

## **Port Vila Statement on Decent Work**

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1. The Tripartite High Level Meeting on ‘Decent Work for Sustainable Development in the Pacific’ (THLM) was held in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 8 to 9 February 2010.
  
2. The THLM was attended by tripartite constituent delegates, including Labour Ministers, Senior Labour Ministry officials, Presidents and National Secretaries of Workers’ organizations and senior representatives of Employers’ organizations, from Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Development partners also attended the THLM as observers, including representatives from the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the United Nations, the European Union, AusAID, Japan, NZAID, United States of America and other donor countries, foreign missions and Non-Government Organisations. Also in attendance were several Global Union Federations and the ITUC-AP.
  
3. The objectives of the THLM were to identify challenges and opportunities for full implementation of Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCP) in International Labour Organisation (ILO) Pacific member States, particularly in light of the Global Economic Crisis and climate change; agree on the Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work; and provide inputs to the forthcoming Pacific Conference on ‘The Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis’ and the ILO’s 15th Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting.
  
4. We thank the Government of Vanuatu for hosting the THLM. The Government of Vanuatu’s generosity, hospitality and efficient organization have contributed to the success of this meeting.

## **Decent Work Country Programmes**

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5. We recall that in November 2007 the ILO ‘Tripartite Technical Meeting on Decent Work: Pacific Island Countries’ (2007 meeting) agreed to “pursue a bottom-up approach where national policies and priorities were defined in-country through the development of DWCPs and then put together into a regional framework for the Pacific Island member States.” The 2007 meeting further acknowledged the need for a subsequent “high-level Pacific meeting to gain political commitment and strengthen partnerships for the implementation of the DWCPs and the sub-regional decent work strategy”.
  
6. We have made significant progress in the development of the Decent Work agenda through the development of DWCPs in eight Pacific member States with three more being finalised. We acknowledge and seek to build on the considerable history of regional cooperation in the Pacific, demonstrated most clearly by the Pacific Island Forum Leaders’ adoption in 2005 of ‘The Pacific Plan’ regional framework, with its aims of ‘enhancing economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security in the Pacific through regional initiatives’ and consider that these DWCPs will contribute to the achievement of sustainable and inclusive development in the region.
  
7. We recognise the critical need to promote the importance of the Decent Work Agenda in responding to the Global Economic Crisis in the Pacific and seeking to build resilience to similar crises in the future. To this end, we affirm our commitment to the application of the Global Jobs Pact, agreed to by tripartite constituents at the 2009 International Labour Conference, to the Pacific region. We furthermore request that favourable consideration be given to the inclusion of the Pacific region as a priority in the pilot programme of support to the implementation of the Global Jobs Pact.

8. We are convinced that the application of this Statement will not only progress Decent Work in the Pacific but will also contribute to the realization of the goals and objectives set out in:
  - a. the Pacific Plan;
  - b. the Millennium Development Goals; and
  - c. the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the Pacific region.
  
9. We agree to present this Statement to the Pacific Conference on ‘The Human Face of the Global Economic Crisis’ in February 2010 and at the ILO’s 15th Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting in October 2010.

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### **Regional Cooperation to make Decent Work a reality**

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10. We are encouraged by the significant achievement in successfully formulating DWCPs for all eight Pacific Member States in aspiration to strengthen regional cooperation and integration in our collective response to challenges encountered by our people, culture and environment.
  
11. We acknowledge, however, the challenges to the full implementation of DWCPs including:
  - a. a lack of financial resources, due in part to the impact of the Global Economic Crisis on government revenue, remittances, and ODA;
  - b. capacity constraints to carry out necessary programmes;
  - c. weak tripartite institutions and limited organisational capacity within the social partners; and
  - d. the impact of climate change and climate variability on infrastructure, agriculture and living conditions in vulnerable Pacific islands.
  
12. We commit to working with the ILO to act nationally and regionally to address these challenges to full DWCP implementation.

13. The Pacific Island Ministers and the social partners commit themselves to ensuring the incorporation of their DWCP into their National Development Plan, including poverty reduction strategies.
14. We further assert our commitment to the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and further development of the DWCPs and recall that effective social dialogue will be critical to this process.
15. To this end we endorse the Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work as a regional framework to support the realisation of national DWCP outcomes and priorities. Further that, the Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work can be extended to non- ILO members as appropriate and if agreed by those States.
16. We stress that the full and successful implementation of the DWCPs and the Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work require our full political commitment to mobilize resources as a national priority.
17. Pacific Island Ministers and social partners further call on the ILO and development partners to support the full implementation of DWCPs and the Pacific Action Plan for Decent Work, through technical assistance and mobilization of resources.
18. We affirm our ultimate goal of achievement of all DWCP outcomes at a national level and where synergies in implementing priorities exist across the Pacific we commit ourselves to supporting activities at a regional level.

The Port Vila Statement on Decent Work was adopted by the tripartite constituents in Port Vila, Vanuatu on this ninth day of February in the year two thousand and ten.