



PAN-AFRICAN EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION
CONFEDERATION PANAFRICAIN DES EMPLOYEURS
الاتحاد الأفريقي لأصحاب العمل

Launching of the 20th Anniversary Commemorative Report

The Pan African Employers' Confederation launched its 20th anniversary Commemorative Report on 6 - 7 December 2007 at Labourdonnais Hotel, Caudan Waterfront, Port Louis, Mauritius. It was attended by members of the PEC Council and representatives of ILO and IOE.

The official launching was performed by Dr the Honourable Vasant Kumar Bunwaree, Minister of labour, Industrial Relations and Employment of the Republic of Mauritius in the presence of a number of distinguished guests from ILO and IOE. In his address the Honourable Minister stated that "PEC has indeed emerged as major partner of regional and international institutions for the development of Africa, and particularly on Economic, Labour and Social matters." He also congratulated PEC "for coming up with the Code of Corporate Governance, and its efforts to promote, at regional and international levels not only good corporate governance but also good national governance."

Mr Azad Jeetun, Secretary General of PEC recalled that PEC started the celebrations in Addis Ababa in April 2007 when H. E. Hon. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of Tanzania addressed the High level Panel on *The Private Sector in Africa: Building Partnerships for Africa's Renaissance*. He also mentioned that PEC had an observer status at the level of the African Union and the ILO. PEC has just been elected to the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union (ECOSOCC) which bespeaks of the credibility and professionalism of the Organisation. In addition, PEC was honoured to organise the Africa Business Summit in collaboration with the employers' organisation of Portugal and BusinessEUROPE.

Mr François Perigot, Honorary President of the International Organisation of Employers congratulated PEC on its major achievement in being able to assemble employers' organisations of the continent under one umbrella and to emerge as the recognized voice of employers and of the private sector. He also felt that it was an

opportune moment to discuss the strategic orientation of PEC and proposed that the Confederation should fix a limited number of objectives and focus on their implementation.

Mr Thabo Makeka, President, PEC thanked all organisations that have supported PEC since its creation in Cairo in 1986, namely the Bureau of Employers' Activities of the ILO and the International Organisation of Employers. He had a particular thought for the founding fathers, namely, Mr Henri Georget of Niger who was the first President, Mr Gazarin of Egypt and Mr Tom Owuor of Kenya who was the first Secretary General.

He also thanked Mrs Regina Amadi- Njoku, Director, ILO Regional office for Africa who has supported the Confederation and contributed to building the capacity not only of the Confederation but also of employers' organisations in Africa. She has also vehemently promoted the strategic objectives of the ILO and tripartism in particular on the continent.

He thanked Mr Antonio Peñalosa, Secretary General of IOE for the administrative and functional support given to the Confederation in particular his staff, Mr Frederick Muia, Ms Josefa Canoto and Mrs Patricia Rindlebasher.

Mr Jean François Retournard, Director of ACT/EMP also congratulated the Confederation for the numerous activities and studies that have been conducted by PEC. He pledged his full support to PEC and to employers' organisations in Africa.

The Minister also launched PEC Website and it can be visited at www.pec-online.org.

It contains among others

- *The constitution of PEC*
- *Its Objectives*
- *Its members*
- *Its Network*
- *PEC Declarations etc*

The anniversary coincided with a strategic management workshop on the future orientation of PEC.

The Objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- To evaluate the effectiveness of the Confederation in achieving its numerous objectives
- To review the structure of the Confederation and its role so as to be better prepared to meet the challenges of globalisation
- To improve the services of PEC in order to strengthen its members which are national employers' organisations
- To strengthen the capacity of PEC to network with regional and international organisations and participate actively in international events
- To build the capacity of PEC in Employment Creation and Policy Issues, Corporate Social Responsibility and Skills Development.

Mr Francis Sanzuango, Employer Specialist, Bureau for Employers' Activities, ILO, made a presentation on the Future Orientation of PEC. He made a SWOT analysis of PEC and highlighted the role it is playing especially at the ILO and the African Union and internationally. He also mapped out the future directions that PEC might follow in this era of globalisation. He opined that PEC should restructure itself and should aim at having a permanent office to keep up with the need to maintain its presence at regional and international levels. To be able to attain this objective, the subscription should be reviewed.

PEC Members are invited to comment on his presentation ([link to the document](#)) in the light of which the Executive Committee of PEC will meet in March to take major decisions on the future of PEC.

This was followed by a very lively discussion and interaction with broad agreement of the future strategy of PEC. It was also decided to have a virtual network along the lines that exist in Magreb countries with the support of MEDEF International. Mr Perigot considered this as a good model for PEC to position itself and become an indispensable partner in the business community. Our overall objective is to ensure a

business friendly environment in African countries. The newly established website can be a very useful tool in fulfilling the mission of PEC defined as *‘To contribute to the economic and social development of Africa through the promotion of the enterprise.’*