



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV)

&

ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean

SUBREGIONAL CONFERENCE

“THE FUTURE OF WORK WE WANT:

Workers' Perspectives from the Caribbean”

Belmont Lounge, Hilton Trinidad & Conference Centre

Port of Spain, February 14-15 2019

PROGRAMME

Day 1: Thursday 14 February 2019

08:15-09:00 Registration

09:00-10:00 Inauguration

Facilitator: Ms. Vera Guseva, Specialist in Workers' Activities, ILO Port of Spain

- Senator the Honourable Jennifer Baptiste Primus, Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development, Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr Michael Annisette, General Secretary, National Trade Union Centre, Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr Guy Ryder, Director-General ILO (Video)
- Mr Hassan Ndahi, Senior Specialist, OIC, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean
- Ms Maria Helena André, Director, ILO ACTRAV, Geneva
- Ms Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (Video)

10:00-10:30 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

10:30-12:00 SPECIAL DIALOGUE 1: *The ILO Future of Work initiative: the year ahead*

Discussing the Report of the ILO independent Global Commission and new ways to promote decent work and social justice in the Caribbean.

Facilitator: Ms Maria Helena André, Director, ILO ACTRAV Geneva

Presentation of the report: Mr Michael Watt, Specialist, ILO ACTRAV Geneva

Panellists:

- Mrs Jennifer Isaacs-Dotson, President, Caribbean Congress of Labour
- Mr Wayne Chen, President, Caribbean Employers' Confederation
- Ms. Natalie Willis, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development, Trinidad and Tobago

12:00-13:30 LUNCH BREAK

13:30-15:00 DIALOGUE 1: *Economic, social and sustainable development in a globalized world*

- Regional Integration
 - Trade and investment
 - Labour migration and mobility
- Economic diversification: Strategies for an inclusive growth path
 - full and productive employment, wages, quality and inclusive educational system/transferable life-long skills
 - Sectoral transformation innovation and productivity
- Climate Change and the green economy
 - Environmental degradation and resource depletion
 - Sustainable production and consumption
- The rural economy

Facilitator: Mr Hassan Ndahi, Senior Specialist, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean

Panellists:

- Dr. Dillon Alleyne, Deputy Director, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean
- Ms. Rosamae Whittier, Free Movement and Labour Officer, CARICOM Single Market and Economy Unit, CARICOM Secretariat
- Dr. Andre Henry, Director, Cipriani College of Labour

Comments from the participants:

15:00-15:30 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

15:30-17:00 DIALOGUE 2: [Role of Work in Society](#)

- Inequality -
 - Income inequality
 - Regional inequalities, poverty and urbanisation
- Gender equality
- The informal economy
 - Decent work deficits
 - Lack of social security
- Non-standard Forms of Employment
- Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

Facilitator: Ms Anna Biondi, Deputy Director, ILO ACTRAV Geneva

Panellists:

- Mr. Lodewijk Smets, Country Economist, Office of the Country representative, , Inter-American Development Bank
- Ms. Sandra Massiah, Sub-regional Secretary for the Caribbean, Public Services International
- Dr. Michael Witter, Economist and senior lecturer at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies at the University of the West Indies Mona, Jamaica

Comments from the participants:

Day 2: Friday 15 February 2019

09:00-10:00 SPECIAL DIALOGUE 2: [The ILO and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](#)

A way towards promoting a future of work based on inclusive growth, social justice and decent work for all.

- A multilateral response to growing protectionism and nationalism
- The ILO's role in assessing potential gaps in the regulatory framework of the International Labour Standards (ILS)

Facilitator: Ms Maria Helena André, Director, ILO ACTRAV Geneva

Panellists:

- Mrs Sharifa Ali-Abdullah, Assistant Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten
- Ms Sharon Young, CEO, Ministry of Labour and Local Government, Belize
- Ms Toni Moore, Deputy President, Trade Union Confederation of the Americas
- Mrs. Joanne Deoraj, Permanent Secretary, The Ministry of Planning and Development, Trinidad and Tobago

10:00-10:30 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

10:30-12:00 **DIALOGUE 3: Challenges of effective governance in an increasingly globalized world: The role of the State**

- What are the effective policy response to address issues surrounding:
 - The protection of workers' rights (such as freedom of association and collective bargaining) and the formal employment relationship
 - Ensuring effective social dialogue including the guarantee of equal information, consultation and participation of the social partners.
 - The digital economy: regulatory response to new forms of work
 - A progressive tax-benefit structure that addresses growing income inequalities
 - The implementation of a functioning welfare state, including universal social protection schemes

Facilitator: Mr Rainer Pritzer, Senior Specialist, Social Dialogue and Labour Administration, ILO TBC

Panellists:

- Sir Roy Trotman, Workers' Vice-Chairperson of the ILO Governing Body (2002-2011)
- Mr Keston Nancoo, Chairman, The Employers' Consultative Association of Trinidad and Tobago (ECATT)
- TBC, Ministry of Labour and Social Partnership Relations, Barbados

Comments from participants:

12:00-13:00 LUNCH BREAK

13:00-14:30 **DIALOGUE 4: Challenges of effective governance in an increasingly globalized world: The role of Trade Unions**

- The expansion of the membership base and collective bargaining coverage
- New forms of worker's organisations

- The effective participation in social dialogue as an equal partner in shaping economic, social, labour and environmental policy

Facilitator: Ms Hilda Sanchez, ILO ACTRAV, Geneva

Panellists:

- Ms Amanda Claribel Villatoro, Trade Union Policy and Education, Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)
- Mr Vern Gill, President, St. Lucia Employers' Federation
- Ms. Deborah Thomas-Felix, President, Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr Emiliano Daniel Addisi, Regional Regional Education Coordinator, International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) Americas

Comments from participants:

14:30-15:00 CLOSING

- Maria Helena André, Director, ILO ACTRAV Geneva