



## **Closing Statement by**

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Dear colleagues and distinguished guests,

Here we are five days later, at the end of this 18<sup>th</sup> Seminar.

### **What have we accomplished together?**

We have successfully managed to get you here, many of you from different responsibilities and backgrounds (e.g. ministries of employment, transport and works, environment, social development, reconstruction, also bridging the humanitarian development nexus).

We successfully were able to attract some 337 participants, 140 internationals covering 42 nationalities.

Over 50+ technical papers were submitted on very rich and diverse topics – all related to the ILO's EIIP approach.

We shared and learned from different experiences from gender empowerment, to appropriate technologies, to how to institutionalize these approaches; highlighting also the importance of assessing employment impacts on sectoral strategies and the work around refugees and host population, to be considered in fragile contexts.

We were able to visit three different sites which all demonstrated some aspect of Employment Intensive Investments (EII) / HIMO approaches – from appropriate technologies, the “ecole chantier” (on site training) model to different labour-based activities which demonstrate how these approaches can also be inclusive and productive. I would like to also



show our gratitude to the hosts for their thoughtfulness, in organizing the cultural and historical parts of the Site Visit.

### **What can we do in the future together?**

Speaking on behalf of the ILO, we are humbled to be able to continue to support and facilitate the work of EII / HIMO programmes. The ILO has ensured that we are not only supporting Government with the design of these programmes, but that we are also providing technical assistance to other agencies and development banks in the implementation of their programmes and capacity building of their staff.

The EIIP advocates for an approach that integrates decent work qualities, and ensures that:

- a certain level of quality of the assets and services are provided,
- that productivity and sustainable approaches are considered, and most importantly
- that decent work and that capacity development is being applied, with the involvement of communities – something I think you have witnessed all week from many of the excellent presentations that were given.

This is true not only in PWP designed as emergency programmes or under Social Protection schemes, but also as part of maintenance programmes through national investments in different sectoral strategies.

Together we can continue to design programmes and mobilize resources in support of strengthening your national and local institutions. ILO has been and is there for the long term, seeing that we have worked in many of your countries for several decades, when the demands arise.

### **The role of ILO as the Facilitator**

*With this 18<sup>th</sup> Seminar, we have actually been meeting now for some 29 years. The very first Seminar was made up of less than 10 ILO technical staff meeting in Mbeya, Tanzania in 1990.*



*Since then we have hosted the Seminar in many more countries. We started in North Africa for the first time with Egypt in 2000 at the 8<sup>th</sup> Seminar and with the French edition at the 15<sup>th</sup> Seminar in 2014 in Cameroun.*

*The Ministerial segment started in 2007 in South Africa, and this format has been kept up ever since. Durban, South Africa was my very first Seminar, although I know many of our EIIP experts have been attending these meetings for several decades now. Thank you to all those of you who have been involved with us and have engaged with us to keep these efforts going with the intention to share best practices. From 10 participants to over several hundred - this just demonstrates how much interest for labour-based and EII approaches has increased, and is being mainstreamed by many Governments.<sup>1</sup>*

As I mentioned in my Opening Speech, although we are confronting many challenges in the world of work. I truly believe that by working together in a more **coherent, integrated, cost-effective way**, ensuring that different agencies (both national and international) are not competing and duplicating the same efforts, we will be able to have a stronger impact where it is most needed, by those that need it the most.

Thanks once again to the hosts, the Government of Tunisia for the very warm hospitality and for the hard-working incredible staff that make up the Organizing Committee – could we ask them to stand up and give them a round of applause please.

I would also like to ask the Core EIIP staff to stand up, to acknowledge them, who have also been supporting this whole process in the background and my colleague working on Peace and Resilience.

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<sup>1</sup> This section was taken out due to time constraints.



Also a sincere thanks to the many familiar faces and long-time friends who are here with us. It is always delightful to meet up with old friends and to make new ones along the way, which only makes our EIIP Community of Practice and family stronger allowing us to share the good practices and to learn from each other, to ensure that we are making the most impact possible for the most remote vulnerable populations.

We looking forward to continuing this adventure with you and looking forward to joining you at the 19<sup>th</sup> Regional Seminar that we now know will be hosted in Rwanda! Join us then!

Many thanks.