



Conclusions

1. The representatives of the governments and of the employers' and workers' organizations participating in the Sixteenth American Regional Meeting of the International Labour Organization thank the Government of Brazil for hosting this event and for the hospitality extended to those who participated in it. This and the efficient organization have contributed to its success.
2. The tripartite delegations from the Americas Region present at the Sixteenth American Regional Meeting of the ILO take note of the report presented by the Director-General on the situation in respect of Decent Work and receive with interest the proposal of an Agenda for the Hemisphere for the 2006-2015 period, which was submitted for debate, allowing the delegates the opportunity to express their views on the respective themes.
3. We consider that the report contains a valuable analysis of the situation pertaining in our Region in respect of Decent Work. We stress the importance of the "five challenges" which, according to the Report, the Americas are facing in seeking to generate Decent Work. These are: 1) ensuring that economic growth promotes decent work; 2) ensuring effective application of fundamental principles and rights at work; 3) building confidence in democracy and social dialogue; 4) extending and strengthening systems for prevention and for social protection of workers; and 5) enhancing social and labour inclusion to reduce inequality.
4. The tripartite delegations from the Region reaffirm their readiness to make efforts to surmount the difficulties that face the countries of the Region in generating decent work and to overcome extreme poverty. In this connection, we believe that sustained economic growth together with equity and social inclusion and the strengthening of democratic institutions, such as social dialogue, are indispensable conditions for attaining such objectives. We further underline that, while the efforts made by each country internally to overcome such challenges are indispensable, a favourable international context is also required.
5. The tripartite delegations at the Sixteenth American Regional Meeting reaffirm their commitment to eradicating the worst forms of child labour, take note of the joint declaration made by the employers' and workers' organizations on the elimination of child labour, especially its worst forms, and recognize the progress made by the Region, as shown in the Global Report launched in Brazil on 4 May 2006.
6. We consider that the Agenda for the Hemisphere to generate decent work through Decent Work Country Programmes, as proposed in the report, constitutes an

important and welcome initiative. We underline, in particular, the contribution that the Decent Work Country Programmes can make to promoting sustainable social and economic development. This requires the direct participation of the employers' and workers' organizations at national level, to define and implement the Decent Work Country Programmes, and guarantee the effective application of policies and programmes. In this connection, we observe that the Office has developed *Guidelines for consultations with the Bureaux for Employers' and Workers' Activities* which may facilitate this process of participation in, and sustainability of, the policies and programmes. Moreover, we agree in stressing that the Decent Work Country Programmes are the ILO's contribution to their development strategies.

7. We consider of special importance the policies proposed regarding the constitution of more enterprises and the generation of more and better jobs (growth for the generation of employment, youth employment and the employment of women, the formalization of the informal economy, the promotion of small- and medium-sized enterprises, the development of public employment services, life-long learning and certification of competencies); those relative to occupational safety and health, gender equality, minimum wages and the promotion of inclusive and cooperative economic programmes, as well as effective respect for fundamental principles and rights at work and for the international labour standards ratified by each country.
8. As from this Meeting, a *Decade of promoting Decent Work in the Americas* will begin. The countries of the Region stress the importance of formulating and applying national public policies that incorporate social dialogue, and for which the ILO report provides a reference of great use. These policies should stimulate national and foreign investment, inclusive economic growth and the generation of Decent Work with quality employment, social protection and the effective respect of labour rights, especially freedom of association and collective bargaining. To this end, they invite other international organizations to collaborate with the ILO, in agreeing to support the countries of the Region in this effort to promote growth with Decent Work.
9. With the aim of promoting Decent Work and contributing to the reduction of poverty over the next 10 years, we propose that the policies contained in the report presented to this Sixteenth American Regional Meeting should guide the development policies of the countries of the Region, and that each country should determine attainable goals in accordance with their respective national circumstances and priorities, including, to the extent possible, tripartite follow-up mechanisms, to which end they may seek the support of the Office.
10. We consider that the debate engaged at the Sixteenth American Regional Meeting of the ILO made a significant contribution to progress towards the achievement of the strategic and cross-cutting objectives of the ILO, identified in the document "Decent work in the Americas: An agenda for the Hemisphere 2006 – 2015", and the consequent promotion of decent work in the Hemisphere. We therefore call on the Governing Body of the ILO, to request the Office to take account, in its activities, of the contributions made by the different delegations in respect of that document during the debate.