

It is a great pleasure to be here again and to address this Summit. I would like to thank the ILO for the attention that it is paying to the global jobs situation and for its commitment to address the related economic, social and political issues. It is really the right time to be doing so.

What started as a financial crisis became an economic crisis which has spread at an alarming speed and depth from country to country. We have every reason to make a serious effort to find ways to stop this phenomenon and to minimize its economic and social consequences. When we consider different solutions it is necessary to pay attention to both the effects in the prevailing situation and the possibilities for preventing similar phenomena in the future. The measures that are necessary require broad co-operation and political leadership.

Different G-teams have been welcomed to stop the avalanche of negative events but the active participation of the United Nations and other international institutions is required to achieve the necessary changes in the financial architecture and to develop safe, global ethics.

The lack of trust in financial institutions is a serious problem. The weaknesses of the global financial structures have long been known, as mentioned by Mr Somavia. They were also pointed out by the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization back in 2004, so we cannot claim that we did not know. We knew. Of course we did not know when, where and how the problems would arise but we knew the weaknesses were there.

In dealing with the present crisis, the Commission's recommendations remain as valid as ever. The economic crisis also causes human suffering and that can easily lead to social and political unrest. We must find ways to modernize the international financial system so that it meets the necessary criteria for safety and transparency. To put it simply, we must promote a fairer globalization which focuses more on people and responds to the needs of the workers for decent employment.

We should invest in education to overcome the current economic crisis. We need to pay particular attention to gender equality, both in education and in work life. To cope with the future challenges we need all our resources and capacities. We cannot neglect one half of mankind. One of the fundamental building blocks of the Nordic welfare society is education and lifelong learning. I believe that this model is sustainable and capable also of regenerating itself in the present situation.

The devastating effects of the economic and financial crisis are being felt in particular in developing countries. We must show our solidarity for the most vulnerable and remain strong in our commitment to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Finland and the other EU countries have committed themselves to the UN development aid goal of 0.7 per cent of the GNP by the year 2015. The world's poor are also an unused human resource

and we should bear that in mind. It is not just about solidarity but also about human resources. Let us give them a chance.

When solving the current problems, we do not need to start from scratch. The 2005 World Summit endorsed the concept of fair globalization. Productive and decent employment and decent work for all, including for women and young people, has been made a central objective in national and international programmes of action. They have become an integral part of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization of 2008 is a clear commitment to making decent work a reality for all people. The solution to the current crisis should fully respect this commitment. Finland offers its support for the Global Jobs Pact initiative which addresses the immediate needs of workers, their families and enterprises. It is important that governments and social partners work closely together in implementing the initiative. At this point I would like to commend the Global Jobs Pact and offer our support.

The global economic crisis must be solved, but nature, our common planet and our common home cannot wait for better economic times. We are facing decisive moments in the fight against climate change. As underlined by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, we should make every effort to seal the deal at the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Finland, like the other EU countries, is committed to an ambitious post-2012 regime. All countries, including industrialized and developing countries, major economies and others, should contribute to this wider goal. We should consider the current economic challenges to be an eye-opener. We need to promote green recovery strategies which will stimulate innovation, lead to further development of environmentally-sound technologies and open up the possibility of a good future for us all.

Furthermore, based on the theme of this Conference, these strategies can create new jobs all over the world. It is also true that we must involve women in combating climate change and in the negotiations on a new international climate regime, particularly in poor countries, where the consequences of climate change will be felt the most. Women bear the main burden in everyday life. Sustainable solutions can be found only when both women and men participate equally in making and implementing decisions.

In conclusion, there are solutions to achieve prosperity and ensure sustainable development globally. It is true that they are not easy, but we know what the problems are. We have a whole series of measures which can improve the situation. Postponing things will not improve the situation. It is high time to find common will for sustainable development for the benefit of mankind, people and the environment. I trust in you.