

Special Seminar

ILO Declaration on the Social Justice for a Fair Globalization

15th IIRA World Congress of the IIRA, Sydney, Australia, 24-28 August 2009

In June 2008 the International Labour Conference adopted the *ILO Declaration on the Social Justice for a Fair Globalization* at its 97th Session. The Declaration reaffirms the vision of the ILO mandate, particularly in the contemporary era of globalization. Being the third of such instruments in the history of the Organization, the Declaration is significant in restating ILO values, notably the pursuit of universal aspiration for social justice in the world of work. As the ILO Director General, Juan Somavia, has emphasized, this instrument reinforces ILO constitution and values in meeting the challenges of the 21st century. In effect the Declaration seeks to “place full and productive employment and decent work at the centre of economic and social policies” by emphasizing the universality of ILO’s four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda. These objectives - employment, social protection, social dialogue and international labour standards – are inseparable, interrelated and mutually supportive. In other words, progress in any one area depends critically on progress in the others.

The Declaration calls for “partnerships with non-state entities and economic actors...with relevant international organizations” to promote the strategic objectives, “in relevant international forums”, including “sharing national and regional good practice gained from successful implementation of national or regional initiatives with a decent work element”.

This Special Seminar is an appropriate forum where IIRA members and congress participants can learn more about the Declaration, and explore renewed collaborative efforts with ILO on research for reinforcing the Organization’s strategic objectives to address the challenges of globalization in the world of work. One important research theme is the nature of the interaction among the strategic objectives and their contribution to socioeconomic development at national and global levels.

Panellists:

Professor Janice Bellace, Professor of Labour Law, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Professor Hiromasa Suzuki, Professor of Labour Economics, University of Waseda, Tokyo.

Professor Russell Lansbury, Professor of Work & Organisational Studies, University of Sydney, Australia.

Professor Ana Gomes, Professor of International Labour Law, Universidade Católica de Santos, Brazil.

Chair:

Professor Tayo Fashoyin, Director, Industrial and Employment Relations Department, ILO, Geneva