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**Inter-American Council for Integral Development**

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**MINISTERS OF LABOR (IACML)** CIDI/TRABAJO/doc.28/15

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
BUSINESS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LABOR MATTERS (CEATAL)

The Permanent Executive Committee of CEATAL met on December 3, 2015, on the occasion of the 19th IACML. Representatives of several employers’ organizations attended the meeting, and the OAS also participated in its capacity as the Technical Secretariat; ACTEMP attended on behalf of the International Labour Organization; and the International Organization of Employers (IOE) participated in its capacity as the coordinator of CEATAL.

**I. Adoption of the agenda**

Mr. Alberto Echavarría welcomed the meeting participants on behalf of CEATAL Chair Daniel Funes de Rioja, who was unable to attend. He proceeded to read out the proposed agenda, which was adopted with the addition of an item to analyze the possibility of issuing a joint declaration with COSATE.

**II. Remarks by the Chair of CEATAL**

Alberto Echavarría, representing Chair Funes, thanked the employers’ representatives for their contributions to the IACML and their engagement at all the events held since the Medellín Conference. He highlighted the presence of John Craig at the OAS General Assemblies, which coincided with ILO’s International Conference, and he spoke of the possibility of producing a joint declaration with COSATE.

**III. Report of the Coordinator of CEATAL**

The Coordinator of CEATAL, María Paz Anzorreguy, submitted a detailed report on the activities carried out over the 2013-2015 period; these, she said, had helped to strengthen dialogue with COSATE and the Ministers of Labor and to bolster relations with the OAS. She reported that the activities scheduled for 2013 to 2015 – including RIAL workshops, working group meetings, and IACML preparatory meetings – had been discharged in full, and she applauded the participation of the OECD, IDB, and other agencies in the discussions. She thanked all the federations that had participated in those undertakings and noted that CEATAL, thanks to its active participation at the preparatory meetings, had succeeded in including, in the Declaration and Plan of Action of Cancún, the concept of sustainable companies and other matters of importance to the employers. She congratulated the RIAL on its tenth anniversary, noting that it had also been of benefit to employers. She reflected on how CEATAL’s influence within the IACML could be strengthened, underscoring the importance of preparing position papers and actively participating in all the activities. In concluding, she emphasized the excellent relations that existed with both the OAS and COSATE, noting that shared ideas carried greater weight and enjoyed greater acceptance. She thanked the OAS and ACTEMP/ILO for their constant engagement and support.

 Alberto Echavarría, John Craig, Anthony Walcott, and Juan José Fraschini noted and expressed their gratitude for the IOE’s work in coordinating the CEATAL delegation for both the IACML and all the activities carried out under its umbrella, in preparing position papers, and in maintaining a fluid, respectful, and constructive dialogue with COSATE, the representatives of the labor ministries, and the OAS.

**IV. Comments by the Technical Secretariat**

The Director of the OAS Department of Social Inclusion, Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian, emphasized the importance of hearing the employers’ perspective and called for the dialogue to not only focus on the objectives of the IACML, but also to influence other activities within the OAS; she also acknowledged the important role played by the IOE in coordinating the views of the employers of the Americas within CEATAL. She highlighted the creation of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity within the OAS and the presence of its Secretary at this meeting.

The OAS Secretary for Access to Rights and Equity, Idelí Salvatti, said that the creation of this Secretariat was a result of the current process of restructuring within the OAS, the aim of which was to balance its four pillars for action: development, security, democracy, and rights. She spoke of the importance of promoting tripartite action between workers, employers, and governments to foster greater inclusion, noting that social inclusion also benefited employers and the region’s economies. She said that with this vision, her Secretariat was going to work in conjunction with the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) on the topics of work and employment, and she stressed the importance of strengthening synergies among all stakeholders in the world of work in order to benefit the economy, development, and inclusion.

Alberto Echavarría and Juan José Fraschini expressed their thanks for the words from the OAS Secretariat and said that the proposals were in line with the views of the employers; they also recognized the importance of the OAS and the leadership of its Secretary General, Luis Almagro.

**V. Composition and election of the Executive Committee**

Jorge Illingworth, a Specialist with ACTEMP/ILO, presented the following proposal for the composition of the Executive Committee, which was approved unanimously:

**Chair:** Daniel Funes de Rioja, Argentine Industrial Union (UIA)

**First Vice Chair:** Alberto Echavarría, National Association of Industrialists of Colombia (ANDI) Deputy Vice Chair: Ronnie Goldberg, of the United States

**Second Vice Chair:** Brian Burkett, Canadian Employers Council (CEC)

Deputy Vice Chair: Juan Mailhos, National Chamber of Commerce and Services (CNCS) of Uruguay

**Members:**

* Silvia Teixeira de Souza, CNI (Brazil)
* Octavio Carvajal, CONCAMIN (Mexico); Deputy: Pablo Rodríguez, COPARMEX (Mexico)
* John Craig, CEC (Canada); Deputy: Tony Walcott, Barbados
* Armando Urtecho, COHEP (Honduras); Deputy: Aurelio Linero, CONEP (Panama)
* Juan José Fraschini, Chamber of Industry of Uruguay; Deputy: Jorge Roy, Venezuela
* Julio César Barrenechea, CONFIEP (Peru); Alternate: Manuel Terán, National Federation of Industrial Chambers of Ecuador

**Coordinator:** María Paz Anzorreguy, International Organization of Employers (IOE).

**VI. Discussion of the statement by CEATAL to be presented to the Ministers of Labor**

Alberto Echavarría invited the participants to comment on the draft CEATAL Declaration and proposed including in the draft a reference to the Global Apprenticeships Network (GAN). The delegates of Panama, Canada, Uruguay, Mexico, and Barbados offered the following contributions: consideration should be given to exemplifying the concept of “investment-friendly climates,” to giving greater importance to the promotion of mentoring programs for young people to enter the business sector, to adding a reference to incentives for business owners who hire young people, and to noting that education systems should be giving young people the methodological tools necessary to equip them with entrepreneurial knowledge.

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The Vice Chair thanked them for their comments and assured them that the relevant changes would be made to the draft Declaration.

**VII. Analysis of the possibility of issuing a Joint Declaration with COSATE**

Alberto Echavarría reported that COSATE had made a number of changes to the draft Joint Declaration, including such topics as trade union freedom, with which the members of CEATAL were in agreement. After a few minor changes, the participants adopted the Declaration. They also underscored the importance of issuing this type of documents, given that they have an enormous political significance and help strengthen dialogue with the workers in the Hemisphere.

**VIII. Other business**

 There being no further business, the Vice Chair thanked the host country for its hospitality and stated that the new administration of the OAS, under Luis Almagro, offered an opportunity to identify new alternatives and actions for promoting growth and development in the Americas. After noting that the participation of employers would be greater in the future, he adjourned the meeting.