



MEDIA RELEASE

G20 MUST GO FURTHER IN WORKING WITH BUSINESS

Geneva, 23 April 2010

The International Organisation of Employers (IOE), the world's peak business organisation representing employers of labour in over 141 countries, today broadly welcomed the outcome of the first meeting of labour and employment ministers from the G20, but expressed disappointment that the ministers' recommendations did not go far enough in recognizing the critical importance of the private sector and sustainable enterprises to job creation and economic recovery.

Employers welcomed the ministers' emphasis on addressing poverty and disadvantage, and the informal or unregulated sector. Employers also welcomed the emphasis on improving education, lifelong learning and skills development. They underlined the importance of integrating such measures into a wider program of cooperative labour market and regulatory reform.

However, speaking following the labour and employment ministers' meeting and communiqué, IOE Executive Vice President Mr Daniel Funes de Rioja described the recommendations as "falling short, at this stage, of what is needed to get millions of people back into work across the G20".

"The statement does not prioritise working with business as partners in job creation". "Businesses create the vast majority of jobs. Business is at the forefront of job creation every day and must be an important contributor to jobs policies. We need a positive, sustainable environment for enterprise growth and employment to play our role in the desperately needed jobs recovery".

Among the priorities employers raised with ministers were:

- ▶ The importance of returning to economic growth as the key driver of employment demand.
- ▶ Better supporting the doing of business, modernising regulation, and a balanced, pro-employment approach to regulating work.
- ▶ The positive contribution of changing forms of employment, including part time and temporary work, to G20 economies and to providing job opportunities for millions of people (including parents, carers, and those not able to neatly fit into 'standard' working arrangements).

"Unless the G20 engages with the concerns of those who will generate new jobs, we fear there will be a "missed opportunity" for much needed job creation", Mr Funes de Rioja said.

"Business praises the success of the G20 in reversing the economic crisis, and renews its offer to engage in further consultation to ensure that, when the G20 countries meet in Toronto and Seoul later in 2010, they properly seize the opportunity to contribute to global jobs growth", Mr Funes de Rioja concluded.

The G20 labour ministers (21 April 2010) issued a 6-page communiqué which is to be considered by the G20 leaders when they next meet, on 26 – 27 June, in Toronto.

The IOE is the largest network of the private sector in the world. It is the only recognized organisation representing the interests of employers in social and labour matters at the international level. Today, the IOE represents 148 national business organisations in 141 countries.