

Employment-Intensive Approach in Construction:

A Catalyst for Prosperity for All

Statement by Ministers of Public Works and Labour made during the Ministerial Roundtable at the

13th Regional Seminar for Labour-Based Practitioners and Policy Makers,

30 November - 04 December 2009, Kampala, Uganda

WE, the Ministers in charge of Public Works and Labour:

- I. **Meeting** at the Ministerial Round Table on 30 November – 01 December during the 13th Regional Seminar for Labour-based practitioners and policy makers;
- II. **Reflecting**, on the commitment made at the 12th Regional Seminar held in Durban, South Africa, in October 2007 and the not too encouraging progress made in most countries towards these commitments as presented in the recent review of the state of Labour based technology in six countries in the region;
- III. **Recalling** the global commitment made under the United Nations Millennium Development Goal 1 (MDG 1) to halve extreme poverty by 2015, and taking note that this now recognises the role of employment in reducing poverty, and undertakes to measure it through the recently introduced indicators on employment;
- IV. **Recalling** the commitments made by the African Heads of States and governments at their third Extra Ordinary Session on Employment and Poverty Alleviation held on 8-9 September 2004, and eagerly awaiting the final statement of the presently ongoing African Ministers meeting on the Global Jobs Pact, both held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso;
- V. **Realising** that the potential for generating employment on a large scale through quality infrastructure development, maintenance and service delivery through applying labour based technology is significant;
- VI. **Recognising** the progress made by some countries in integrating labour based delivery strategies into their national development plans;

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

1. **Formulate** national policies as called upon by the Ouagadougou Plan of Action (September 2004) to mainstream employment intensive approaches for multi-sectoral applications;
2. **Allocate** resources for policy formulation, supported by research on strategies for mainstreaming local resource use in all relevant sectors
3. **Develop** operational strategies in all relevant sectors and ensure increasing investments and allocations from the regular budgets in order to enhance the sustainability of employment creation while delivering quality economic and social infrastructure and services.
4. **Generate** sustainable jobs in regular maintenance financed through the national budgets;
5. **Set** up a coordinating function at the highest level within the government structure supported by sectoral and decentralised coordinating units;
6. **Broaden** the participation of ministers from all relevant sectors (in particular those in charge of economic planning and decentralisation) in the next regional seminars, in order to raise awareness, share and promote partnerships and strategic linkages;
7. **Devolve** to the decentralised level, the functions that enable effective and sustainable implementation of employment-intensive works, and support this with adequate capacity building and skills development;
8. **Engage** in country-to-country and regional economic community collaboration to build capacities and promote best practices.
9. **Call** for the review of existing procurement procedures and practices to realise the full employment creation potential in infrastructure and service delivery.

WE REQUEST:

- a. The continued support of the ILO to provide advice on best practices, capacity building, knowledge sharing with an emphasis on advocacy and impact assessment.
- b. That ILO in close collaboration with countries in Africa, monitors the challenges and progress made towards the commitments made in this statement and report back to the next Regional Seminar.
- c. That ILO develops guidelines on the setting of minimum norms and standards that facilitate the implementation of labour based technology and strategies for construction.