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**“INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN THE CENTRAL THEME OF INDIA’S
PLANNED ECONOMY AND THIS MODEL CAN BE REPLICATED AND THE
CONCEPT OF INCLUSIVE GLOBALIZATION MUST TAKE FIRM ROOT,” SHRI
MALLIKARJUN KHARGE, MINISTER OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT TELLS THE
IBSA (INDIA-BRAZIL-SOUTH AFRICA) MEETING ORGANIZED BY ILO IN
GENEVA**

New Delhi: June 15, 2011

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Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Minister of Labour & Employment said that collaboration between the emerging economies through South-South Cooperation is going to be an important feature of global economic development in the present century. The coming together of India, Brazil and South Africa to forge a strong bond on common ideals and aspirations has been one of the defining moments in the recent years. He said that the Declaration of Intent signed by the three countries will promote social and economic development by providing increased impetus to mutual cooperation for achieving a fair and equitable world order through the Decent Work Agenda.

Shri Kharge expressed that Government of India can provide institutional support in the areas of Labour Policy, Occupational Safety and Health, Mines Safety and Skills Development. Government of India has developed a National Skill Policy in collaboration with ILO. India has launched National Policy on Safety Health and Environment at Workplace Policy as well as National Policy on HIV/AIDS in the World of Work.

He said that India can share our knowledge and experiences in the implementation of various schemes like the unique scheme of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the innovative scheme of Mid-Day Meals in the schools and the health insurance scheme of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana with the other countries.

Following is the Text of the Speech of Minister of Labour & Employment at the IBSA (India Brazil South Africa) Meeting organized by ILO on 14th June 2011:

Collaboration between the emerging economies through South-South Cooperation is going to be an important feature of global economic development in the present century. The coming together of India, Brazil and South Africa to forge a strong bond on common ideals and aspirations has been one of the defining moments in the recent years. India Brazil and South Africa although belonging to different continents have lot of commonality – inherently strong economy, having bountiful resources and a strong will to improve the living standards of the bulk of their population. To move towards this same shared vision, the concept of ILO’s Decent Work comes in very handy. Three great countries India, Brazil and South Africa have come together with ILO and signed the Declaration of Intent for furthering the Decent Work agenda not only in their country but also on an expanded canvas which covers other developing and low income countries.

The Declaration of Intent aims to promote social and economic development by providing increased impetus to mutual cooperation for achieving a fair and equitable world

order. The pillars of Decent Work aimed towards increasing employment, providing social cover and protecting the workers' rights is very much embedded into the development plans of countries like ours. Time has come for us to embark on the process of technical cooperation, sharing of best practices and progressive use of the facilities and expertise available in our respective countries. Inclusive development has been the central theme of Govt. of India's planned economy and we wish that this model is replicated and the concept of inclusive globalization takes firm root.

Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India can provide institutional support in the areas of Labour Policy, Occupational Safety and Health, Mines Safety and Skills Development. Government of India has in the recent past developed a National Skill Policy in collaboration with ILO. Government of India can share its expertise in this area. We also launched our National Policy on Safety Health and Environment at Workplace Policy and we are in the process of laying down a road map for its effective implementation. This area can be of much interest to the other developing countries. We have also launched National Policy on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work which is based on the policy of non-discrimination, protecting the rights of those infected and containing the spread of the disease. In the light of ILO Recommendation No. 200 on HIV/AIDS, other countries would like to learn about our experiences and best practices in this area.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provides for guaranteed employment of 100 days to adult members of the rural household. This is a unique scheme which has drawn interest in all parts of the world. We can share our knowledge of implementation of this scheme with the other countries.

Government of India has made Right to Education a fundamental right for its citizens. Under this, compulsory education is to be ensured for the children between the age of 6-14 years. We also have an innovative scheme of Mid-Day Meals in the schools which are running for quite a few years. We can share out experiences in this area with the other countries.

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana is a health insurance scheme which caters to our below poverty line workers and it takes care of the hospitalization expenses. More than 23 million families have been covered. This system runs on a state of the art – Smart Card. This scheme is one of the most innovative initiatives of Government of India. As health insurance is a priority for all developing countries, learning from our experiences may be quite useful.

To provide education to child labour rescued, we have a National Child Labour Project. These Projects are running in 250 districts each district is having around 50 such schools. We can share our experiences in this area with the other child labour endemic countries. We are working in the area of food security and on a future date can share our know-how with the other developing countries.

We also look forward to exchanging the first-hand knowledge of the various innovative social protection themes being followed in Brazil and South Africa. The coming together of our three countries along with ILO is a good beginning. However, we have to travel a long distance to give justice to the potential this collaboration has to offer. At this stage of global development, time has come for us not to blindly follow the economic model of the developed countries but to build up on our inherent strengths. I am not only hopeful but I have full faith in the strong bonds we share between the three countries and ILO and this will form the basis of a new era of cooperation which is built on the theme of Decent Work.

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