

COMMENTS OF MR. ERIC FRUMIN  
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Mr. Chairman:

The Trade Unions wish to recognize the conclusion in the Secretary General's report that implementation actions on Human Settlements offer substantial opportunities for job creation.

We further thank the Chairman for his decision to preserve this recognition in the matrix you have developed for this session. As Trade Unions, we have extensive experience with job creation, and with the problems arising from the creation of bad employment opportunities.

For several years, to assist governments, Major Groups and other stakeholders, the trade union have developed a detailed series of profiles on a comprehensive criteria affecting employment creation, such as ILO conventions, environment, health, gender as well as the themes emerging from the World Summit like water and sanitation. We offer these profiles again to all governments again this year.

We are also pleased to report that this year, we have expanded these profiles to cover the major multinational Multi-National Enterprises (MNE's) such as those in the FT Global 500, Global Compact, Global Reporting Initiative, etc. These new profiles allow all of us to both recognize good practices, and to focus new awareness on those MNE's which fail to comply with the principles they profess.

Such criteria are essential to assuring that the investments in enterprise and job creation is producing not just jobs, but good jobs. What are the qualities that characterize good jobs?

- stable employment relations
- living wages
- safe working conditions.

Absent such qualities, investments in both enterprise and job creations can produce unsustainable jobs.

For instance, the MNC banking corporation ABN AMRO is a signatory to the GC and GRI, and professes its loyalty to the goals of Agenda 21, etc., when it comes to its own employees. However, its investment policies have supported employees with horrendous working conditions.

My trade union represents workers at large-scale laundries that provide essential services to hospitals throughout the US and Canada. ABN AMRO has supplied extensive credit to

the largest employer in the laundry industry which has had accumulated a long record from the US Dept. of Labor of terrible violations of occupational safety and health standards.

Mr. Chairman, it is vital that investments be used for creating good jobs, not just jobs that fail to provide long-term solutions for human settlements.