

IOE General Council Meeting

Geneva – Switzerland, 31 May 2015

Intervention by the Iranian Confederation of Employers' Associations (ICEA),

Tehran – Iran, Islamic Republic, of

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor despite this short time allocated to this session.

I asked to speak to raise four points, on behalf of my organization, ICEA.

First, last year, we couldn't, due to the flight time-related difficulties, attend our General Council meeting, and I hope it's not too late to congratulate you, Mr. Daniel Funes {de Rioja of Argentina}, for the well-earned installation to the position of the IOE Presidency.

We believe as the 14 year's IOE Executive Vice-President, you made it your mission to ensure that international labor and social policy promotes the viability of business and creates an environment favorable to enterprise development and job creation.

And, during your many years' chairing the employers' group meetings of the (international labor) conferences, you enriched policy debates by your experiences, perspectives and concerns, while leading the outcomes to be more relevant, timely, and better articulated.

Mr. President, our thanks and respect for the long services you have given to the IOE and its members, and we do wish you a successful future in outlining the vision, mission and goals of the organization.

Second, we would like to place on record our sincere appreciation to our former Secretary-General, Brent Wilton {of New Zealand}, for his excellent leading the organization, as the Secretary-General, for the past three years.

Upon our invitation, Brent paid, in October last year, an official visit to my country-Iran, and met with our member associations directly, as well as with some high ranking officials. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to exchange views on different issues, particularly on how best to improve the functioning of our organization.

The support we always had from him was encouraging. We wish him all the success in the new phase of his career.

Mr. Chairman,

Please allow me to warmly thank the IOE Secretariat team, too, for the major contribution that they have been making to the well-functioning of the organization.

It is very impressive to see how much excellent work goes on before, during and after the IOE General-Council and the ILC {International Labour Conference} each year to support the quality of the programs. We wish to express our appreciation to the Secretariat.

Our thanks also goes to our Deputy Secretary-General, Roberto Suarez Santos, for his worthy assistance, as well as for well leading the Organization in April 2015, during which no secretary general was, in practice, acting.

Third, It gives me great pleasure to extend our warmest congratulations to Ms. Linda Kromjong on her installation as the new IOE Secretary-General. We trust that you, Madam Secretary-General, will continue to work for the development of the organization, while meeting the expectations of the enthusiastic members. We wish you great success and all the best for the new role.

And fourth, I would like to note that our organization is following the policy of membership attraction and retention, while developing capacity.

In this line, a 2-day workshop on the Effective Employers' Organization was held in Tehran in December 2014. The activity was implemented by technical and financial collaboration offered by the ACTEMP and the Turin International Training Center of the ILO. I seize upon the opportunity to thank Mr. Arnout De Koster, Employers' Activities Manager of the Turin Centre.

We acknowledge and appreciate the past contribution of ACTEMP; Ms. Debora France Massin (Director) and her team, to our program, and seek and expect to receive its further technical assistance and expertise as a follow up activity.

We should be very grateful if Madam Secretary-General, (Ms. Linda Kromjong) would kindly liaise with ACTEMP in order to facilitate the process of this requested assistance.

This will certainly need to be further discussed, at a later time, hopefully in a separate meeting with the Madam Secretary General, in person.

Thank you Mr. Chair, and thank you all for giving me a patient hearing.