



Ministry of Labour
and Social
Security, Jamaica



International
Labour
Organization



Caribbean
Congress
of Labour



Caribbean
Employers'
Confederation



Promoting Human Prosperity
beyond the Global Financial Crisis:
**Seeking sustainable solutions
through social dialogue**

A Tripartite Caribbean Conference

1-2 April 2009
Jamaica Pegasus, Kingston, Jamaica

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Objective: To offer a space for knowledge sharing and advocacy for the principle and practice of social dialogue to strengthen the input of tripartite constituents in policy and programmatic responses to the global financial crisis.

Day One

1 April 2009

7:00 – 8:15 a.m.

Registration

8.30 – 10.00 a.m.

SESSION 1: Opening Ceremony

10.00 – 10.30 a.m.

Coffee Break

10.30 – 12.00 p.m.

SESSION 2: The Global Financial Crisis: How did we get here and how do we move forward?

Chair:

Mr. Neil Pierre

Director, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean - Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

Panellists:

- *Dr. Maurice Odle*, Economic Adviser to the Secretary-General, CARICOM Secretariat.
- *Dr. Lester Henry*, Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

Discussion

12.00 – 1.30 p.m.

Lunch Break

1.30 – 3.30 p.m.

SESSION 3: Implications for the Region: An Examination of the Issues, Trends and Challenges

A Panel Discussion on the realities and the projections for the region's productive sectors with participation from the floor.

Chair:

Dr. The Honourable Timothy Harris
Minister of Finance, International Trade, Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Saint Kitts and Nevis

Panellists:

- *Dr. Carlton Earl Davis*, Consultant. [Bauxite]
- *Mr. Gregory McGuire*, Lecturer, Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. [Energy]
- *Mr. Winfield Griffith*, Director of Research and Information Management (Ag.), Caribbean Tourism Organization, Barbados. [Tourism]
- *Professor Andrew S. Downes*, Director, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados. [Labour Market Impact]

Discussion

3.30 – 3.45 p.m.

Coffee break

3.45 – 5.45 p.m.

SESSION 4: The Crisis: Impact on People and Organizations

Chair:

Mr. Esrome Roberts
First Vice President, Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union

Panellists:

- *The Honourable Gabriel A. Martinez*, Minister of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development, Belize
- *Dr. The Honourable Joyce D. Amarello-Williams*, Minister of Labour, Technological Development and Environment, Suriname
- *Mr. Martin LaBorde*, Vice-President, St. Vincent Employers' Federation
- *Mr. Chester Humphrey*, First Vice President, Grenada Trades Union Council

Discussion

9.00 – 11.00 a.m.**SESSION 5: Macro-economic policy and Social Justice**

A discussion of policy approaches and those most likely to lead to positive social outcomes

Chair:

Senator The Honourable Dion A. Foulkes

Minister of Labour and Social Development, The Bahamas

Panellists:

- *Professor Denis Benn*, Michael Manley Professor of Public Affairs/ Public Policy, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica.
- *Mr. Christopher Smith*, Senior Policy Analyst, Policy Research Unit of the Social Policy Planning and Research Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica, Jamaica.
- *Mr. David Robalino*, Senior Economist, Social Protection, The World Bank, Washington, D. C.
- *Dr. Reynold Simons*, Senior Specialist, Employment and Labour Market Policies, ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean

Discussion**11.00 – 11.30 a.m.****Coffee Break****11.30a.m. – 1.00 p.m.****SESSION 6: Finding Better Solutions: The Role of Social Dialogue**

A presentation and discussion of social dialogue and its role in finding sustainable solutions and promoting inter-institutional dialogue and policy coherence

Chair:

Ms. Kim Aikman

Manager, Membership Services and Labour Relations, Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Panellists:

- *Mr. Ludek Rychly*, Senior Specialist, Social Dialogue, Labour Law and Labour Administration Branch, ILO, Geneva
- *The Honourable Rennie Dumas*, Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development, Trinidad and Tobago
- *The Honourable Arni B. Walters*, Minister of State, Ministry of Labour and Immigration, Barbados
- *Mr. Martin Law*, Executive Director, Bermuda Employers' Council
- *Ms. Veronica Griffith*, Deputy General Secretary and Director of Research, Barbados Workers' Union

Discussion

1.00 – 2.30 p.m.

Lunch Break

2.30 – 4.30 p.m.

SESSION 7: Conclusions and the Way Forward

A session to capture the conclusions reached and the guidelines and strategies that can be adopted for the way forward

Chair:

Mr. Lloyd Goodleigh

President, Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions, Jamaica.

Panellists:

Members of the Drafting Committee

General discussion

4.30 – 5.00 p.m.

Coffee break

5.00 – 6.00 p.m.

SESSION 8: Closing Session

Chair:

Mr. Alvin McIntosh

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Jamaica

- *Mr. Lincoln Lewis*
General Secretary, Caribbean Congress of Labour
- *Mr. Marcel Meyer*
President, Caribbean Employers' Confederation
- *Dr. Ana Teresa Romero*
Director, ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean
- *The Honourable Pearnel Charles, M.P.*
Minister of Labour and Social Security, Jamaica