

SEOUL DECLARATION

on Safety and Health at Work



www.seouldeclaration.org



International Labour Organization



issa

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION



K O S H A
KOREA
OCCUPATIONAL
SAFETY & HEALTH AGENCY

SEOUL DECLARATION

on Safety and Health at Work

The Safety and Health Summit,

Having met in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 29 June 2008 on the occasion of the XVIII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, jointly organized by the International Labour Office, the International Social Security Association (ISSA) and the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), with the participation of senior professionals, employers' and workers' representatives, social security representatives, policy-makers and administrators,

Recognizing the serious consequences of work-related accidents and diseases, which the International Labour Office estimates lead to 2.3 million fatalities per year world-wide and an economic loss of 4 percent of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP),

Recognizing that improving safety and health at work has a positive impact on working conditions, productivity and economic and social development,

Recalling that the right to a safe and healthy working environment should be recognized as a fundamental human right and that globalization must go hand in hand with preventative measures to ensure the safety and health of all at work,

Recognizing the importance of the instruments on safety and health at work of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the substantial role of the ISSA and its members' contribution in implementing these instruments,

Recalling that the promotion of occupational safety and health and the prevention of accidents and diseases at work is a core element of the ILO's founding mission and of the Decent Work Agenda,

Recalling that the prevention of occupational risks and the promotion of workers' health constitute an essential part of the ISSA's mandate and of its Conceptual Framework of Dynamic Social Security,

Recognizing the importance of education, training, consultation and the exchange of information and good practices on prevention and the promotion of preventative measures,

Recognizing the important role played by governments and the social partners, professional safety and health organizations and social security institutions in promoting prevention and in providing treatment, support and rehabilitation services,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation among international organizations and institutions,

Welcoming progress achieved through international and national efforts to improve safety and health at work,



Declares that

1. Promoting high levels of safety and health at work is the responsibility of society as a whole and all members of society must contribute to achieving this goal by ensuring that priority is given to occupational safety and health in national agendas and by building and maintaining a national preventative safety and health culture.
2. A national preventative safety and health culture is one in which the right to a safe and healthy working environment is respected at all levels, where governments, employers and workers actively participate in securing a safe and healthy working environment through a system of defined rights, responsibilities and duties, and where the principle of prevention is accorded the highest priority.
3. The continuous improvement of occupational safety and health should be promoted by a systems approach to the management of occupational safety and health, including the development of a national policy taking into consideration the principles in Part II of the ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155).
4. Governments should
 - Consider the ratification of the ILO Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187) as a priority, as well as other relevant ILO Conventions on safety and health at work and ensure the implementation of their provisions, as a means to improve national performance on safety and health at work in a systematic way.
 - Ensure that continued actions are taken to create and enhance a national preventative safety and health culture.
 - Ensure that the occupational safety and health of workers is protected through an adequate and appropriate system of enforcement of safety and health standards, including a strong and effective labour inspection system.
5. Employers should ensure that
 - Prevention is an integral part of their activities, as high safety and health standards at work go hand in hand with good business performance.
 - Occupational safety and health management systems are established in an effective way to improve workplace safety and health.
 - Workers and their representatives are consulted, trained, informed and involved in all measures related to their safety and health at work.
6. Affirming the workers' right to a safe and healthy working environment, workers should be consulted on safety and health matters and should
 - Follow safety and health instructions and procedures, including on the use of personal protective equipment.
 - Participate in safety and health training and awareness-raising activities.
 - Cooperate with their employer in measures related to their safety and health at work.
7. The World Congress on Safety and Health at Work is an ideal forum to share knowledge and experiences in achieving safe, healthy and productive workplaces.
8. Progress made on achieving safety and health at work should be reviewed on the occasion of the XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in 2011.
9. The Summit participants commit to taking the lead in promoting a preventative safety and health culture, placing occupational safety and health high on national agendas.



Samir Abdallah Ali
 Samir ABDALLAH ALI
 Minister
 Ministry of Labour, Palestinian National Authority

Noori Al-Hilfi
 Noori AL-HILFI
 Deputy Minister
 Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Iraq

Junaid Al-Juma
 Junaid AL-JUMA
 Minister
 Ministry of Manpower, Oman

Shunichi Araki
 Shunichi ARAKI
 President
 Japan National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Japan

Vasant Kumar Bunwaree
 Vasant Kumar BUNWAREE
 Minister
 Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment, Mauritius

David Caple
 David CAPLE
 President
 International Ergonomics Association

Leo Carey
 Leo CAREY
 Vice President
 National Safety Council, United States

Ahmadou Yeri Diop
 Ahmadou Yeri DIOP
 Chairman
 Interfrancan Association for the Prevention of Occupational Risks

Mustafa Ronok
 Mustafa RONOK
 Deputy Undersecretary
 Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Turkey

Antoine Frerot
 Antoine FREROT
 Chief Executive Officer
 Veolia Water, France

Mody Guiro
 Mody GUIRO
 Vice President
 International Trade Union Confederation

André Hogue
 André HOGUET
 Vice President
 National Commission of the Accident Insurance Scheme, France

Hyun Jong Hong
 Hyun Jong HONG
 Vice President
 GS Caltex Corporation, Republic of Korea

Seok Chun Jang
 Seok Chun JANG
 President
 Federation of Korean Trade Unions, Republic of Korea

Byung Moon Jung
 Byung Moon JUNG
 Vice President
 Hyundai, Republic of Korea

Young Vae Kim
 Young Vae KIM
 Vice-Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
 Korea Employers Federation, Republic of Korea

Gethy Kopp
 Gethy KOPP
 Vice President
 ACCOR SA, France

Young Hee Lee
 Young Hee LEE
 Minister
 Ministry of Labour, Republic of Korea

Suk-Haeng Lee
 Suk-Haeng LEE
 President
 Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, Republic of Korea

Sang Bai Lee
 Sang Bai LEE
 Vice President
 Samsung, Republic of Korea

Ahmed Luqman
 Ahmed LUQMAN
 Director General
 Arab Labor Organization

Memothasi Mdladlana
 Memothasi MDLADLANA
 Minister
 Department of Labour, South Africa

Antonio Mocaldi
 Antonio MOCCALDI
 President
 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Prevention, Italy

Innocence Ntup Ndiaye
 Innocence Ntup NDIAYE
 Minister
 Ministry of the Civil Service, Labour, Employment and Professional Organizations, Senegal

Bernard N'doumi
 Bernard N'DOUMI
 Director General
 National Social Insurance Fund, Côte d'Ivoire

Michele Patterson
 Michele PATTERSON
 President
 International Association of Labour Inspection

Antonio Penalosa
 Antonio PENALOSA
 Secretary General
 International Organization of Employers

Gerhard Peters
 Gerhard PETERS
 Board Chairman
 HOCHTIEF Construction AG, Germany

Sudha Pillai
 Sudha PILLAI
 Government Representative
 ILO Governing Body Tripartite Delegation

Jorma Rantanen
 Jorma RANTANEN
 President
 International Commission on Occupational Health

Subrahmaniam Sathasivam
 Subrahmaniam SATHASIVAM
 Minister
 Ministry of Human Resources, Malaysia

Terttu Savolainen
 Terttu SAVOLAINEN
 State Secretary
 Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland

Yohtarō Sawada
 Yohtarō SAWADA
 President
 Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association, Japan

Chee Seng Soh
 Chee Seng SOH
 Chief Executive Officer
 Social Security Organization of Malaysia, Malaysia

Toshio A. Suzuki
 Toshio A. SUZUKI
 Employers' Representative
 ILO Governing Body Tripartite Delegation

Jukka Takala
 Jukka TAKALA
 Director
 European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

Onechanh Thammavong
 Onechanh THAMMAVONG
 Minister
 Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Cardinal Leroy Trotman
 Cardinal Leroy TROTMAN
 Workers' Representative
 ILO Governing Body Tripartite Delegation

Supiah Veerasingam
 Supiah VEERASINGAM
 Secretary General
 Asia-Pacific Occupational Safety and Health Organization

Mark Vergnano
 Mark VERGNANO
 Group Vice President
 DuPont, United States

Keith Williams
 Keith WILLIAMS
 President and Chief Executive Officer
 Underwriters Laboratories, United States

Glenis Willmott
 Glenis WILLMOTT
 Member
 European Parliament

Hans-Joachim Wolff
 Hans-Joachim WOLFF
 Chairman
 German Social Accident Insurance, Germany

Corazon S. de la Paz-Bernardo
 Corazon S. DE LA PAZ-BERNARDO
 President
 International Social Security Association

Min-Ki Noh
 Min-Ki NOH
 President
 Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency, Republic of Korea

Assane Diop
 Assane DIOP
 Executive Director, Social Protection
 International Labour Office

Corazon S. de la Paz-Bernardo
 Corazon S. DE LA PAZ-BERNARDO
 President
 International Social Security Association

Min-Ki Noh
 Min-Ki NOH
 President
 Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency, Republic of Korea