



GROUP OF FIFTEEN
The Summit Level Group of Developing Countries

Distribution: General

G-15 Joint Statement
105th Session of the International Labour Conference,
Geneva, 30 May-10 June 2016

Mr. President
Honorable Ministers
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a Summit Level Group of Developing Countries that aim for mutually beneficial cooperation and collaboration while realizing sustainable development and economic progress.
2. The 105th Session of the International Labour Conference is being convened as one of the most ambitious development initiatives in humanity is getting off the ground. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for the ‘people, planet and prosperity’ built on the three pillars of social, economic and environment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The G-15 appreciates the adoption of the new Development Agenda in September, 2015 by world leaders. The Foreign Ministers of our Group have identified the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a key global process for the G-15 to be involved and contribute to its implementation as a niche Group of the Global South. As the 2030 Agenda comes into effect this year, setting new global goals for development in the next 15 years, we welcome the constructive role the International Labour Office (ILO) continues to play in the implementation of the Development Agenda.
3. The G-15 is of the view that ‘Decent Work’ is a vital pillar in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is estimated that over 600 million new jobs need to be created by 2030, in order to keep pace with the growth of the global working age population. That is approximately around 40 million per year. The Group also acknowledges that the working conditions for nearly 780 million women and men who are working but not earning enough to lift themselves and their families out of poverty should be a priority. It is noted that the importance of decent work in achieving sustainable development is highlighted in Goal 8 of the SDGs which aims to “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.”
4. The G-15 welcomes the Director General’s report titled “The End to Poverty Initiative: The ILO and the 2030 Agenda.” The call by the Director General for the ILO and its global tripartite constituency to make the implementation of the 2030 Agenda a central objective of its activities is a positive development.

5. The G-15 calls for a unified action to enhance the employment of youth and women, to promote their rights within the context of full employment and decent work throughout the implementation phase of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
6. The G-15 supports the ILO prominent role, to place people at the centre of sustainable development, and pledged to eradicate poverty, to promote full and productive employment, to promote fundamental rights at work, and to foster social integration for stable, safe and just societies.
7. The G-15 in recent years has identified South-South Cooperation as a key driver of development. In this regard the Group also actively engages with International Organisations for capacity building and advancement for policy coherence. The Group sees synergies in the ILO's stated desire for greater partnerships in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and would seek greater cooperation with the ILO in areas of mutual interest.
8. Our Group renews our commitment to work in the tripartite spirit, fundamental to the ILO. In closing, the Group wishes this conference all success.

I thank you.