



FOR INFORMATION

SIXTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Implementation of the Global Employment Agenda: An update

1. Since the adoption of the Global Employment Agenda (GEA),¹ and as requested by the Committee, at each session of the Committee the Office presents an update on the main activities of the Office that can be seen as part of GEA implementation. This update covers the period from September 2007 to February 2008.
2. As in previous updates, the present paper follows the format defined by the four priority areas which the “Vision” document, presented to the Committee in March 2006,² had identified. These are: (1) making employment central in economic and social policy-making at the global, regional and national level; (2) the informal economy; (3) youth employment; and (4) meeting the special needs of Africa. While the GEA implementation update can point to only a limited number of products and events under the four thematic areas, it is important to note that the Office is engaged in promoting all the core elements of the GEA through its policy advice and technical cooperation projects in the context of Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) as well as through knowledge building, resource mobilization and fostering partnerships with other international agencies.
3. The Office has also continued to facilitate country presentations, as requested by the Committee at its March 2006 session, largely to share diverse country experiences in employment policy formulation, and employment and labour market performance. These presentations (by the tripartite constituents of Argentina, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Pakistan, and the Philippines) have all underscored the relevance of the GEA framework and acknowledged support from the ILO through its technical and advisory services.
4. During the current session, the Committee will also have the opportunity to review Viet Nam’s experience in promoting growth, employment and decent work in a period of rapid integration with the global economy.

¹ GB.286/ESP/1(Rev.).

² GB.295/ESP/1/1.

I. Making employment central to economic and social policy-making

(a) Global

Global Employment Trends 2008

5. The Global Employment Trends 2008 report, released on 22 January 2008, received widespread media coverage. It came out the day after the biggest stock market fall since the 1998 Asian crisis. Based on the IMF's official downward revision of its growth estimate for 2008, the report forecasts that economic turbulence largely due to credit market turmoil and rising oil prices is likely to increase global unemployment by an estimated 5 million in 2008. The new projection is in contrast to 2007, in which sound global GDP growth of more than 5 per cent led to a net increase of 45 million new jobs and only a slight increase in the number of people unemployed to a total of 189.9 million worldwide. The report warned that an expected slowdown in growth during 2008 could increase the global unemployment rate to 6.1 per cent, with a resulting absolute increase of at least 5 million unemployed worldwide. If the growth estimate for 2008 is further reduced downward, this will translate into even larger unemployment rates compared with 2007.
6. Overall, 61.7 per cent of the global population of working age – or an estimated 3 billion people – were employed in 2007. Although the global unemployment rate remained virtually constant at 6 per cent, this meant that an estimated 189.9 million people, compared to 187 million in 2006, were unemployed worldwide in 2007.³
7. Despite growth in the economy and jobs, the worldwide deficit in decent jobs – especially for the poor – is “massive”. The report shows that five out of ten people in the world continue to be in vulnerable employment. They are either contributing family workers or own-account workers with a higher risk of being unprotected. In developing countries these two categories are most likely to work informally and hence have jobs that leave them vulnerable to poverty and risks such as low earnings, dangerous working conditions and lack of health insurance.
8. In terms of regional trends, the Middle East and North Africa still had the highest unemployment rates at 11.8 and 10.9 per cent respectively in 2007, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and South-Eastern Europe (non-EU) and CIS with 8.5 per cent in both regions. The situation in the developed economies and the EU seemed to be stagnating, with job growth at its lowest in the last five years and unemployment up by 600,000 over 2006. Sub-Saharan Africa had by far the largest share of working poor both at the US\$1 and US\$2 a day level – people who are in work but unable to lift themselves and their families out of poverty – and the gap with other regions continued to increase.
9. The report further analyses a set of selected labour market indicators to compare various countries and regions, in relation to the new target of “full and productive employment and decent work” under the first Millennium Development Goal.

³ Differences from earlier estimates are due to revisions of the IMF estimates of GDP growth used in the model as well as revisions in the labour market information used.

30th anniversary of the MNE Declaration

10. In order to mark the 30th anniversary of the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (the MNE Declaration), the Office organized the MultiForum 07 on “Better business: Productivity and growth through socially responsible labour relations” in Geneva in November 2007. More than 180 participants, including representatives from 50 companies, participated. The meeting offered a unique opportunity for open discussions between management and workers, as well as breakout sessions, to review specific challenges to applying the principles of the MNE Declaration. The Forum also examined the relevance and application of the MNE Declaration in the promotion of quality employment in the manufacturing, agriculture, extractives and services sectors.
11. Most of the participating companies considered the MNE Declaration useful and recognized the potential of its application. Participants agreed that the MNE Declaration was unique, had significant potential added value, and was increasingly relevant, but had remained relatively unknown. The ILO needed to intensify its promotional work among MNEs but also among employers’ and workers’ organizations, through for example development of training materials and setting up of a helpdesk. Furthermore, the ILO was urged to collaborate with other organizations such as the OECD. It was further suggested that similar events be organized at the regional level.
12. At the March 2008 session of the Governing Body, the Subcommittee on Multinational Enterprises will consider the strategic priorities for Office work in this area, building on the lessons of the previous biennium and the conclusions of the Forum.⁴

International Day of Disabled Persons

13. The UN International Day of Disabled Persons, 3 December 2007, focused on the theme “Decent Work for Persons with Disabilities”. It provided the ILO with an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of disability issues in work and employment. A new ILO report – “The right to decent work of persons with disabilities” – was published in English, French, Spanish and Amharic, with translations in preparation in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Kiswahili, Mongolian, Russian, Thai and Vietnamese. Events organized in Geneva, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Lebanon, the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Ukraine, the United States and Zambia, received widespread media coverage.

The Microinsurance Innovation Facility

14. In December 2007, the ILO announced a major partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to create the Microinsurance Innovation Facility, which will stimulate the development of insurance to help promote decent work for millions of low-income people in the developing world. The ILO has been awarded a grant of US\$34 million by the Foundation to implement the programme.
15. For the past six years, the ILO and the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) have been striving to enhance the poor’s access to better insurance products.
16. Analysis from case studies of 20 countries also shows that microinsurance can be viable, particularly when sold through groups, such as community organizations, cooperatives, labour unions and microfinance institutions – delivery channels that already have financial

⁴ GB.301/MNE/1.

transactions with the low-income market and can help control adverse selection and moral hazard. One of the important lessons from research and experience to date is that there is a need to significantly improve microinsurance and create new initiatives.

17. The new Microfinance Innovation Facility, which will be implemented by the Social Finance Programme, is tasked with the responsibility of providing innovative ideas and initiatives. The Facility will have four areas of operations: innovation grants, technical assistance, research and innovation.

Reports for the International Labour Conference

18. During the period under review, the Office has been engaged in the preparation of two reports for general discussion at the International Labour Conference in 2008, “Promotion of rural employment for poverty reduction” and “Skills for productivity, employment growth and development”. These activities, which entailed significant investment of staff and non-staff resources, provide important global assessment of issues and policy guidelines, related to the core elements of the GEA.

(b) Regional

Employment-intensive investment programmes (EIIP) in Latin America

19. In this area, important developments have taken place in a number of countries including Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Paraguay. Employment impact assessment methodologies for the evaluation of employment impact of public investments have been developed in Paraguay, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, in order to incorporate employment creation in budgeting procedures as one of the criteria for prioritization, implementation monitoring and evaluation of public investments. Furthermore, legal systems and procurement procedures have been scrutinized and developed in collaboration with several ministries including justice and labour, education, health and agriculture, with a view to allowing micro and small enterprises access to public markets.
20. The Office has also supported reconstruction programmes in Bolivia, Guatemala, Haiti and Nicaragua. A successful project in Haiti is addressing major environmental challenges through conservation and disaster risk mitigation.

Seminar on social dialogue and vocational training

21. A regional seminar on social dialogue and vocational training organized by CINTERFOR – the Inter-American Research and Documentation Centre on Vocational Training – (Panama City, December 2007) brought together some 50 participants from national training institutions and employers’ and workers’ organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss experience with social dialogue in training and lessons from experience in European countries. The topic of the seminar was linked to inter-sectoral research on the economic dynamics of international labour standards and included a presentation of the Spanish version of the paper on “Economic impact of social dialogue in the field of training”.

(c) National***Viet Nam Employment Forum***

22. The Viet Nam Employment Forum: Decent work, growth and integration was held in Hanoi (December 2007), jointly organized by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), the Viet Nam Cooperative Alliance (VCA) and the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL). The ILO Office in Viet Nam, Regional Office and headquarters combined efforts to support MOLISA in organizing this first-ever Employment Forum in the country.
23. The Forum was attended by participants representing MOLISA at the central, provincial and district levels, workers' and employers' organizations, academic institutions, NGOs, the UN and other international agencies.
24. The development of an integrated employment policy framework based on the circumstances of Viet Nam to promote the GEA and Decent Work Agenda and in line with the Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122), is one of the priorities for action identified in the Decent Work Country Framework. The objective of the Forum was to recognize, highlight and assert the importance of employment creation and decent work as central goals of economic and social development strategies and policies. It identified and examined a number of key challenges facing the country as it continues to integrate into regional and global markets and prepare to join the ranks of the middle-income countries.
25. Discussions made clear that there is already considerable resonance between Viet Nam's development vision, as articulated in the current Socio-Economic Development Strategy and the Five-Year and Annual Socio-Economic Development Plans, and the GEA. Viet Nam has chosen the high road to globalization by choosing to promote decent work. In particular, with the country's accession to the WTO, various issues and implications were reviewed with respect to the social dimension of greater global integration as well as the need for modifying the legal framework.
26. Following up on the Forum, the Office will work with constituents in moving from the Decent Work Country Framework to a Decent Work Country Programme under the "One UN" pilot in Viet Nam. The ILO and MOLISA signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote this agenda with the social partners. Among the items agreed were: (i) policy advice and capacity building to support the integration of labour and employment policies into economic and social policies and strategies with special reference to the Five-Year Socio-economic Development Plan for 2006–10 and the Ten-Year Socio-economic Development Strategy for 2011–20 and the five-year socio-economic development plans of the same period; (ii) technical advisory services in the design and implementation of the Employment Strategy for 2011–20; (iii) policy advice and technical support in assessing and addressing the impact of accession to the World Trade Organization on labour and employment as well as related social issues such as poverty, labour migration and social services; (iv) advisory services and technical support for the improvement of labour market mechanisms and policies and institutions for labour market governance including the revision, in 2008, of the Labour Code of Viet Nam, the promulgation and implementation of legislation on employment and minimum wages, and the strengthening of tripartite dialogue and consultation in cooperation with the employers' and workers' organizations; and (v) support for the integration of labour and employment policies, strategies and programmes into the One Plan of the United Nations in Viet Nam.

Pakistan

27. Further to the Government of Pakistan's presentation at the March 2007 session of the Committee on the implementation of the GEA, the ILO has worked closely with the Ministry of Labour and Overseas Pakistanis and the newly formed National Vocational and Technical Education Commission on the development of a National Skills Strategy. The ILO provided direct technical inputs into the development of "Skilling Pakistan – A vision for a National Skills Strategy" and into the preparation of a detailed implementation plan for that strategy. The Strategy outlines the major objectives to improve the quality and relevance of skills in developing a globally competitive workforce. It also pays special attention to the skills and employment needs of vulnerable groups and poor people in the rural areas. The development of the Strategy was closely linked to the formulation of the Employment Strategy and the new Education Policy.

Nepal

28. Owing to a decade of civil and political conflict, the Nepalese economy remains fragile, with very high levels of underemployment, poverty and poor working conditions. Over the period 2001–07 the average annual increase in real GDP has been 2.9 per cent. A much higher economic growth rate is required to generate enough good-quality jobs to absorb the annual expansion of the labour force, provide work and income for ex-combatants that need to be demobilized, and improve the living standards of the vast number of people who are underemployed.
29. The ILO is developing a series of new activities for Nepal that take into account the specific political, economic and labour market priorities and constraints of the country. These activities fall within two broad themes: first, employment creation and increased income security, and second, labour market governance built on international labour standards and the requirements for increased economic efficiency.
30. Several reports, which review labour market trends and which analyse and provide detailed recommendations for reforms to the labour laws, strengthening the Labour Ministry (including the regional labour offices), the Labour Court and the establishment of a new institution to undertake mediation, conciliation and arbitration, are currently being finalized. Based on these recommendations, the ILO is in the process of preparing a coordinated and sustained strategy to improve labour market governance in Nepal.

Afghanistan

31. The ILO has actively supported the Government of Afghanistan in developing the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), initially through an assessment for developing an employment policy and subsequently through inputs to national sectoral working groups. As a follow-up to a recent employment mission to the country, in July 2007, the ILO has initiated the preparation of a comprehensive employment policy framework, based on the GEA and on integrating decent work into the development strategy. The ANDS includes a substantive policy for private sector development, which is seen as vital to generating growth, reducing poverty, creating jobs and building bridges in Afghan society. The ILO inputs included presenting the case for developing and promoting better regulations to encourage business activities to be formalized; programmes targeting women in enterprise development and the need for comprehensive approaches to skills development, including through the application of ILO business development services packages like Start and Improve Your Business. Political conditions in the country remain a challenge and pose a risk to the development of the planned activities.

Knowledge and advisory services on the employment content of economic growth

32. The Office is collaborating with SIDA of Sweden and the UNDP to expand knowledge on the role of employment in linking economic growth with poverty reduction; strengthening capacity, especially at the national level, to undertake employment planning and policy-making for poverty reduction; and on undertaking advocacy work.
33. The build-up of analytical knowledge in this thematic area, especially in support of promoting the GEA's core element 10, is supporting the ILO's advocacy work at the country level. In Kyrgyzstan, an ILO study on economic growth, employment and poverty reduction, completed in September 2007, formed the basis of a national round table meeting to review how growth could be made more employment friendly. The main conclusions of the meeting covering areas like increasing investment, channelling investment more towards labour-intensive manufacturing, and labour market policies, will be forwarded to the Government jointly by the ILO and the UNDP. In India, studies are being undertaken to develop an understanding of the policy environment and factors responsible for the low employment intensity of recent economic growth. These studies are part of an endeavour to develop a framework for employment policy in the country. In Bangladesh, a study focusing on specific manufacturing and service sectors has been undertaken to identify policies that are needed to promote more employment-friendly growth. The study is expected to feed into advisory and advocacy work in this field. During the current biennium, work of the kind mentioned above will be extended to countries in Africa and Latin America.

II. Informal economy

Tripartite Interregional Symposium on the Informal Economy: Enabling Transition to Formalization

34. A Tripartite Interregional Symposium on the Informal Economy: Enabling Transition to Formalization was held in Geneva in November 2007. It brought together some 75 participants, including 51 government, employers' and workers' representatives, in addition to resource persons and institutions, experts and researchers, and representatives of donor countries, international and regional organizations and the UN system.
35. The Symposium was a follow-up to the 2002 International Labour Conference general discussion and resolution on decent work and the informal economy. Its agenda was guided by the Committee discussion in March 2007 when the Committee reviewed progress made in the operationalization of the framework since 2002.⁵ The main objective of the Symposium was to provide a tripartite forum for further in-depth review and exchange of experience on recent trends, policy responses and practical strategies that are being developed by different partners in different regions on key themes of the Decent Work Agenda to enable transition to formalization.
36. The Symposium was organized around the following selected themes:
 - improving labour legislation, labour administration and labour inspection;
 - representation: review of recent experiences;

⁵ GB.298/ESP/4.

- improving the regulatory environment to facilitate integration into the formal economy;
 - social security and the informal economy;
 - gender equality, decent work and the informal economy;
 - improving productivity and working conditions of informal economy workers; and
 - integrated strategies to address the informal economy at the local level.
37. The Symposium was an open exchange of experience and broad discussion, facilitated by a background document prepared by the Office. Panel discussions on the abovementioned themes, organized around a selected number of concrete case studies, were a preamble to wider dialogue on key challenges and possible approaches under each theme.
38. The discussion reconfirmed that the question of the informal economy remains central to realizing decent work as a global goal and for all workers. Emphasis was laid on the diversity and heterogeneity in the informal economy and that measures to promote transition to formalization should respond to the diverse needs and situations across countries, economic sectors, contractual and occupational status and other criteria. It was also emphasized that transition to formalization should be through a combination of policies that promote economic dynamism, employment opportunities, enterprise creation, effective application of standards and inclusive social protection and social dialogue, as encapsulated in the Decent Work Agenda. The participants called on the ILO to support and promote further dissemination of knowledge and experience in the field and strengthening the capacities of the tripartite constituents to work towards reducing decent work deficits in the informal economy.
39. The knowledge and experience collected and documented for and generated throughout the Symposium are being further consolidated and disseminated through the ILO web site.⁶
40. The Symposium was followed by a one-day internal ILO staff meeting to plan and prepare for the implementation of the programme and budget joint outcome on the informal economy during the 2008–09 biennium, across the Decent Work Agenda and across the key technical and field programmes. The discussion of the Symposium and the review of the outcomes of the In-Focus Initiative provided a comprehensive platform for follow-up activities in the new biennium.

III. Youth employment

41. The promotion of youth employment is a key commitment contained in “Decent work in the Americas: An agenda for the hemisphere, 2006–15”, and approved by the 16th American Regional Meeting in 2006. In order to support member States to give effect to this commitment, in September 2007, the ILO launched a regional report for Latin America and the Caribbean entitled “Decent work and youth”. The report crystallizes the endeavour driven by the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean to consolidate and expand the ILO’s knowledge base and advocate for youth employment policies to be included in DWCPs based on the GEA, in particular the social inclusion of at-risk youth, vocational education and training, youth entrepreneurship development and the enabling regulatory framework for combining youth employment promotion with

⁶ An account of the Symposium discussion under specific themes can be found on the ILO web site.

young workers' protection. The findings of the regional report, as well as several related national reports, have inspired and informed policy debates in numerous Latin American countries as well as various meetings with international and multilateral institutions.

42. Building on ongoing technical assistance work in the Balkans, the Office organized a Subregional Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Decent Employment for Young People in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs of Slovenia (Ljubljana, December 2007). The Meeting – the first ever organized by the ILO with a specific focus on the quality of young people's employment in the subregion – brought together experts from seven countries of the western Balkans and Slovenia to discuss how economic growth can be accompanied by the creation of decent employment for young people. The experts emphasized, among others, the need to improve policy coherence on youth employment and suggested that governments, employers' and workers' organizations make youth employment a national priority. The outcome of the Meeting will feed into the Informal Ministerial Meeting of the Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs of the European Union to be held during the 2008 International Labour Conference, which will be devoted to decent employment for young people.
43. As part of its active role in and contribution to the "Youth, employment and migration" window of the Millennium Development Achievement Fund (MDG-F), established by the Government of Spain, the Office has led the work of the Technical Subcommittee (TSC) set up to review the country proposals submitted under this window. The Executive Director of the Employment Sector acted as convenor of the TSC, composed of several independent and UN experts. The TSC completed its work between early November and mid-December 2007, and its recommendations were endorsed by the Steering Committee of the MDG-F in January 2008. Of the 52 country proposals submitted, six were selected for funding and 18 recommended for revision and resubmission at a future round of the window. The resources for the implementation of the six selected proposals amount to US\$32 million, of which close to 30 per cent will be under the ILO's direct responsibility. Another US\$48 million is to be allocated in the second round of this window.
44. Youth entrepreneurship is being increasingly adopted as a valuable strategy for promoting youth employment, through unleashing the productive and innovative potential of young people. The ILO is working together with the constituents to promote entrepreneurship culture and practice through the Know About Business (KAB) and Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) methodologies. KAB is a comprehensive entrepreneurship education programme that is introduced in the national education systems at the secondary, vocational and tertiary levels. It has been introduced in 14 countries to date. A global meeting for KAB practitioners was held in Beijing in November 2007 to draw up a strategy for meeting the expanding demand. Switzerland is funding an ILO technical cooperation project, which started in November 2007, to explore the comparative effectiveness of programmes and approaches to promote youth entrepreneurship.

IV. Meeting the special needs of Africa

45. The Office continues to undertake several activities within the framework of the conclusions of the 11th African Regional Meeting and to support member States to give effect to their commitment to the Ouagadougou Declaration of 2004. ILO assistance to tripartite constituents through national and regional initiatives has been reported in previous updates on the implementation of the GEA. Two Regional Meetings, of directors of ILO offices in Africa, (Dar-es-Salaam, September 2007), and of programme officers (Johannesburg, October 2007), reviewed progress to date, and identified priorities of work for the 2008–09 biennium.

A subregional initiative in French-speaking Africa

46. A subregional initiative, the Employment Promotion and Poverty Reduction Project (APERP), launched in March 2007, within the framework of the follow-up to the Extraordinary Summit of the African Union on Employment and Poverty Reduction (Ouagadougou, September 2004) is now gaining momentum.
47. The project, financed by the French Government with a budget of €3.2 million for the period 2006–09, covers nine countries in French-speaking Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Mali, Niger), with Cameroon and Mali as countries of concentration.
48. The project aims, inter alia, at reinforcing the capacities of ILO constituents in order to formulate an employment policy framework as central to poverty reduction strategies. The project activities aim to achieve the following:
- the development of employment policies which are more effective and efficient, in particular by improving labour market policies and labour market information systems;
 - strengthening the capacity of constituents in the area of employment and poverty reduction strategies;
 - encouraging employment targets within public investment policies and projects;
 - strengthening national capacities, in Cameroon and Mali, to formulate productive employment and decent work for vulnerable populations, in particular young people and women.

Coop^{AFRICA}

49. Based on the findings of a comprehensive research project on cooperatives in Africa, the Office has launched a major new programme, funded by the United Kingdom Government, entitled *Cooperative Facility for Africa* (Coop^{AFRICA}).
50. Coop^{AFRICA} pursues the overarching goal of mobilizing the cooperative self-help mechanism to address a variety of development constraints such as unemployment, lack of social protection, lack of empowerment, and poverty. The programme is expected to evolve from a nucleus of initial target countries (Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) into a continental technical cooperation programme.
51. The programme will promote capacity building and innovative cooperative ventures. In addition, Coop^{AFRICA} will provide assistance to African member States in the field of cooperative policy, legislation and administration, and facilitate the networking of, and exchanges between, African cooperative organizations, HRD institutions and support organizations.
52. Coop^{AFRICA} will contribute to poverty reduction in Africa (MDG 1) by facilitating economic and social self-help initiatives, mutual assistance in local communities, and better governance at local and national levels through cooperative development.
53. Agencies cooperating with the ILO on this programme are, among others, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of

Cooperatives (COPAC), the Cooperative College of the United Kingdom, and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

Democratic Republic of the Congo

54. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is slowly coming out of a lengthy political and economic crisis, has retained job creation as one of the five pillars of its economic and social recovery programme. A concrete step towards its operationalization was taken with the organization of a National Employment Forum in September 2007, which recommended an Employment Promotion Plan (EPP) around six core elements: (1) formulation of a National Employment Policy (NEP) covering four major components: economic policy to stimulate demand; skills and employability development; enterprises development; and the strengthening of labour market institutions; (2) translation of the NEP into concrete job-creation programmes, projects and action plans including, inter alia, a national youth employment programme and a programme to promote gender equality in the labour market; (3) formulation of sector-specific job-creation strategies; (4) enhancement of labour market governance; (5) mainstreaming of employment promotion into the PRSP; and (6) institutionalization of an effective monitoring and evaluation system.
55. The GEA framework was applied in determining the core elements of the EPP and the major components of the planned NEP. The ILO played an active role in the forum and is committed to providing support to the EPP through the DWCP.

Partnership with the African Development Bank

56. Following an ILO mission to the African Development Bank (AfDB) in September 2007, and a return visit to ILO headquarters in December 2007 by the AfDB's Private Sector and Microfinance Department and Partnerships and Cooperation Unit, agreements to collaborate were reached in the following areas: cooperative development in Ghana; women's entrepreneurship in Zambia, Mozambique and Malawi, matching finance and business development services for growth-oriented small enterprises; and franchising, applying the ILO's local economic development approach to the AfDB's large-scale investments. The mission provided an opportunity to present the *Toolkit for mainstreaming employment and decent work* to a wide range of AfDB staff in Tunis.

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Submitted for information.