



**38B Session of the
African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC) Governing
Council for Ministers**

Address

by

Mr. Charles Dan

ILO Regional Director for Africa

Tuesday, 12 June 2012

Room XI, R2 ILO Building, Geneva, Switzerland

Honourable Chairperson of the ARLAC Governing Council,

Honourable Ministers and Members of ARLAC Governing Council,

Dear Cecilia, ARLAC Director,

Dear friends and colleagues,

It is always a great pleasure for me to join you for ARLAC Governing Council Meeting.

Congratulations to the Director of ARLAC, Ms. Cecilia Mulindeti, for her commendable service. Thank you Cecilia for your energy, commitment and hard work in moving the Centre.

My admiration and respect to the Honorable Chairperson of the ARLAC Governing Body, Minister Paurina Mpariwa, for her commitment and passion to ARLAC's achievements.

As we all know, the global economy remains fragile.

The triple crisis - food, fuel and finance crises - still remains. The euro zone debt crisis, and the austerity measures adopted cast a doubt on the prospects

for jobs, sustained growth and a quick recovery. The world economy has entered a period of uncertainties and challenges, including high unemployment, income inequality and social instability.

In Africa, despite positive growth rates after the 2008 crisis, economic growth has not generated the much needed jobs and incomes.

And, we should ask ourselves, what is the role of labour administration to improve the situation?

We all know that labour administration is the channel through which employment creation, including jobs for our youths, can be realized. It also facilitates negotiations towards extending the coverage of social protection systems at the country level. Likewise it can ensure that recovery efforts do not erode workers' rights.

This is the centrality that we accord to labour administration and social dialogue in the elaboration and implementation of national economic and social policies.

We recognize ARLAC's long-standing commitment to strengthening labour ministries. And we appreciate the activities of ARLAC as evidenced by our continued technical and regular budget support to its programme of activities.

We sincerely hope that our call to have the ARLAC programme better integrated into Decent Work Country Programmes at the national level will provide a channel through which the ILO can provide strategic support, technical capacity building and policy advisory services.

In addition to human resources support, for 2012/2013, the Regional Office for Africa has made a contribution of US\$150,000 towards ARLAC activities, despite our financial constraints. Additional resources may be made available if reports show the achievement of results and depending on the evolution of the financial situation.

As the meeting reviews member countries contributions, may I also call upon all member states to continue to make available their contributions to ARLAC on time to ensure the smooth functioning of the Centre. ARLAC can only manage to carry out its mandate with the support of its own members to leverage on the efforts by the Centre's secretariat to mobilize external resources. Committing your own resources to ARLAC will ensure buy-in from external partners.

Looking to the future, our task remains the promotion of social justice for all, particularly for the most vulnerable and the poorest sections of our populations. In this period of crisis and austerity, improving the impact of labour administration should be at the centre of our economic and social policy responses.

And, the world needs more social justice, not less. Dialogue and not confrontation is needed. This is the time for the ILO. This is ARLAC's moment.

Thank you so much for your attention.