EL-ASHRY, Ms (G)
ALLAM, Mr (E)
TAHA, Mr(T/W)

El Salvador
AVILA DE PEÑA, Sra. (G)
PALACIOS CARRANZA, Sr. (G)

Emirats arabes unis/United Arab Emirates/Emiratos Arabes Unidos
ABDELGHANI, Mr (G)
ALOBAD, Mr (G)
KHAMASS, Mr (E)
AL-MARZOOKI, Mr(T/W)

Equateur/Ecuador
NAVAS, Sra. (G)
THULLEN, Sr. (G)
VERA VELEZ, Sra. (E)
YAGUAL, Sr.(T/W)

Espagne/Spain/España
FERRER DUFOL, Sr. (E)
DOZ, Sr.(T/W)

Estonie/Estonia
KÄÄRATS, Ms (G)
KAADU, Mr (G)
NIINEMÄE, Mr (E)
TAMMELEHT, Ms(T/W)

Etats-Unis/United States/Estados Unidos
CHICK, Ms (G)
PONTICELLI, Ms (G)
GOLDBERG, Ms (E)
ZELLHOEFER, Mr(T/W)

Ethiopie/Ethiopia/Etiopía
FOLLO, Mr(T/W)

Ex-Rép. Yougos. de Macédoine/The FYR Macedonia/Ex Rep. Yugoslava de Macedonia

AVRAMCHEV, Mr (G)
IVANOVIK, Mr (G)
STOJANOVSKI, Mr (E)
MURATOVSKI, Mr(T/W)

Finlande/Finland/Finlandia
KANGASPERKO, Ms (G)
MODEEN, Ms (G)
KOIVU, Mr (E)
VALKONEN, Ms(T/W)

France/Francia
BOISNEL, M. (G)
MARTIN, M. (G)
JOUBIER, M.(T/W)

Gabon/Gabón
IROUNGUI, Mme (G)
NKOMBE, M. (G)

Géorgie/Georgia
KAKACHIA, Mr (G)

Grèce/Greece/Grecia
CHRYSANTHOU, Mme (G)
CAMBITSIS, M. (G)
VAYAS, M. (E)
VARCHALAMA, Mme(T/W)

Guatemala
RODRIGUEZ, Sr. (G)
MARTINEZ, Sr. (G)
LUCAS, Sr.(T/W)

Guinée/Guinea
DIALLO, M. (G)
DIALLO, Mme(T/W)

Honduras
LARA ENAMORADO, Sr.(T/W)

Hongrie/Hungary/Hungría
FORGÓ, Ms (G)
AGG, Mr(T/W)

Inde/India
PILLAI, Ms (G)
SINGH, Mr (G)
VENKATARAMINI, Mr (E)
HASMUKHLAL GAURISHANKER, Mr(T/W)

Indonésie/Indonesia
HANARTANI, Ms (G)
WITJAKSONO, Mr (G)

Irlande/Ireland/Irlanda
CUNNIFFE, Mr (G)

Islande/Iceland/Islandia
KRISTINSSON, Mr (G)
NORDDAHL, Mr(T/W)

Israël/Israel
AMRANI, Mr (G)

Italie/Italy/Italia
GUARRIELLO, Ms (G)
BERGER, Ms (G)
ROSSI, Ms (E)
DEL RIO, Ms(T/W)

Jamaïque/Jamaica
MILLER, Mr (G)
FOSTER, Mr (G)
COKE-LLOYD, Ms (E)

Japon/Japan/Japón
KITAJIMA, Mr (G)
MATSUI, Mr (G)
SUZUKI, Mr (E)
NAKAJIMA, Mr(T/W)

Jordanie/Jordan/Jordania
JADALLAH, Mr (G)

Kazakhstan/Kazajstán
SAPARBAYEV, Mr (G)

Kenya
WASIKE, Ms (G)
KIRIGUA, Mr (G)
ATWOLI, Mr(T/W)

Kiribati
TAOABA, Mr (G)

Koweït/Kuwait
AL-SUMAIT, Mr (G)
AL-REZOOQI, Mr (G)
AL-HAROON, Mr (E)

République dém. populaire lao/Lao People's Dem. Republic/República Dem. Pop. Lao
INTHALATH, Mr (G)
VONGRAPHA, Mr(T/W)

Lesotho
MAKEKA, Mr (E)

Lettonie/Latvia/Letonia
BRENCIS, Mr (G)
DREIMANE, Ms (G)
GAVRILOVS, Mr (E)
MARCINKEVICA, Ms(T/W)

Liban/Lebanon/Líbano
HAMADEH, M. (E)

Jamahiriya arabe libyenne/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya/Jamahiriya Arabe Libia
DERBI, Mr (G)

Lituanie/Lithuania/Lituania
KAIRELIS, Mr (G)
BORISOVAS, Mr (G)
CERNIAUSKAS, Mr(T/W)

Luxembourg/Luxemburgo

ZAHLEN, M. (G)
WELTER, Mme (G)
KIEFFER, M. (E)
PIZZAFERRI, M.(T/W)

Malaisie/Malaysia/Malasia

SYED MOHAMUD, Mr(T/W)

Malawi

KABAMBE, Mr (G)
ZIRIKUDONDO, Mr (G)
MWALE, Ms (E)
MUDOLO, Mr(T/W)

Malte/Malta

VELLA, Mr (G)
AZZOPARDI, Mr (G)

Maurice/Mauritius/Mauricio

RAMSAMY, Mrs (G)

Mexique/Mexico/México

MORALES GAUZIN, Sr. (G)
GÓMEZ OLIVER, Sra. (G)

République de Moldova/Republic of Moldova/República de Moldova

SAINCIUC, Mr (G)
CERESCU, Mr (E)
MANEA, Mr(T/W)

Mongolie/Mongolia

BAIGALMAA, Ms (G)
GANBAATAR, Mr (E)
AMGALANBAATAR, Mr(T/W)

Mozambique

MAZOIO, M.(T/W)

Myanmar

KYAW, Mr (G)
LWIN, Mr (G)

Namibie/Namibia

HIVELUAH, Ms (G)
HIKUAMA-MUPAINE, Mr (G)
PARKHOUSE, Mr (E)
MUHEUA, Mr(T/W)

Nicaragua

ROBELO RAFFONE, Sr. (G)
CRUZ TORUÑO, Sr. (G)

Nigéria/Nigeria

AROGUNDADE, Ms (G)

Norvège/Norway/Noruega

VIDNES, Mr (G)
YTTERDAL, Ms (G)
RIDDERVOLD, Ms (E)
SUNDNES, Ms(T/W)

Nouvelle-Zélande/New Zealand/Nueva Zelandia

STEFFENS-SMITH, Ms (G)
ARMITAGE, Mr (G)
O'REILLY, Mr (E)
KELLY, Ms(T/W)

Oman/Omán

ALABDUWANI, Mr (G)
ALMULLAHI, Mr (G)
ALKABIAH, Ms (E)
ALJABRI, Mr(T/W)

Pakistan/Pakistán

ISMAIL, Mr (G)
NUSRAT, Mr (G)
TABANI, Mr (E)
AHMED, Mr(T/W)

Panama/Panamá

AGUILAR JAÉN, Sr. (G)
QUIRÓZ HERNÁNDEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Paraguay

SILVERA, Sr. (G)
CATALDO FERNÁNDEZ, Sr. (E)
BARRETO, Sr.(T/W)

Pays-Bas/Netherlands/Países Bajos

DRIESSEN, Mr (G)
BEETS, Mr (G)
VAN WEZEL, Ms(T/W)

Philippines/Filipinas

LAGMAN, Mr (G)
VILLAVIZA, Mr(T/W)

Pologne/Poland/Polonia

LEMIESZEWSKA, Ms (G)
RAPACKI, Mr (G)
OPECHOWSKA, Mrs (E)
WOJCIK, Mr(T/W)

Portugal

ROBERT LOPES, Mme (G)
SOUSA FIALHO, M. (G)
FERNANDES SALGUEIRO, M. (E)
GOMES PROENÇA, M.(T/W)

Qatar

AL-OBAIDLI, Mr (G)
AL-MOHANNADI, Mr (G)

Roumanie/Romania/Rumania

DUMITRIU, Mme (G)
BIRLADIANU, Mme (G)
COSTACHE, M. (E)
STAN, M.(T/W)

Royaume-Uni/United Kingdom/Reino Unido

RICHARDS, Mr (G)
MOORE, Mr (E)
STEYNE, Mr(T/W)

Fédération de Russie/Russian Federation/Federación de Rusia

SAFONOV, Mr (G)
SIDOROV , Mr(T/W)

Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis/Saint Kitts and Nevis/Saint Kitts y Nevis

WILLIAMS, Mr (G)
THOMAS, Mr(T/W)

Saint-Marin/San Marino

GASPERONI, M. (G)
PODESCHI, M. (G)
MENICUCCI, Mme (E)
PIERMATTEI, M.(T/W)

Sénégal/Senegal

DIOP, M. (E)

Serbie/Serbia

VUKCEVIC, Mr (G)

Singapour/Singapore/Singapur

YIP, Mr (G)
GAN, Mr (G)
KOH, Mr (E)
YACOB, Ms(T/W)

Slovaquie/Slovakia/Eslovaquia

DZUPA, Mr (G)
VAVRO, Mr (G)
HOLECEK, Mr (E)
GAZDIK, Mr(T/W)

Slovénie/Slovenia/Eslovenia

SARCEVIC, Ms (G)
LOGAR, Ms (G)
ANTAUER, Mr (E)
ZORKO, Mr(T/W)

Soudan/Sudan/Sudán

HAMID, Mr (G)
ABBAS, Mr (E)
A. KARIM, Mr(T/W)

Sri Lanka

MADIHAHEWA, Mr (G)
EDIRISINGHE, Mr (G)
SANDRASEKERA, Mr(T/W)

Suède/Sweden/Suecia

HERZFELD OLSSON, Ms (G)
ERIKSSON, Mr (G)
BECKMAN, Mr (E)
BENGTTSSON, Mr(T/W)

Suisse/Switzerland/Suiza

BERSET BIRCHER, Mme (G)
PLATTNER, M. (G)
BARDE, M. (E)
VIGNE, M.(T/W)

Suriname

PIROE, Mr (G)
EMANUELS, Ms (G)
ETNEL, Ms(T/W)

Swaziland/Swazilandia

SITHOLE, Mr(T/W)

République arabe syrienne/Syrian Arab Republic/República Árabe Siria

HMEDAN, Mr (G)

AL IBRAHIM, Mr (G)

AL NEMEH, Mr (E)

AZOUZ, Mr(T/W)

République-Unie de Tanzanie/United Republic of Tanzania/República Unida de Tanzania

MAPURI, Mr (G)

KOMBA, Mr (G)

Tchad/Chad

GOGUET, M. (G)

DJEGUEDEM, M. (G)

ALI ABBAS, M. (E)

DJIBRINE ASSALI, M.(T/W)

République tchèque/Czech Republic/República Checa

POKORNY , Mr (G)

BLAZEK, Mr (G)

DRBALOVA, Ms (E)

BAUEROVA, Ms(T/W)

Thaïlande/Thailand/Tailandia

ROMCHATTHONG, Mrs (E)

THAILUAN, Mr(T/W)

Tunisie/Tunisia/Túnez

LANDOLSI, M. (G)

CHOUBA, Mme (G)

M'KAISSI, M. (E)

Turquie/Turkey/Turquía

YILMAZ, Mr (G)

EKINCI, Mr (G)

Ukraine/Ucrania

LUTSYSHYN, Mr(T/W)

Uruguay

PAYSSÉ, Sra. (G)

WEISSEL, Sra. (G)

FOSTIK, Sr. (E)

FAZIO, Sr.(T/W)

Venezuela

(Rép.bolivarienne)/Venezuela

(Bolivarian Rep)/Venezuela (Rep. Bolivariana)

AGUILAR, Sr. (G)

MADRID, Sr. (G)

Viet Nam

DAO, Mr (G)

VU, Mr (G)

NGUYEN, Mr (E)

NGUYEN, Mr(T/W)

Zimbabwe

MUSEKA, Mr (G)

MANYAKARA, Mr (E)

MATOMBO, Mr(T/W)

Contre/Against/En contra: 9

Bahamas

DOTSON, Ms(T/W)

Botswana

RADIBE, Mr(T/W)

France/Francia

JULIEN, M. (E)

Kiribati

TAATO, Ms (G)

KUM KEE, Ms (E)

République dém. populaire lao/Lao People's Dem. Republic/República Dem. Pop. Lao

MOUNTIVONG, Mr (G)

PHIRASAYPHITAK, Ms (E)

Zambie/Zambia

CHIBANDA, Mr (E)

HKAUMBA, Mr(T/W)

Abstentions/Abstentions/ Abstenciones: 3

Brunéi Darussalam/Brunei Darussalam

HASBOLLAH, Ms (G)

Sri Lanka

PEIRIS, Mr (E)

Trinité-et-Tobago/Trinidad and Tobago/Trinidad y Tabago

FRANCIS, Mr (G)



Vote par appel nominal sur la résolution concernant les arriérés de contributions de la République centrafricaine

Record vote on the Resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of the Central African Republic

Votación nominal relativa a la resolución sobre las contribuciones atrasadas de la Unión de la República Centroafricana

Pour/For/En Pro: 321

Contre/Against/En contra: 8

Abstentions/Abstentions/Abstenciones: 4

Quorum: 307

Maj./May.: 220

Pour/For/En Pro: 321

Afrique du Sud/South Africa/Sudáfrica

NDEBELE, Mr (G)
LETOABA, Mr (G)
VAN VUUREN, Mr (E)
PATEL, Mr(T/W)

Algérie/Algeria/Argelia

ZAIDI, M. (G)
KHELIF, M. (G)
MEGATELI, M. (E)
AÏT ALI, M.(T/W)

Allemagne/Germany/Alemania

HOFFMANN, Ms (G)
VOGT, Mr (G)
GERSTEIN, Ms (E)
KÜHL, Ms(T/W)

Arabie saoudite/Saudi Arabia/Arabia Saudita

ALBWARDI, Mr (G)
ALYAHYA, Mr (G)
ALKANHALL, Mr (E)
RADHWAN, Mr(T/W)

Argentine/Argentina

RIAL, Sra. (G)
DUMONT, Sr. (G)
MARTINEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Arménie/Armenia

MARTIROSYAN, Ms (G)
ASATRYAN, Mr (G)
PILOSYAN, Mr (E)
TUMASYAN, Mr(T/W)

Australie/Australia

SMYTHE, Mr (G)
YARDLEY, Mr (G)
NANCE, Mr (E)
TATE, Ms(T/W)

Autriche/Austria

ZWERENZ, Mr (G)
DEMBSHER, Ms (G)
TOMEK, Mr (E)
BÖGNER, Ms(T/W)

Bahamas

SMITH, Ms (E)

Bahreïn/Bahrain/Bahreïn

HUMAIDAN, Mr (G)
ALMAHFOOD, Mr(T/W)

Bangladesh

AHMED, Mr (E)

Barbade/Barbados

SIMMONS, Mr (G)
TROTMAN, Mr(T/W)

Belgique/Belgium/Bélgica

VAN HOLM, M. (G)
VANDAMME, M. (G)
DA COSTA, M. (E)
CORTEBEECK, M.(T/W)

Bénin/Benin

KORA ZAKI LEADI, Mme (G)
AZONGBE DJIDJOHO, Mme (G)
ZANOUE, M. (E)
LOKOSSOU, M.(T/W)

Brésil/Brazil/Brasil

LUPI, Sr. (G)
BARBOSA, Sr. (G)
BENEVIDES GADELHA, Sr. (E)
FELICIO, Sr.(T/W)

Bulgarie/Bulgaria

DIMITROV, Mr (G)
DRAGANOV, Mr (G)
ZHELIAZKOV, Mr (E)

Burundi

NIBIZI, Mme(T/W)

Canada/Canadá

ROBINSON, Ms (G)
L'HEUREUX, Ms (G)
REGENBOGEN, Ms (E)
BYERS, Ms(T/W)

Chili/Chile

PORTALES, Sr. (G)
ANDRADE, Sr. (G)
MUGA, Sr. (E)
DIAZ, Sr.(T/W)

Chine/China

LU, Ms (G)
LI, Mr (G)
CHEN, Mr (E)
JIANG, Mr(T/W)

Chypre/Cyprus/Chipre

HADJICHRYSANTHOU, Mr (G)
NICOLAOU, Mr (G)

Colombie/Colombia

FORERO UCROS, Sra. (G)
GOMEZ ESGUERRA, Sr.(T/W)

République de Corée/Republic of Korea/República de Corea
KANG, Mr(T/W)

Costa Rica
GAMBOA ACUÑA, Srta. (G)
ROJAS VÍLCHEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Croatie/Croatia/Croacia
SOCANAC, Mr (G)
HORVATIC, Ms (E)
SOBOTA, Ms(T/W)

Cuba
NAVARRO FERNÁNDEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Danemark/Denmark/Dinamarca
LILJEQVIST, Ms (G)
WESTH, Ms (G)
GADE, Mr (E)
OHRN, Mr(T/W)

Egypte/Egypt/Egipto
EL-ASHRY, Ms (G)
ALLAM, Mr (E)
TAHA, Mr(T/W)

El Salvador
AVILA DE PEÑA, Sra. (G)
PALACIOS CARRANZA, Sr. (G)

Emirats arabes unis/United Arab Emirates/Emiratos Arabes Unidos
ABDELGHANI, Mr (G)
ALOBAD, Mr (G)
KHAMASS, Mr (E)
AL-MARZOOKI, Mr(T/W)

Equateur/Ecuador
NAVAS, Sra. (G)
THULLEN, Sr. (G)
VERA VELEZ, Sra. (E)
YAGUAL, Sr.(T/W)

Espagne/Spain/España
FERRER DUFOL, Sr. (E)
DOZ, Sr.(T/W)

Estonie/Estonia
KÄÄRATS, Ms (G)
KAADU, Mr (G)
NIINEMÄE, Mr (E)
TAMMELEHT, Ms(T/W)

Etats-Unis/United States/Estados Unidos
CHICK, Ms (G)
PONTICELLI, Ms (G)
GOLDBERG, Ms (E)
ZELLHOEFER, Mr(T/W)

Ethiopie/Ethiopia/Etiopía
FOLLO, Mr(T/W)

Ex-Rép. Yougos. de Macédoine/The FYR Macedonia/Ex Rep. Yugoslava de Macedonia

AVRAMCHEV, Mr (G)
IVANOVIC, Mr (G)
STOJANOVSKI, Mr (E)
MURATOVSKI, Mr(T/W)

Finlande/Finland/Finlandia
KANGASPERKO, Ms (G)
MODEEN, Ms (G)
KOIVU, Mr (E)
VALKONEN, Ms(T/W)

France/Francia
BOISNEL, M. (G)
MARTIN, M. (G)
JOUBIER, M.(T/W)

Gabon/Gabón
IROUNGUI, Mme (G)
NKOMBE, M. (G)

Géorgie/Georgia
KAKACHIA, Mr (G)

Grèce/Greece/Grecia
CHRYSANTHOU, Mme (G)
CAMBITSIS, M. (G)
VAYAS, M. (E)
VARCHALAMA, Mme(T/W)

Guatemala
RODRIGUEZ, Sr. (G)
MARTINEZ, Sr. (G)
LUCAS, Sr.(T/W)

Guinée/Guinea
DIALLO, M. (G)
DIALLO, Mme(T/W)

Honduras
LARA ENAMORADO, Sr.(T/W)

Hongrie/Hungary/Hungría
FORGÓ, Ms (G)
AGG, Mr(T/W)

Inde/India
PILLAI, Ms (G)
SINGH, Mr (G)
VENKATARAMINI, Mr (E)
HASMUKHLAL GAURISHANKER, Mr(T/W)

Indonésie/Indonesia
HANARTANI, Ms (G)
WITJAKSONO, Mr (G)

Irlande/Ireland/Irlanda
CUNNIFFE, Mr (G)

Islande/Iceland/Islandia
KRISTINSSON, Mr (G)
NORDDAHL, Mr(T/W)

Israël/Israel
AMRANI, Mr (G)

Italie/Italy/Italia
GUARRIELLO, Ms (G)
BERGER, Ms (G)
ROSSI, Ms (E)
DEL RIO, Ms(T/W)

Jamaïque/Jamaica
MILLER, Mr (G)
FOSTER, Mr (G)
COKE-LLOYD, Ms (E)

Japon/Japan/Japón
KITAJIMA, Mr (G)
MATSUI, Mr (G)
SUZUKI, Mr (E)
NAKAJIMA, Mr(T/W)

Jordanie/Jordan/Jordania
JADALLAH, Mr (G)

Kazakhstan/Kazajstán
SAPARBAYEV, Mr (G)

Kenya
WASIKE, Ms (G)
KIRIGUA, Mr (G)
ATWOLI, Mr(T/W)

Kiribati
TAOABA, Mr (G)

Koweït/Kuwait
AL-SUMAIT, Mr (G)
AL-REZOOQI, Mr (G)
AL-HAROON, Mr (E)

République dém. populaire lao/Lao People's Dem. Republic/República Dem. Pop. Lao
MOUNTIVONG, Mr (G)
PHIRASAYPHITAK, Ms (E)
VONGRAPH, Mr(T/W)

Lesotho
MAKEKA, Mr (E)

Lettonie/Latvia/Letonia
BRENCIS, Mr (G)
DREIMANE, Ms (G)
GAVRILOVS, Mr (E)
MARCINKEVICA, Ms(T/W)

Liban/Lebanon/Líbano
HAMADEH, M. (E)

Jamahiriya arabe libyenne/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya/Jamahiriya Arabe Libia
DERBI, Mr (G)

Lituanie/Lithuania/Lituania
KAIRELIS, Mr (G)
BORISOVAS, Mr (G)
CERNIAUSKAS, Mr(T/W)

Luxembourg/Luxemburgo

ZAHLEN, M. (G)
WELTER, Mme (G)
KIEFFER, M. (E)
PIZZAFERRI, M.(T/W)

Malaisie/Malaysia/Malasia

SYED MOHAMUD, Mr(T/W)

Malawi

KABAMBE, Mr (G)
ZIRIKUDONDO, Mr (G)
MWALE, Ms (E)
MUDOLO, Mr(T/W)

Malte/Malta

VELLA, Mr (G)
AZZOPARDI, Mr (G)

Maurice/Mauritius/Mauricio

RAMSAMY, Mrs (G)

Mexique/Mexico/México

MORALES GAUZIN, Sr. (G)
GÓMEZ OLIVER, Sra. (G)

République de Moldova/Republic of Moldova/República de Moldova

SAINCIUC, Mr (G)
CERESCU, Mr (E)
MANEA, Mr(T/W)

Mongolie/Mongolia

BAIGALMAA, Ms (G)
GANBAATAR, Mr (E)
AMGALANBAATAR, Mr(T/W)

Mozambique

MAZOIO, M.(T/W)

Myanmar

KYAW, Mr (G)
LWIN, Mr (G)

Namibie/Namibia

HIVELUAH, Ms (G)
HIKUAMA-MUPAINE, Mr (G)
PARKHOUSE, Mr (E)
MUHEUA, Mr(T/W)

Nicaragua

ROBELO RAFFONE, Sr. (G)
CRUZ TORUÑO, Sr. (G)

Nigéria/Nigeria

AROGUNDADE, Ms (G)

Norvège/Norway/Noruega

VIDNES, Mr (G)
YTTERDAL, Ms (G)
RIDDERVOLD, Ms (E)
SUNDNES, Ms(T/W)

Nouvelle-Zélande/New Zealand/Nueva Zelandia

STEFFENS-SMITH, Ms (G)
ARMITAGE, Mr (G)
O'REILLY, Mr (E)
KELLY, Ms(T/W)

Oman/Omán

ALABDUWANI, Mr (G)
ALMULLAHI, Mr (G)
ALKABIAH, Ms (E)
ALJABRI, Mr(T/W)

Pakistan/Pakistán

ISMAIL, Mr (G)
NUSRAT, Mr (G)
TABANI, Mr (E)
AHMED, Mr(T/W)

Panama/Panamá

AGUILAR JAÉN, Sr. (G)
QUIRÓZ HERNÁNDEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Paraguay

SILVERA, Sr. (G)
CATALDO FERNÁNDEZ, Sr. (E)
BARRETO, Sr.(T/W)

Pays-Bas/Netherlands/Países Bajos

DRIESSEN, Mr (G)
BEETS, Mr (G)
VAN WEZEL, Ms(T/W)

Philippines/Filipinas

LAGMAN, Mr (G)
VILLAVIZA, Mr(T/W)

Pologne/Poland/Polonia

LEMIESZEWSKA, Ms (G)
RAPACKI, Mr (G)
OPECHOWSKA, Mrs (E)
WOJCIK, Mr(T/W)

Portugal

ROBERT LOPES, Mme (G)
SOUSA FIALHO, M. (G)
FERNANDES SALGUEIRO, M. (E)
GOMES PROENÇA, M.(T/W)

Qatar

AL-OBAIDLI, Mr (G)
AL-MOHANNADI, Mr (G)

Roumanie/Romania/Rumania

DUMITRIU, Mme (G)
BIRLADIANU, Mme (G)
COSTACHE, M. (E)
STAN, M.(T/W)

Royaume-Uni/United Kingdom/Reino Unido

RICHARDS, Mr (G)
MOORE, Mr (E)
STEYNE, Mr(T/W)

Fédération de Russie/Russian Federation/Federación de Rusia

SAFONOV, Mr (G)
SIDOROV , Mr(T/W)

Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis/Saint Kitts and Nevis/Saint Kitts y Nevis

WILLIAMS, Mr (G)
THOMAS, Mr(T/W)

Saint-Marin/San Marino

GASPERONI, M. (G)
PODESCHI, M. (G)
MENICUCCI, Mme (E)
PIERMATTEI, M.(T/W)

Sénégal/Senegal

DIOP, M. (E)

Serbie/Serbia

VUKCEVIC, Mr (G)

Singapour/Singapore/Singapur

YIP, Mr (G)
GAN, Mr (G)
KOH, Mr (E)
YACOB, Ms(T/W)

Slovaquie/Slovakia/Eslovaquia

DZUPA, Mr (G)
VAVRO, Mr (G)
HOLECEK, Mr (E)
GAZDIK, Mr(T/W)

Slovénie/Slovenia/Eslovenia

SARCEVIC, Ms (G)
LOGAR, Ms (G)
ANTAUER, Mr (E)
ZORKO, Mr(T/W)

Soudan/Sudan/Sudán

HAMID, Mr (G)
ABBAS, Mr (E)
A. KARIM, Mr(T/W)

Sri Lanka

MADIHAHEWA, Mr (G)
EDIRISINGHE, Mr (G)
SANDRASEKERA, Mr(T/W)

Suède/Sweden/Suecia

HERZFELD OLSSON, Ms (G)
ERIKSSON, Mr (G)
BECKMAN, Mr (E)
BENGTTSSON, Mr(T/W)

Suisse/Switzerland/Suiza

BERSET BIRCHER, Mme (G)
PLATTNER, M. (G)
BARDE, M. (E)
VIGNE, M.(T/W)

Suriname

PIROE, Mr (G)
EMANUELS, Ms (G)
ETNEL, Ms(T/W)

Swaziland/Swazilandia

SITHOLE, Mr(T/W)

*République arabe syrienne/Syrian
Arab Republic/República Árabe Siria*

HMEDAN, Mr (G)

AL IBRAHIM, Mr (G)

AL NEMEH, Mr (E)

AZOUZ, Mr(T/W)

*République-Unie de Tanzanie/United
Republic of Tanzania/República
Unida de Tanzania*

MAPURI, Mr (G)

KOMBA, Mr (G)

Tchad/Chad

GOGUET, M. (G)

DJEGUEDEM, M. (G)

ALI ABBAS, M. (E)

DJIBRINE ASSALI, M.(T/W)

*République tchèque/Czech
Republic/República Checa*

POKORNY , Mr (G)

BLAZEK, Mr (G)

DRBALOVA, Ms (E)

BAUEROVA, Ms(T/W)

Thaïlande/Thailand/Tailandia

ROMCHATTHONG, Mrs (E)

THAILUAN, Mr(T/W)

Tunisie/Tunisia/Túnez

LANDOLSI, M. (G)

CHOUBA, Mme (G)

M'KAISSI, M. (E)

Turquie/Turkey/Turquía

YILMAZ, Mr (G)

EKINCI, Mr (G)

Ukraine/Ucrania

LUTSYSHYN, Mr(T/W)

Uruguay

PAYSSÉ, Sra. (G)

WEISSEL, Sra. (G)

FOSTIK, Sr. (E)

FAZIO, Sr.(T/W)

Venezuela

*(Rép.bolivarienne)/Venezuela
(Bolivarian Rep)/Venezuela (Rep.
Bolivariana)*

AGUILAR, Sr. (G)

MADRID, Sr. (G)

Viet Nam

DAO, Mr (G)

VU, Mr (G)

NGUYEN, Mr (E)

NGUYEN, Mr(T/W)

Zimbabwe

MUSEKA, Mr (G)

MANYAKARA, Mr (E)

MATOMBO, Mr(T/W)

Contre/Against/En contra: 8

Bahamas

DOTSON, Ms(T/W)

Botswana

RADIBE, Mr(T/W)

Cambodge/Cambodia/Camboya

D'AMICO, Ms (E)

France/Francia

JULIEN, M. (E)

Kiribati

TAATOVA, Ms (G)

KUM KEE, Ms (E)

Zambie/Zambia

CHIBANDA, Mr (E)

HIKAUMBA, Mr(T/W)

Abstentions/Abstentions/ Abstenciones: 4

*Brunéi Darussalam/Brunei
Darussalam*

HASBOLLAH, Ms (G)

*République dém. populaire lao/Lao
People's Dem. Republic/República
Dem. Pop. Lao*

INTHALATH, Mr (G)

Sri Lanka

PEIRIS, Mr (E)

*Trinité-et-Tobago/Trinidad and
Tobago/Trinidad y Tabago*

FRANCIS, Mr (G)



Vote par appel nominal sur la résolution concernant les arriérés de contributions de l'Iraq

Record vote on the Resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of Iraq

Votación nominal relativa a la resolución sobre las contribuciones atrasadas de la Unión del Iraq

Pour/For/En Pro: 316

Contre/Against/En contra: 12

Abstentions/Abstentions/Abstenciones: 5

Quorum: 307

Maj./May.: 219

Pour/For/En Pro: 316

Afrique du Sud/South Africa/Sudáfrica

NDEBELE, Mr (G)
LETOABA, Mr (G)
VAN VUUREN, Mr (E)
PATEL, Mr(T/W)

Algérie/Algeria/Argelia

ZAIDI, M. (G)
KHELIF, M. (G)
MEGATELI, M. (E)
AÏT ALI, M.(T/W)

Allemagne/Germany/Alemania

HOFFMANN, Ms (G)
VOGT, Mr (G)
GERSTEIN, Ms (E)
KÜHL, Ms(T/W)

Arabie saoudite/Saudi Arabia/Arabia Saudita

ALBWARDI, Mr (G)
ALYAHYA, Mr (G)
ALKANHAL, Mr (E)
RADHWAN, Mr(T/W)

Argentine/Argentina

RIAL, Sra. (G)
DUMONT, Sr. (G)

Arménie/Armenia

MARTIROSYAN, Ms (G)
ASATRYAN, Mr (G)
PILOSAYAN, Mr (E)
TUMASYAN, Mr(T/W)

Australie/Australia

SMYTHE, Mr (G)
YARDLEY, Mr (G)
NANCE, Mr (E)
TATE, Ms(T/W)

Autriche/Austria

ZWERENZ, Mr (G)
DEMBSHER, Ms (G)
TOMEK, Mr (E)
BÖGNER, Ms(T/W)

Bahamas

SMITH, Ms (E)

Bahreïn/Bahrain/Bahrein

HUM Aidan, Mr (G)
ALMAHFOOD, Mr(T/W)

Bangladesh

AHMED, Mr (E)

Barbade/Barbados

SIMMONS, Mr (G)
TROTMAN, Mr(T/W)

Belgique/Belgium/Bélgica

CORTEBEECK, M.(T/W)

Bénin/Benin

KORA ZAKI LEADI, Mme (G)
AZONGBE DJIDJOHO, Mme (G)
ZANOUE, M. (E)

Brésil/Brazil/Brasil

LUPI, Sr. (G)
BARBOSA, Sr. (G)
BENEVIDES GADELHA, Sr. (E)
FELICIO, Sr.(T/W)

Brunéi Darussalam/Brunei Darussalam

HASBOLLAH, Ms (G)

Bulgarie/Bulgaria

DIMITROV, Mr (G)
DRAGANOV, Mr (G)
ZHELYAZKOV, Mr (E)

Burundi

NIBIZI, Mme(T/W)

Canada/Canadá

ROBINSON, Ms (G)
L'HEUREUX, Ms (G)
REGENBOGEN, Ms (E)
BYERS, Ms(T/W)

Chili/Chile

PORTALES, Sr. (G)
ANDRADE, Sr. (G)
MUGA, Sr. (E)
DIAZ, Sr.(T/W)

Chine/China

LU, Ms (G)
LI, Mr (G)
CHEN, Mr (E)
JIANG, Mr(T/W)

Chypre/Cyprus/Chipre

HADJICHRYSANTHOU, Mr (G)
NICOLAOU, Mr (G)

Colombie/Colombia

FORERO UCROS, Sra. (G)
GOMEZ ESGUERRA, Sr.(T/W)

République de Corée/Republic of Korea/República de Corea

KANG, Mr(T/W)

Costa Rica

GAMBOA ACUÑA, Srta. (G)
ROJAS VÍLCHEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Croatie/Croatia/Croacia

SOCANAC, Mr (G)
HORVATIC, Ms (E)
SOBOTA, Ms(T/W)

Cuba

NAVARRO FERNÁNDEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Danemark/Denmark/Dinamarca

LILJEQVIST, Ms (G)
WESTH, Ms (G)
GADE, Mr (E)
OHRT, Mr(T/W)

Egypte/Egypt/Egipto

EL-ASHRY, Ms (G)
ALLAM, Mr (E)
TAHA, Mr(T/W)

El Salvador

AVILA DE PEÑA, Sra. (G)
PALACIOS CARRANZA, Sr. (G)

Emirats arabes unis/United Arab Emirates/Emiratos Arabes Unidos

ABDELGHANI, Mr (G)
ALOBAD, Mr (G)
KHAMASS, Mr (E)
AL-MARZOOKI, Mr(T/W)

Equateur/Ecuador

NAVAS, Sra. (G)
THULLEN, Sr. (G)
VERA VELEZ, Sra. (E)
YAGUAL, Sr.(T/W)

Espagne/Spain/España

FERRER DUFOL, Sr. (E)
DOZ, Sr.(T/W)

Estonie/Estonia

KÄÄRATS, Ms (G)
KAADU, Mr (G)
NIINEMÄE, Mr (E)
TAMMELEHT, Ms(T/W)

Etats-Unis/United States/Estados Unidos

CHICK, Ms (G)
PONTICELLI, Ms (G)
GOLDBERG, Ms (E)
ZELLHOEFER, Mr(T/W)

Ethiopie/Ethiopia/Etiopía

FOLLO, Mr(T/W)

Ex-Rép. Yougos. de Macédoine/The FYR Macedonia/Ex Rep. Yugoslava de Macedonia

AVRAMCHEV, Mr (G)
IVANOVNIK, Mr (G)
STOJANOVSKI, Mr (E)
MURATOVSKI, Mr(T/W)

Finlande/Finland/Finlandia

KANGASPERKO, Ms (G)
MODEEN, Ms (G)
KOIVU, Mr (E)
VALKONEN, Ms(T/W)

France/Francia

BOISNEL, M. (G)
MARTIN, M. (G)
JOUBIER, M.(T/W)

Gabon/Gabón

IROUNGUI, Mme (G)
NKOMBE, M. (G)

Géorgie/Georgia

KAKACHIA, Mr (G)

Grèce/Greece/Grecia

CHRYSANTHOU, Mme (G)
CAMBITSIS, M. (G)
VAYAS, M. (E)
VARCHALAMA, Mme(T/W)

Guatemala

RODRIGUEZ, Sr. (G)
MARTINEZ, Sr. (G)
LUCAS, Sr.(T/W)

Guinée/Guinea

DIALLO, M. (G)
DIALLO, Mme(T/W)

Honduras

LARA ENAMORADO, Sr.(T/W)

Hongrie/Hungary/Hungría

FORGÓ, Ms (G)
AGG, Mr(T/W)

Inde/India

PILLAI, Ms (G)
SINGH, Mr (G)
VENKATARAMINI, Mr (E)
HASMUKHLAL GAURISHANKER, Mr(T/W)

Indonésie/Indonesia

HANARTANI, Ms (G)
WITJAKSONO, Mr (G)

Irlande/Ireland/Irlanda

CUNNIFFE, Mr (G)

Islande/Iceland/Islandia

KRISTINSSON, Mr (G)

Italie/Italy/Italia

GUARRIELLO, Ms (G)
BERGER, Ms (G)
ROSSI, Ms (E)
DEL RIO, Ms(T/W)

Jamaïque/Jamaica

MILLER, Mr (G)
FOSTER, Mr (G)
COKE-LLOYD, Ms (E)

Japon/Japan/Japón

KITAJIMA, Mr (G)
MATSUI, Mr (G)
SUZUKI, Mr (E)
NAKAJIMA, Mr(T/W)

Jordanie/Jordan/Jordania

JADALLAH, Mr (G)

Kazakhstan/Kazajstán

SAPARBAYEV, Mr (G)

Kenya

WASIKE, Ms (G)
KIRIGUA, Mr (G)
ATWOLI, Mr(T/W)

Kiribati

TAOABA, Mr (G)

Koweït/Kuwait

AL-SUMAIT, Mr (G)
AL-REZOOQI, Mr (G)
AL-HAROON, Mr (E)

République dém. populaire lao/Lao People's Dem. Republic/República Dem. Pop. Lao

INTHALATH, Mr (G)
MOUNTIVONG, Mr (G)
PHIRASAYPHITAK, Ms (E)
VONGRAPHIA, Mr(T/W)

Lesotho

MAKEKA, Mr (E)

Lettonie/Latvia/Letonia

BRENCIS, Mr (G)
DREIMANE, Ms (G)
GAVRILOVS, Mr (E)
MARCINKEVICA, Ms(T/W)

Liban/Lebanon/Líbano

HAMADEH, M. (E)

Jamahiriya arabe libyenne/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya/Jamahiriya Arabe Libia

DERBI, Mr (G)

Lituanie/Lithuania/Lituanía

KAIRELIS, Mr (G)
BORISOVAS, Mr (G)
CERNIAUSKAS, Mr(T/W)

Luxembourg/Luxemburgo

ZAHLEN, M. (G)
WELTER, Mme (G)
KIEFFER, M. (E)
PIZZAFERRI, M.(T/W)

Malaisie/Malaysia/Malasia

SYED MOHAMUD, Mr(T/W)

Malawi

KABAMBE, Mr (G)
ZIRIKUDONDO, Mr (G)
MWALE, Ms (E)
MUDOLO, Mr(T/W)

Malte/Malta

VELLA, Mr (G)
AZZOPARDI, Mr (G)

Maurice/Mauritius/Mauricio

RAMSAMY, Mrs (G)

<i>Mexique/Mexico/México</i> MORALES GAUZIN, Sr. (G) GÓMEZ OLIVER, Sra. (G)	<i>Paraguay</i> SILVERA, Sr. (G) BARRETO, Sr.(T/W)	<i>Singapour/Singapore/Singapur</i> YIP, Mr (G) GAN, Mr (G) KOH, Mr (E) YACOB, Ms(T/W)
<i>République de Moldova/Republic of Moldova/República de Moldova</i> SAINCIUC, Mr (G) CERESCU, Mr (E) MANEA, Mr(T/W)	<i>Pays-Bas/Netherlands/Países Bajos</i> DRIESSEN, Mr (G) BEETS, Mr (G) VAN WEZEL, Ms(T/W)	<i>Slovaquie/Slovakia/Eslovaquia</i> DZUPA, Mr (G) VAVRO, Mr (G) HOLECEK, Mr (E) GAZDIK, Mr(T/W)
<i>Mongolie/Mongolia</i> BAIGALMAA, Ms (G) GANBAATAR, Mr (E) AMGALANBAATAR, Mr(T/W)	<i>Philippines/Filipinas</i> LAGMAN, Mr (G) VILLAVIZA, Mr(T/W)	<i>Slovénie/Slovenia/Eslovenia</i> SARCEVIC, Ms (G) LOGAR, Ms (G) ANTAUER, Mr (E) ZORKO, Mr(T/W)
<i>Mozambique</i> MAZOIO, M.(T/W)	<i>Pologne/Poland/Polonia</i> LEMIESZEWSKA, Ms (G) RAPACKI, Mr (G) OPECHOWSKA, Mrs (E) WOJCIK, Mr(T/W)	<i>Soudan/Sudan/Sudán</i> HAMID, Mr (G) ABBAS, Mr (E) A. KARIM, Mr(T/W)
<i>Myanmar</i> KYAW, Mr (G) LWIN, Mr (G)	<i>Portugal</i> ROBERT LOPES, Mme (G) SOUSA FIALHO, M. (G) FERNANDES SALGUEIRO, M. (E) GOMES PROENÇA, M.(T/W)	<i>Sri Lanka</i> MADIHAHEWA, Mr (G) EDIRISINGHE, Mr (G) SANDRASEKERA, Mr(T/W)
<i>Namibie/Namibia</i> HIVELUAH, Ms (G) HIKUAMA-MUPAINE, Mr (G) PARKHOUSE, Mr (E) MUHEUA, Mr(T/W)	<i>Qatar</i> AL-OBAILDI, Mr (G) AL-MOHANNADI, Mr (G)	<i>Suède/Sweden/Suecia</i> HERZFELD OLSSON, Ms (G) ERIKSSON, Mr (G) BECKMAN, Mr (E) BENGTTSSON, Mr(T/W)
<i>Nicaragua</i> ROBELO RAFFONE, Sr. (G) CRUZ TORUÑO, Sr. (G)	<i>Roumanie/Romania/Rumania</i> DUMITRIU, Mme (G) BIRLADIANU, Mme (G) COSTACHE, M. (E) STAN, M.(T/W)	<i>Suisse/Switzerland/Suiza</i> BERSET BIRCHER, Mme (G) PLATTNER, M. (G) BARDE, M. (E) VIGNE, M.(T/W)
<i>Nigéria/Nigeria</i> AROGUNDADE, Ms (G)	<i>Royaume-Uni/United Kingdom/Reino Unido</i> RICHARDS, Mr (G) MOORE, Mr (E) STEYNE, Mr(T/W)	<i>Suriname</i> PIROE, Mr (G) EMANUELS, Ms (G) ETNEL, Ms(T/W)
<i>Norvège/Norway/Noruega</i> VIDNES, Mr (G) YTTERDAL, Ms (G) RIDDERVOLD, Ms (E) SUNDNES, Ms(T/W)	<i>Fédération de Russie/Russian Federation/Federación de Rusia</i> SAFONOV, Mr (G) SIDOROV , Mr(T/W)	<i>Swaziland/Swazilandia</i> SITHOLE, Mr(T/W)
<i>Nouvelle-Zélande/New Zealand/Nueva Zelandia</i> STEFFENS-SMITH, Ms (G) ARMITAGE, Mr (G) O'REILLY, Mr (E) KELLY, Ms(T/W)	<i>Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis/Saint Kitts and Nevis/Saint Kitts y Nevis</i> WILLIAMS, Mr (G) THOMAS, Mr(T/W)	<i>République arabe syrienne/Syrian Arab Republic/República Árabe Siria</i> HMEDAN, Mr (G) AL IBRAHIM, Mr (G) AL NEMEH, Mr (E) AZOUZ, Mr(T/W)
<i>Oman/Omán</i> ALABDUWANI, Mr (G) ALMULLAHI, Mr (G) ALKABIAH, Ms (E) ALJABRI, Mr(T/W)	<i>Saint-Marin/San Marino</i> GASPERONI, M. (G) PODESCHI, M. (G) MENICUCCI, Mme (E) PIERMATTEI, M.(T/W)	<i>République-Unie de Tanzanie/United Republic of Tanzania/República Unida de Tanzania</i> MAPURI, Mr (G)
<i>Pakistan/Pakistán</i> ISMAIL, Mr (G) NUSRAT, Mr (G) TABANI, Mr (E) AHMED, Mr(T/W)	<i>Sénégal/Senegal</i> DIOP, M. (E)	<i>Tchad/Chad</i> GOGUET, M. (G) DJEGUEDEM, M. (G) ALI ABBAS, M. (E) DJIBRINE ASSALI, M.(T/W)
<i>Panama/Panamá</i> AGUILAR JAÉN, Sr. (G) QUIRÓZ HERNÁNDEZ, Sr.(T/W)	<i>Serbie/Serbia</i> VUKCEVIC, Mr (G)	

*République tchèque/Czech
Republic/República Checa*
POKORNY , Mr (G)
BLAZEK, Mr (G)
DRBALOVA, Ms (E)
BAUEROVA, Ms(T/W)

Thaïlande/Thailand/Tailandia
ROMCHATTHONG, Mrs (E)
THAILUAN, Mr(T/W)

Tunisie/Tunisia/Túnez
LANDOLSI, M. (G)
CHOUBA, Mme (G)
M'KAISSI, M. (E)

Turquie/Turkey/Turquía
YILMAZ, Mr (G)
EKINCI, Mr (G)

Ukraine/Ucrania
LUTSYSHYN, Mr(T/W)

Uruguay
PAYSSÉ, Sra. (G)
WEISSEL, Sra. (G)
FOSTIK, Sr. (E)
FAZIO, Sr.(T/W)

*Venezuela
(Rép.bolivarienne)/Venezuela
(Bolivarian Rep)/Venezuela (Rep.
Bolivariana)*
AGUILAR, Sr. (G)
MADRID, Sr. (G)

Viet Nam
DAO, Mr (G)
VU, Mr (G)
NGUYEN, Mr (E)
NGUYEN, Mr(T/W)

Zambie/Zambia
CHIBANDA, Mr (E)
HIKAUMBA, Mr(T/W)

Zimbabwe
MUSEKA, Mr (G)
MANYAKARA, Mr (E)
MATOMBO, Mr(T/W)

Bénin/Benin
LOKOSSOU, M.(T/W)

Botswana
RADIBE, Mr(T/W)

Cambodge/Cambodia/Camboya
D'AMICO, Ms (E)

France/Francia
JULIEN, M. (E)

Islande/Iceland/Islandia
NORDDAHL, Mr(T/W)

Israël/Israel
AMRANI, Mr (G)

Kiribati
TAATOA, Ms (G)
KUM KEE, Ms (E)

Paraguay
CATALDO FERNÁNDEZ, Sr. (E)

**Contre/Against/En
contra: 12**

Argentine/Argentina
MARTINEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Bahamas
DOTSON, Ms(T/W)

Belgique/Belgium/Bélgica
DA COSTA, M. (E)



**Vote par appel nominal sur la résolution concernant les arriérés de contributions des Iles
Salomon**

**Record vote on the Resolution concerning the arrears of contributions of the Solomon
Islands**

**Votación nominal relativa a la resolución sobre las contribuciones atrasadas de la Unión
de las Islas Salomón**

Pour/For/En Pro: 326

Contre/Against/En contra: 5

Abstentions/Abstentions/Abstenciones: 2

Quorum: 307

Maj./May.: 221

Pour/For/En Pro: 326

Afrique du Sud/South Africa/Sudáfrica

NDEBELE, Mr (G)
LETOABA, Mr (G)
VAN VUUREN, Mr (E)
PATEL, Mr(T/W)

Algérie/Algeria/Argelia

ZAIDI, M. (G)
KHELIF, M. (G)
MEGATELI, M. (E)
AÏT ALI, M.(T/W)

Allemagne/Germany/Alemania

HOFFMANN, Ms (G)
VOGT, Mr (G)
GERSTEIN, Ms (E)
KÜHL, Ms(T/W)

*Arabie saoudite/Saudi Arabia/Arabia
Saudita*

ALBWARDI, Mr (G)
ALYAHYA, Mr (G)
ALKANHALL, Mr (E)
RADHWAN, Mr(T/W)

Argentine/Argentina

RIAL, Sra. (G)
DUMONT, Sr. (G)
MARTINEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Arménie/Armenia

MARTIROSYAN, Ms (G)
ASATRYAN, Mr (G)
PILOSYAN, Mr (E)
TUMASYAN, Mr(T/W)

Australie/Australia

SMYTHE, Mr (G)
YARDLEY, Mr (G)
NANCE, Mr (E)
TATE, Ms(T/W)

Autriche/Austria

ZWERENZ, Mr (G)
DEMBISHER, Ms (G)
TOMEK, Mr (E)
BÖGNER, Ms(T/W)

Bahamas

SMITH, Ms (E)

Bahreïn/Bahrain/Bahreïn

HUMAIKAN, Mr (G)
ALMAHFOOD, Mr(T/W)

Bangladesh

AHMED, Mr (E)

Barbade/Barbados

SIMMONS, Mr (G)
TROTMAN, Mr(T/W)

Belgique/Belgium/Bélgica

VAN HOLM, M. (G)
VANDAMME, M. (G)
DA COSTA, M. (E)
CORTEBEECK, M.(T/W)

Bénin/Benin

KORA ZAKI LEADI, Mme (G)
AZONGBE DJIDJOHO, Mme (G)
ZANOU, M. (E)
LOKOSSOU, M.(T/W)

Brésil/Brazil/Brasil

LUPI, Sr. (G)
BARBOSA, Sr. (G)
BENEVIDES GADELHA, Sr. (E)
FELICIO, Sr.(T/W)

*Brunéi Darussalam/Brunei
Darussalam*

HASBOLLAH, Ms (G)

Bulgarie/Bulgaria

DIMITROV, Mr (G)
DRAGANOV, Mr (G)
ZHELYAZKOV, Mr (E)

Burundi

NIBIZI, Mme(T/W)

Cambodge/Cambodia/Camboya

D'AMICO, Ms (E)

Canada/Canadá

ROBINSON, Ms (G)
L'HEUREUX, Ms (G)
REGENBOGEN, Ms (E)
BYERS, Ms(T/W)

Chili/Chile

PORTALES, Sr. (G)
ANDRADE, Sr. (G)
MUGA, Sr. (E)
DIAZ, Sr.(T/W)

Chine/China

LU, Ms (G)
LI, Mr (G)
CHEN, Mr (E)
JIANG, Mr(T/W)

Chypre/Cyprus/Chipre
HADJICHRYSANTHOU, Mr (G)
NICOLAOU, Mr (G)

Colombie/Colombia
FORERO UCROS, Sra. (G)
GOMEZ ESGUERRA, Sr.(T/W)

République de Corée/Republic of Korea/República de Corea
KANG, Mr(T/W)

Costa Rica
GAMBOA ACUÑA, Srta. (G)
ROJAS VÍLCHEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Croatie/Croatia/Croacia
SOCANAC, Mr (G)
HORVATIC, Ms (E)
SOBOTA, Ms(T/W)

Cuba
NAVARRO FERNÁNDEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Danemark/Denmark/Dinamarca
LILJEQVIST, Ms (G)
WESTH, Ms (G)
GADE, Mr (E)
OHRN, Mr(T/W)

Egypte/Egypt/Egipto
EL-ASHRY, Ms (G)
ALLAM, Mr (E)
TAHA, Mr(T/W)

El Salvador
AVILA DE PEÑA, Sra. (G)
PALACIOS CARRANZA, Sr. (G)

Emirats arabes unis/United Arab Emirates/Emiratos Arabes Unidos
ABDELGHANI, Mr (G)
ALOBAD, Mr (G)
KHAMASS, Mr (E)
AL-MARZOOKI, Mr(T/W)

Equateur/Ecuador
NAVAS, Sra. (G)
THULLEN, Sr. (G)
VERA VELEZ, Sra. (E)
YAGUAL, Sr.(T/W)

Espagne/Spain/España
FERRER DUFOL, Sr. (E)
DOZ, Sr.(T/W)

Estonie/Estonia
KÄÄRATS, Ms (G)
KAADU, Mr (G)
NIINEMÄE, Mr (E)
TAMMELEHT, Ms(T/W)

Etats-Unis/United States/Estados Unidos
CHICK, Ms (G)
PONTICELLI, Ms (G)
GOLDBERG, Ms (E)
ZELLHOEFER, Mr(T/W)

Ethiopie/Ethiopia/Etiopía
FOLLO, Mr(T/W)

Ex-Rép. Yougos. de Macédoine/The FYR Macedonia/Ex Rep. Yugoslavia de Macedonia
AVRAMCHEV, Mr (G)
IVANOVNIK, Mr (G)
STOJANOVSKI, Mr (E)
MURATOVSKI, Mr(T/W)

Finlande/Finland/Finlandia
KANGASPERKO, Ms (G)
MODEEN, Ms (G)
KOIVU, Mr (E)
VALKONEN, Ms(T/W)

France/Francia
BOISNEL, M. (G)
MARTIN, M. (G)
JOUBIER, M.(T/W)

Gabon/Gabón
IROUNGUI, Mme (G)
NKOMBE, M. (G)

Géorgie/Georgia
KAKACHIA, Mr (G)

Grèce/Greece/Grecia
CHRYSAANTHOU, Mme (G)
CAMBITIS, M. (G)
VAYAS, M. (E)
VARCHALAMA, Mme(T/W)

Guatemala
RODRIGUEZ, Sr. (G)
MARTINEZ, Sr. (G)
LUCAS, Sr.(T/W)

Guinée/Guinea
DIALLO, M. (G)
DIALLO, Mme(T/W)

Honduras
LARA ENAMORADO, Sr.(T/W)

Hongrie/Hungary/Hungría
FORGÓ, Ms (G)
AGG, Mr(T/W)

Inde/India
PILLAI, Ms (G)
SINGH, Mr (G)
VENKATARAMINI, Mr (E)
HASMUKHLAL GAURISHANKER, Mr(T/W)

Indonésie/Indonesia
HANARTANI, Ms (G)
WITJAKSONO, Mr (G)

Irlande/Ireland/Irlanda
CUNNIFFE, Mr (G)

Islande/Iceland/Islandia
KRISTINSSON, Mr (G)
NORDDAHL, Mr(T/W)

Israël/Israel
AMRANI, Mr (G)

Italie/Italy/Italia
GUARRIELLO, Ms (G)
BERGER, Ms (G)
ROSSI, Ms (E)
DEL RIO, Ms(T/W)

Jamaïque/Jamaica
MILLER, Mr (G)
FOSTER, Mr (G)
COKE-LLOYD, Ms (E)

Japon/Japan/Japón
KITAJIMA, Mr (G)
MATSUI, Mr (G)
SUZUKI, Mr (E)
NAKAJIMA, Mr(T/W)

Jordanie/Jordan/Jordania
JADALLAH, Mr (G)

Kazakhstan/Kazajstán
SAPARBAYEV, Mr (G)

Kenya
WASIKE, Ms (G)
KIRIGUA, Mr (G)
ATWOLI, Mr(T/W)

Kiribati
TAATO, Ms (G)
TAOABA, Mr (G)
KUM KEE, Ms (E)

Koweït/Kuwait
AL-SUMAIT, Mr (G)
AL-REZOOQI, Mr (G)
AL-HAROON, Mr (E)

République dém. populaire lao/Lao People's Dem. Republic/República Dem. Pop. Lao
INTHALATH, Mr (G)
MOUNTIVONG, Mr (G)
PHIRASAYPHITAK, Ms (E)
VONGRAPH, Mr(T/W)

Lesotho
MAKEKA, Mr (E)

Lettonie/Latvia/Letonia

BRENCIS, Mr (G)
DREIMANE, Ms (G)
GAVRILOVS, Mr (E)
MARCINKEVICA, Ms(T/W)

Liban/Lebanon/Líbano

HAMADEH, M. (E)

Jamahiriya arabe libyenne/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya/Jamahiriya Arabe Libia

DERBI, Mr (G)

Lituanie/Lithuania/Lituania

KAIRELIS, Mr (G)
BORISOVAS, Mr (G)
CERNIAUSKAS, Mr(T/W)

Luxembourg/Luxemburgo

ZAHLEN, M. (G)
WELTER, Mme (G)
KIEFFER, M. (E)
PIZZAFERRI, M.(T/W)

Malaisie/Malaysia/Malasia

SYED MOHAMUD, Mr(T/W)

Malawi

KABAMBE, Mr (G)
ZIRIKUDONDO, Mr (G)
MWALE, Ms (E)
MUDOLO, Mr(T/W)

Malte/Malta

VELLA, Mr (G)
AZZOPARDI, Mr (G)

Maurice/Mauritius/Mauricio

RAMSAMY, Mrs (G)

Mexique/Mexico/México

MORALES GAUZIN, Sr. (G)
GÓMEZ OLIVER, Sra. (G)

République de Moldova/Republic of Moldova/República de Moldova

SAINCIUC, Mr (G)
CERESCU, Mr (E)
MANEA, Mr(T/W)

Mongolie/Mongolia

BAIGALMAA, Ms (G)
GANBAATAR, Mr (E)
AMGALANBAATAR, Mr(T/W)

Mozambique

MAZIO, M.(T/W)

Myanmar

KYAW, Mr (G)
LWIN, Mr (G)

Namibie/Namibia

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HIKUAMA-MUPAINE, Mr (G)
PARKHOUSE, Mr (E)
MUHEUA, Mr(T/W)

Nicaragua

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CRUZ TORUÑO, Sr. (G)

Nigéria/Nigeria

AROGUNDADE, Ms (G)

Norvège/Norway/Noruega

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YTTERDAL, Ms (G)
RIDDERVOLD, Ms (E)
SUNDNES, Ms(T/W)

Nouvelle-Zélande/New Zealand/Nueva Zelandia

STEFFENS-SMITH, Ms (G)
ARMITAGE, Mr (G)
O'REILLY, Mr (E)
KELLY, Ms(T/W)

Oman/Omán

ALABDUWANI, Mr (G)
ALMULLAHI, Mr (G)
ALKABIAH, Ms (E)
ALJABRI, Mr(T/W)

Pakistan/Pakistán

ISMAIL, Mr (G)
NUSRAT, Mr (G)
TABANI, Mr (E)
AHMED, Mr(T/W)

Panama/Panamá

AGUILAR JAÉN, Sr. (G)
QUIRÓZ HERNÁNDEZ, Sr.(T/W)

Paraguay

SILVERA, Sr. (G)
CATALDO FERNÁNDEZ, Sr. (E)
BARRETO, Sr.(T/W)

Pays-Bas/Netherlands/Países Bajos

DRIESSEN, Mr (G)
BEETS, Mr (G)
VAN WEZEL, Ms(T/W)

Philippines/Filipinas

LAGMAN, Mr (G)
VILLAVIZA, Mr(T/W)

Pologne/Poland/Polonia

LEMIESZEWSKA, Ms (G)
RAPACKI, Mr (G)
OPECHOWSKA, Mrs (E)
WOJCIK, Mr(T/W)

Portugal

ROBERT LOPES, Mme (G)
SOUSA FIALHO, M. (G)
FERNANDES SALGUEIRO, M. (E)
GOMES PROENÇA, M.(T/W)

Qatar

AL-OBAIDLI, Mr (G)
AL-MOHANNADI, Mr (G)

Roumanie/Romania/Rumania

DUMITRIU, Mme (G)
BIRLADIANU, Mme (G)
COSTACHE, M. (E)
STAN, M.(T/W)

Royaume-Uni/United Kingdom/Reino Unido

RICHARDS, Mr (G)
MOORE, Mr (E)
STEYNE, Mr(T/W)

Fédération de Russie/Russian Federation/Federación de Rusia

SAFONOV, Mr (G)
SIDOROV , Mr(T/W)

Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis/Saint Kitts and Nevis/Saint Kitts y Nevis

WILLIAMS, Mr (G)
THOMAS, Mr(T/W)

Saint-Marin/San Marino

GASPERONI, M. (G)
PODESCHI, M. (G)
MENICUCCI, Mme (E)
PIERMATTEI, M.(T/W)

Sénégal/Senegal

DIOP, M. (E)

Serbie/Serbia

VUKCEVIC, Mr (G)

Singapour/Singapore/Singapur

YIP, Mr (G)
GAN, Mr (G)
KOH, Mr (E)
YACOB, Ms(T/W)

Slovaquie/Slovakia/Eslovaquia

DZUPA, Mr (G)
VAVRO, Mr (G)
HOLECEK, Mr (E)
GAZDIK, Mr(T/W)

Slovénie/Slovenia/Eslovenia

SARCEVIC, Ms (G)
LOGAR, Ms (G)
ANTAUER, Mr (E)
ZORKO, Mr(T/W)

Soudan/Sudan/Sudán

HAMID, Mr (G)
ABBAS, Mr (E)
A. KARIM, Mr(T/W)

Sri Lanka
MADIHAHEWA, Mr (G)
EDIRISINGHE, Mr (G)
SANDRASEKERA, Mr(T/W)

Suède/Sweden/Suecia
HERZFELD OLSSON, Ms (G)
ERIKSSON, Mr (G)
BECKMAN, Mr (E)
BENGTTSSON, Mr(T/W)

Suisse/Switzerland/Suiza
BERSET BIRCHER, Mme (G)
PLATTNER, M. (G)
BARDE, M. (E)
VIGNE, M.(T/W)

Suriname
PIROE, Mr (G)
EMANUELS, Ms (G)
ETNEL, Ms(T/W)

Swaziland/Swazilandia
SITHOLE, Mr(T/W)

*République arabe syrienne/Syrian
Arab Republic/República Árabe Siria*
HMEDAN, Mr (G)
AL IBRAHIM, Mr (G)
AL NEMEH, Mr (E)
AZOUZ, Mr(T/W)

*République-Unie de Tanzanie/United
Republic of Tanzania/República
Unida de Tanzania*
MAPURI, Mr (G)
KOMBA, Mr (G)

Tchad/Chad
GOGUET, M. (G)
DJEGUEDEM, M. (G)
ALI ABBAS, M. (E)
DJIBRINE ASSALI, M.(T/W)

*République tchèque/Czech
Republic/República Checa*
POKORNY , Mr (G)
BLAZEK, Mr (G)
DRBALOVA, Ms (E)
BAUEROVA, Ms(T/W)

Thaïlande/Thailand/Tailandia
ROMCHATTHONG, Mrs (E)
THAILUAN, Mr(T/W)

Tunisie/Tunisia/Túnez
LANDOLSI, M. (G)
CHOUBA, Mme (G)
M'KAISSI, M. (E)

Turquie/Turkey/Turquía
YILMAZ, Mr (G)
EKINCI, Mr (G)

Ukraine/Ucrania
LUTSYSHYN, Mr(T/W)

Uruguay
PAYSSÉ, Sra. (G)
WEISSEL, Sra. (G)
FOSTIK, Sr. (E)
FAZIO, Sr.(T/W)

*Venezuela
(Rép.bolivarienne)/Venezuela
(Bolivarian Rep)/Venezuela (Rep.
Bolivariana)*
AGUILAR, Sr. (G)
MADRID, Sr. (G)

Viet Nam
DAO, Mr (G)
VU, Mr (G)
NGUYEN, Mr (E)
NGUYEN, Mr(T/W)

Zimbabwe
MUSEKA, Mr (G)
MANYAKARA, Mr (E)
MATOMBO, Mr(T/W)

Contre/Against/En contra: 5

Bahamas
DOTSON, Ms(T/W)

Botswana
RADIBE, Mr(T/W)

France/Francia
JULIEN, M. (E)

Zambie/Zambia
CHIBANDA, Mr (E)
HIKAUMBA, Mr(T/W)

Abstentions/Abstentions/ Abstenciones: 2

Sri Lanka
PEIRIS, Mr (E)

*Trinité-et-Tobago/Trinidad and
Tobago/Trinidad y Tabago*
FRANCIS, Mr (G)

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