



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

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On behalf of the Group of Fifteen

**G-15 JOINT STATEMENT TO THE 102nd INTERNATIONAL
LABOUR CONFERENCE,
Geneva, 5-21 June 2013**

1. I have the honour to participate in this 102nd International Labour Conference, and to deliver a statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15). We are a Summit Level Group of 17 Developing Countries¹ established to foster, promote and sustain South-South cooperation and North-South dialogue for socio-economic progress, stability and sustainable development. Naturally, the labour and employment issues which are the center of the deliberations at this Conference appear high on our agenda as well.
2. The Group remains concerned that the continuing global financial crisis resulting in uncertain economic outlook, aggravated unemployment and rising poverty levels is hampering ongoing efforts towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in many developing countries. The number of total unemployed globally rose to over 197 million in 2012 and if continued global unemployment trends persist we may reach over 210 million in the next five years. These numbers are particularly daunting as three quarters of this increase directly affects the developing countries, particularly in Asia and Africa. Noting that the youth in developing countries are severely affected by this crisis, the Group calls for vigorous and unified action to promote forward-looking and progressive pro-macroeconomic and labour market policies that help in enhancing youth rights, employability, and entrepreneurship, while adequately confronting the grim legacy of a “lost generation”.
3. The Group welcomes the outcome of Rio+20 Conference which confirms the global commitment for eradicating poverty and integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and clearly draws attention to the need for sustainable development strategies to proactively address employment and to generate decent jobs and recognizes the importance of a just transition, including programmes to help workers to adjust to the labour market conditions. The Group urges special attention to SME’s through policy support, investments and incentives, as they remain fundamental to the economic fabric in developing countries.

¹ Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

4. The Group recognizes the significant implications of the new demographic context for employment and social protection, particularly as it affects *inter alia*, issues of productivity, poverty and migration in developing countries. The Group appeals for adequate and informed policy interventions for an inclusive, integrated and gender-sensitive decent work framework that builds on inter-generational solidarity and extends over the life cycle. In this regard, the Group calls upon ILO to undertake further research and analysis on demographic transition, its impact and possible policy responses, particularly for developing countries where 73% of the world's older population will be living in by 2030. The Group notes the report of the HLP Post-2015 Development Agenda just submitted in May 2013 where we see with great interest that creating jobs, sustainable livelihood and equitable growth are among the priorities. The Group welcomes ILO's involvement in the Post-2015 development process.
5. Looking ahead, the Group calls for re-doubling of the global efforts to ensure that the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all is duly considered in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. In the attempt to make employment and decent work a priority on the international agenda, the Group recognizes the importance of promoting social dialogue. The Group reiterates its full commitment to continue stimulating and harnessing the potential of South-South, Triangular and North-South cooperation in this important endeavour.
6. Finally, the Group agrees that the controversy surrounding the ILO supervisory system poses questions of fundamental significance for the ILO itself. A standards system which does not command full tripartite support and commitment will inevitably suffer in terms of authority and credibility. The Group underlines the importance of an inclusive, tripartite and constituent-led process for overcoming the challenges ahead. In closing, the Group would like to record its appreciation for the dedicated leadership and commitment of Mr. Guy Ryder at this critical time and wishes this Conference all the success.
