

Sweden commits to further support for ILO technical cooperation



During a visit by Ms. Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, Director-General of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), Sweden signed an agreement confirming the second phase of the ILO-Sida partnership for 2009-2013.

Over the next two years Sida will provide a total of SEK 72 million (US\$ 11.2 million). This follows the successful conclusion of an independent mid-term review of the ILO-Sida partnership. The conclusions in the review regarding the ILO's results-based management formed the basis for Sweden's decision to reduce the earmarking of funds, and to spread the resources over seven specific programme and budget outcomes. Sweden remains one of the ILO's biggest donors, and a partner of long standing, having been a partnership donor since 2006.

This second phase of the partnership will address programmes in employment policy; working conditions – with a specific focus on the promotion of the recently adopted Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189); the promotion of international labour standards, including freedom of association and collective bargaining. The partnership will promote social dialogue by strengthening the capacity of employers' and workers' organizations. Particular attention will also be given to issues involved in mainstreaming gender equality.

Over the coming two years Sweden will also provide an additional contribution of SEK 12 million (US\$ 1.9 million) for the promotion of youth employment. Such additional funding for youth issues is very timely, especially in the current financial and economic crisis, as youth employment has been on the agenda of recent ILO regional meetings, and will be discussed at the International Labour Conference and ECOSOC in 2012.