



# International Labour Organization

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## Resolution 01 (2004)

Adopted by the General Assembly at its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 12 August 2004

*The International Labour Organization,*

*Fully aware* of the role of ILO as the United Nations Agency responsible for promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, as well as independent employers' and workers' organizations,

*Reiterating* its role for providing training and advisory services to those organizations together with technical assistance,

*Reaffirming* its objectives to fight unemployment and underemployment,

*Noting with concern* the worldwide current figures on unemployment in all Countries, whether low-consuming, with economies in transition or industrialized,

*Recalling* resolution 57/165 of 16 January 2003 on promoting youth employment

*Recognizing* youth as a great potential to economic development and growth,

*Keeping in mind* ILO Recommendation No. 189 on job creation in small and medium sized enterprises,

*Believing* that entrepreneurial skills and private ownership, as a growing alternative for young people, are stimulated by small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs),

*Noting with concern* that inadequate legal and regulatory conditions and an unfavourable socio-economic environment still cause impediments to entrepreneurship and private sector development,

*Emphasizing* the key role of education, either formal or informal, and the right of every state to have a sound education system,

*Noting with satisfaction* the various regional information initiatives such as forums, workshops, working groups,

*Concerned* about the lack of funds for financing projects of SMMEs development,

*Recognizing* that international and multilateral co-operations should be enhanced while maintaining full respect for State sovereignty,

1. *Recommends* the member States to create ad-hoc public-private joint Commissions for reviewing their education system on an ongoing basis, projecting it in the labour market, setting

skills development programs relevant to the labour market's needs together with the employers, aiming at integrating the promotion of youth entrepreneurship through the private sector's involvement, considering the specific needs of disadvantaged communities, minorities, women and disabled and giving specific attention to the issue of school drop-outs, promoting social entrepreneurship;

2. *Advises* the enhancement and implementation of informal education programmes;
3. *Further invites* to promote and undertake practical experiences, i.e. internships and apprenticeships, parallel to education and training;
4. *Affirms* its belief of institutions having to raise awareness on the offered programs and consciousness on personal capacities and inclinations;
5. *Further expresses* its conviction that entrepreneurship should be instilled in youth already in the early years of their education and training;
6. *Further supports* the existence of different education systems so to encourage transfer of knowledge, skills and experience within and across borders through encouraging the mobility of students and trainees, teachers, experts and trainers;
7. *Designates* Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as vital for preparing youth for participation first in education and consequently on the job market;
8. *Further recommends* liberalization of ICTs and international co-operation to make technologies available for all countries;
9. *Calls upon* social dialogue among all actors involved at strategic, institutional and enterprise levels including the civil society and NGOs;
10. *Further invites* them to work together towards filling the information gap;
11. *Appeals* for in-depth economic analysis through implementing reliable data collection systems, jointly with academic research institutions and employers' organizations for promoting transparency;
12. *Suggests* the creation of regional offices of the International Youth Fund (IYF) and their collaboration with ILO in order to use the available funds of IYF to promote regional projects that support youth employment creation and entrepreneurial activities, taking into account that:
  - regional offices have to acknowledge private and public experts' representatives managing the different branches
  - a yearly budget allocation and a report system should be created so to assure effective money usage
  - financing projects should be addressed both to new enterprises and existing ones which might show a growth perspective
  - the IYF should use UNIDO legal framework as a support for reasons of clarity;
  - projects should meet specific criteria in order to receive funding
  - rules and incentives by which the different bodies and companies should contribute to the fund according to their field of action and each Country's specificity, should be set
  - the issues of corruption and mismanagement should be fought effectively;
13. *Invites* the creation of private-public partnerships as far as investments are concerned in order to strengthen the role of business and industry on encouraging youth to become competitive entrepreneurs, recalling the concepts of Social Responsibility and Sustainable Investment stated in Agenda 21;

14. *Further invites* towards the creation of business incubators at national levels, drawing on international experience and established best practices, tailored for a country's needs and conditions;

15. *Reminds* of the requests articulated by the ILO and International Financial Organizations to continue providing funds and assist developing and transitional countries in gaining capital from third parties for viable projects and integrated programs as well as supporting regional ones;

16. *Encourages* the implementation and spreading of microlending programs for supporting new and existing SMMEs;

17. *Recommends* national Parliaments of the ILO Members States to adopt new laws and regulations or to streamline and implement existing ones to determine conditions for more efficient access to establish new businesses by the youth;

18. *Suggests* the creation of new and more flexible contract forms and simplifying administrative procedures so as to limit the expansion of the informal sector, in the interest of both enterprises and workers;

19. *Encourages* the further development of the Global Knowledge Resource Project mentioned in the Alexandria Declaration of the Youth Employment Summit - YES and its transformation into one of the most reliable instruments to support innovative start-ups, acting as an essential contributor to bridging the information gap.