



Bureau
international
du Travail

First official visit to Seychelles by Mr Aeneas Chapinga Chuma, ILO Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Africa

VICTORIA MAHE (ILO News) – Mr Aeneas Chapinga Chuma, ILO Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Africa, paid his first official visit to Seychelles from 3 to 7 October 2015.

During his visit, Mr Aeneas Chapinga Chuma met the highest authorities of the country, including the President of the Republic, the Vice-President of the Republic, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, the Minister of Labour and Human Resources Development, the Leader of the Opposition, as well as representatives of Employers' and Workers' organizations, to discuss the ongoing robust cooperation between Seychelles and the ILO.

In the course of his mission, Mr Chuma committed the continued strong support of the ILO to the efforts of the tripartite constituents in Seychelles to promote and sustain decent work in the country.

For the first time, ILO African Development Cooperation Projects met in Mahe, Seychelles to discuss enhanced strategic partnerships and to build a common vision and understanding of the future of the world of work. The meeting was jointly opened by H.E. Ms Idith Alexander, Minister of Labour and Human Resources Development and Mr Chuma.

The Regional Director for Africa presented to all stakeholders the regional priorities of the ILO in the Africa region, including employment creation, particularly for youth, social protection and fair and better governed labour migration.

Based on his dialogue with constituents, Mr Chuma identified three main strategic areas of importance for Seychelles where the ILO could avail additional support: (i) strengthening tripartism and social dialogue between Government, employers and workers; (ii) building the capacity of social partners; (iii) promoting the implementation of the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) by focusing on a few key areas such as revision of the labour law, development of a national policy to support small and medium-sized enterprises, fostering youth employment, fair labour migration and strengthening labour market information systems. ILO noted that Seychelles intends to expand the duration of the current first DWCP for another two years before developing a second generation DWCP.

Throughout his meetings with the high authorities of the Government and social partners, Mr Chuma noted the commitment of Seychelles to placing employment and job creation at the heart of its development agenda, in line with the Government Vision of a "Blue" and "Green" Economy. Particularly, faced with the challenge of increasing youth employment rates, Mr CHUMA emphasized promotion of entrepreneurship development for Seychellois youth and the inclusion of business training in the curricula of tertiary education facilities to address the current skills mismatch.

Moreover, Mr Chuma confirmed the holding of the 13th African Regional Meeting of the International Labour Organization in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 November to 3 December 2015 under the theme "Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Development in Africa through Decent Work". A formal invitation had been extended to the Government of Seychelles to nominate a tripartite delegation to attend the Meeting.

For further information please contact

ILO Country Office for Madagascar, Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritius and Seychelles

United Nations Common House - Galaxy Zone - Andraharo - Antananarivo

Tel +261 20 23 300 92/93/94; Fax +261 20 23 300 87; E-mail: antananarivo@ilo.org; rafoanally@ilo.org