

ACCRA STATEMENT BY PARTICIPANTS

14th Regional Seminar for Labour-Based Practitioners and Policy Makers

Preamble

The 14th Regional Seminar on *Public Works for Decent Jobs and Poverty Reduction: Policies and Practices*, hosted by the Ministry of Roads and Highways with support from the Ministries of Local Government and Rural Development and Employment and Social Welfare of the Republic of Ghana in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation, was held in Accra, Ghana from the 5th – 9th September, 2011.

The Seminar attracted 360 participants from 29 countries in Africa, Asia and Europe, including 13 Ministers. Sixteen (16) papers were presented on the following sub themes:

- i. Policies and Tools for the Promotion of Local Resources;*
- ii. Optimizing Investments in Public Works towards Poverty Reduction; and*
- iii. Impact Assessment of Labour Intensive Investments.*

The Ministers held a parallel Ministerial Meeting on the 5th – 6th September, 2011 and reviewed the progress made since December 2009 Kampala Meeting, and issued a Statement that reaffirmed their commitment to promoting employment-intensive approaches in infrastructure and other sectors as a means for poverty reduction and wealth creation.

The seminar delegates also visited the Koforidua Training Centre (KTC) to appreciate the role of the Centre in promoting the training of LBT personnel and to inspect a Labour Based Site, as well as the Do-Nou and the Hyson Cells Technologies Spot Improvement Sites.

We the Delegates at the 14th Regional Seminar,

Noting, with concern, the effects of the global financial crisis and its attendant effects on developing economies;

Mindful of the high unemployment rate, particularly of the youth, women and people with disabilities, which poses a major threat to social cohesion, thus requiring urgent joint action by all partners;

Cognisant of the impact that climate change will have on growth and employment strategies;

Having noted the positive impacts of labour-based technology in infrastructure and other sectors and its social benefit in improving the livelihood of the disadvantaged groups in society;

Recognizing, the progress made by African states in promoting and mainstreaming the application of LBT in sectoral investments and the significant innovations and achievements in public employment programmes, especially, large scale public works programmes; and

Drawing inspiration from the Accra Ministerial Statement and the open and frank discussions that took place over the five-day seminar;

We hereby resolve to:

Call for the creation of an enabling environment to promote the development of both the public and private sectors in the implementation of Public Employment Programmes;

Promote LBT to deliver on the commitment to create decent jobs, facilitate the entry of youth, women and people with disabilities into the labour market and give them skills to lead productive and dignified lives;

Increase Public – Private Partnerships in the development of infrastructure and other services using LBT for Employment Generation;

Continue to encourage the active involvement of beneficiary groups including youth, women and people with disabilities in the delivery of public investment programmes at all stages, at all levels and across all sectors of the economy;

Put in place appropriate incentives for government departments to reach set employment targets;

Promote the diversification of LBT from the road infrastructure sector to other sectors of the economy;

Support the increasingly important role of local governments in the decentralisation process and the management of assets and service delivery through capacity building, skills development and knowledge sharing;

Improve data collection, reporting, monitoring, and evaluation, employment impact assessments of interventions with the view to broadening the knowledge base on strategies, procedures, and processes that can generate and sustain productive employment opportunities;

Make greater efforts to engage the academia and research institutions to further promote research into the use of innovative technologies, documentations and disseminations of the lessons learned and challenges faced in promoting the application of appropriate local resources;

Intensify the mainstreaming of crosscutting issues such as gender, environment, and HIV/AIDS, and promote decent jobs, decent working conditions at the worksite; and

Commit ourselves to increase partnership, knowledge sharing and experiences between practitioners and member States.

We request:

- a. Our governments to quicken the pace of mainstreaming employment and decent work in infrastructure and other sectors across all spheres of government through the adoption of appropriate policies;
- b. Our governments to review procurement laws and processes to help promote LBT and decent jobs, especially for the youth, women, people with disabilities and the vulnerable;
- c. Our governments to allocate resources to interventions that have the potential to optimise employment creation and the use of local resources;
- d. Our governments to allocate resources to address the concerns of the youth, especially in creating decent jobs;
- e. Our governments to engage the Private Sector, the Civil Society Groups and other stakeholders in developing effective legislations that promote PPP;
- f. Our governments to commit resources to the development of further studies, documentation, capacity building, and knowledge sharing of the LBT;
- g. Our Universities and other Tertiary institutions to review their curricula to include technology choices;
- h. Our governments to commit themselves to mainstream employment creation in policies, translate this into operational programmes in all sectors, monitor the implementation and evaluate the impact on employment; and
- i. Our governments to put in governance structures to intensify the fight against corruption to prevent their occurrence.