



Press Release  
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### **IMF and ILO Hold Preliminary Discussions on Tripartite Social Dialogue with Zambian Government, Employers and Labour**

Lusaka (May 31)—Representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Labour Organization (ILO), Zambia's Ministry of Labour and Social Security, employers and trade unions met today in Lusaka to prepare for a tripartite social dialogue later this year to be conducted under the auspices of the two international organizations.

The discussions are part of a joint effort to support a broad dialogue on policies for employment creation that the ILO and IMF are conducting in three countries: Bulgaria, the Dominican Republic, and Zambia. The initiative grows out of an international conference on "The Challenges of Growth, Employment and Social Cohesion", held in Oslo, Norway on September 13, 2010 by the ILO and IMF, under the auspices of the Norwegian government.

At the Oslo Conference, the IMF and ILO agreed to work together in three areas: cooperation on defining Social Protection Floor policies in low-income countries; joint analysis of strategies for encouraging job-creating growth (including within the context of the G-20 Mutual Assessment Process); and efforts to promote, and provide analytical input to, national dialogue on employment creation.

"Today's meeting in Lusaka was an important step in preparing for an in-depth dialogue on employment policies in Zambia, involving both the two international institutions and Zambia's social partners," said Sean Nolan, Senior Advisor in the IMF's African Department. "We look forward to fruitful discussions later this year that we hope can help contribute both to innovative thinking and to development of shared perspectives on how employment expansion can be accelerated in Zambia."

Martin Clemensson, Director of the ILO Lusaka Office, said themes discussed during the meeting included the reduction of poverty, provision of decent employment opportunities (especially for the youth), better social protection, and economic diversification, and the need to reduce the country's dependency on copper.

The Zambian organizations participating in the IMF/ILO meeting were Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Zambia Federation of Employers, Zambia Confederation of Trade Unions and Federation of Free Trade Unions in Zambia.

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