

G7 Labour and Employment High Level Meeting
December 19th 2019
Draft Statement Erol Kiresepi

Dear Minister Penicaud

Dear Ministers

Dear Ms Georgieva

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear Colleagues and Friends

We have heard this afternoon already much about the urgency to act and the need for tripartite collaboration. I won't repeat this in length. It is absolutely clear that systemic issues, such as inequality, such as lacking job opportunities, such as informality need a comprehensive response from governments and social partners together. I would like to thank Minister Penicaud for this initiative and Anousheh Kavar, Martin Denis and the team to organize this meeting and the follow-up.

This French G7 Presidency has written history by adopting the first tripartite statement at G7 or G20 level. However, it is through the agreement on a follow-up process that the Tripartite Declaration becomes meaningful and credible. Lacking implementation on the ground has been the challenge of many multilateral initiatives and processes. The follow-up process to the Declaration is an important message that this first tripartite G7 Declaration is not only a nice declaration of intent, but a promise for action.

Indeed, most of the priorities in the Declaration, such as skills, informality and enabling environment for job creation are not new. The G20 and G7 have both dealt with them extensively, as well as other international organisations, most importantly the ILO. However, as an IOE flagship report on SDG 8 from July this year shows, very little success has been achieved particularly with respect to:

- increasing employment opportunities, especially for the young workforce;
- reducing informal employment, labor market inequality, and gender discrimination

We also continue to face considerably skills challenges around the world. An IOE-ILO/ACTEMP study, for which more than 500 companies were interviewed, found that 78 % of corporate executives saying schools are failing to meet future employers' needs.

The Joint Declaration is a chance to make a difference here as G7 governments and social partners. The international employers' community is committed to work together with G7 governments and the colleagues from ITUC and TUAC to

- Create better labour market frameworks for job creation;
- Modernizes skills building systems which are in line with labour market needs and which open chances for jobs and a career;
- Focus in a more targeted way on generating opportunities for young people, women, and other marginalised groups in the labour market;
- Build more efficient institutions and develop realistic regulations that promote adequate transitions to the formal and green economies.

Colleagues

We don't set-up in this meeting today a new bureaucratic mechanism and we don't adopt a detailed work plan. There are already many different multilateral initiatives and processes. What we will do is to better connect the dots and to fill the gaps where they appear. The strength of this process will not be the size of its secretariat. The strength of the process is its network. The fact that the process is carried and supported by a broad coalition of governments and social partners gives it its weight. In order to effectively implement the Tripartite Declaration and to be able to influence the world of work, we must need to make full use of this network. We are thereby mindful, that the follow-up process will also need to reflect priorities of future G7 presidencies, as this process will continue to be closely connected to the G7.

Colleagues

I look very much forward to continue working with you in 2020.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a good start into the New Year.