



A powerful
and balanced
voice for business

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H.E. Ms. Rahab Fatima

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Bob Rae

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Canada to the United Nations

Excellencies and Distinguished Co-Facilitators,

Subject: IOE views and recommendations on the LDC5 outcome document

We are writing to present the views and recommendations of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) on the Zero Draft of the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs ahead of LDC5, as well as share our planned activities for the conference. We are looking forward to ensuring the voice of business is actively engaged both in the work prior to and during the LDC5 conference.

As background, for over 100 years IOE has been the sole representative of business in social and employment policy debates taking place in the ILO, across the UN, G20 and other emerging forums. IOE organizations are in over 150 countries and represent some 50 million companies ranging from large multinationals to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Zero Draft:

We fully agree with paragraph 151 to **“create an enabling environment for private sector development”**. Private sector/ employers accept their responsibility with regard LDCs, and they (employers), are critical players and ready both in LDCs and developed countries to assist. But as mentioned in the document, flexible regulation and facilitating opening and maintaining businesses, particularly small ones (MSMEs), is critical for employers. Moreover, each country is different so it important to engage with the local business organizations, i.e. employer federations, to ensure proper legal frameworks are developed and implemented.

It's critical that LDCs have access to **emerging technologies**; and public and private sectors both have a role to play to ensure this happens as this can be the most important element in moving many out poverty. But there is a need for multistakeholder engagement, as this is not just about systems and programmes but addressing the skills gap, education and access to platforms including broadband. Employers need talent and are open to sharing their training programs from apprenticeships to online platforms. Technology companies can play an important role in this respect. We hope to address this issue during the LDC5, as we engage with the private engagement in addressing the digital divide potentially as a side event at the conference.

Paragraph 120 on **“structural transformation as a driver of prosperity”** - we, as employers, embrace the move to diversify economies and generate quality employment opportunities including moving from mainly agricultural to the service sector and manufacturing. However, again a conducive business environment with flexible regulation with a skilled workforce will be a prerequisite.

IOE is committed to contributing to the implementation of this ambitious Plan of Action and will be in Doha at LDC5 to bring our members and companies to this critical event. We therefore look forward to leading on the private sector track of LDC5 to enhance dialogue between employer / business organizations from LDCs, potential investors, and governments to identify necessary actions to unblock investments, create conducive environments for entrepreneurship and job creation, strengthen access to global trade, and accelerate action to address flaws in governance systems.

Planned LDC5 activities:

- Preparatory online country reviews for 5 LDC countries in partnership with the national employer organizations, on key priorities for unleashing the job potential of the private sector. We will address these questions: how should companies better integrate into the global market, attract investment, and strengthen governance systems? What is needed? Which are challenges? How to move forward?
- IOE-led side event at the 5th LDC Summit in Qatar with the participation of employer federations/associations from at least 20 LDC countries, potential investors, think tanks and academics, government representatives and leaders from relevant UN agencies.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,

Shea Gopaul
Special Representative to the UN
International Organisation of Employers (IOE)