The Arusha Statement

The 10th Regional Seminar for Labour-based Practitioners
13th – 17th October 2003
Arusha International Conference Centre, Arusha, Tanzania

Preamble

The 10th Regional Seminar for Labour-based Practitioners was held in Arusha, from 13th – 17th October 2003 under the theme “Labour-based Technology for Poverty Reduction.” The objectives were to:

- Investigate the true impact of labour-based technology on poverty
- Collate an evidence base
- Identify key ways in which the impact of labour-based technology on poverty can be maximised.

210 participants attended the seminar from 24 countries. Fourteen papers were presented and discussed in six sessions under the following sub-themes:

- Infrastructure provision through LBT
- Involvement of community and private sector
- Contracting and labour standards
- Policy and up-scaling of LBT

The paper presentations and discussions were complemented with field visits to labour-based (LB) activities, namely Sombetini Quarry, Unplanned settlements of Alinyanya/Sanare, Kijenge and Majengo areas, Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) sites – spot improvement of Tanganyika/Packers-Losinyai road and routine maintenance on Moshi-Arusha highway.

HAVING deliberated on pertinent issues on LBT for five days focusing on the following key issues:

- Impact
- Challenges and opportunities
- Sustainability
- Key strategic issues

RECOGNISING the potential of LBT in poverty reduction through provision of infrastructure and services, employment creation and income generation, with opportunities for involvement of community and private sector;

COGNISANT of the link between poverty, the high rate of unemployment and the poor access to infrastructure and services;

TAKING NOTE of the accumulated experiences and success stories of pilot LBT projects and programmes that have been reported in this and previous regional seminars and realising the need for furtherance of LBT vs. poverty reduction impact analysis understanding;
ENCOURAGED by the appreciation of the seminar participants of the contribution of these regional seminars in experience sharing, networking and sharing issues of common interest for further development and hence the desire to continue holding of these seminars, and the need for review, evaluation and diversification of LBT practices for enhanced impact;

APPRECIATING the technical and financial interventions of our development partners in promoting LBT, and their willingness to continue supporting these initiatives;

REALISING the little commitments by governments slow up scaling and mainstreaming of LBT in development interventions;

CONSCIOUS of the constraints, in terms of technical, financial, institutional framework, equipment and cultural issues that have been affecting the replication of LBT;

NOTING the resolve of governments to improve the livelihoods of their citizens as evidenced by the formulation of poverty reduction strategies and subsequent targeting at achievement of Millennium Development Goals;

The 10th Regional Seminar participants HEREBY RESOLVE to promote, maximise and mainstream the use of LBT in the provision of infrastructure and services to contribute to poverty reduction, through implementation of the following strategies:
Creation of Enabling Environment

**Policy:** Impress upon Governments to put in place/implement relevant policies that will guide the mainstreaming, diversifying and maximising the use of LBT and ensure sustainability of the same. The policies should clearly guide the deployment of local contractors and communities in LBT projects.

**Institutional framework:** Impress upon Governments the need to create institutions charged and resourced for policy operationalisation and monitoring. The institutions should facilitate speedier implementation of decentralisation of decision-making and resources management, and reduce bureaucracy as regard to LBT practices.

**Legislations:** Impress upon Governments to put in place appropriate, amend existing and enforce legislations that will guide procurement procedures that enhance the engagement of LBT, contracting of communities and labour/work standards.

**Contracts:** Advise the Governments to develop appropriate contract forms/ framework suitable for contracting LBT works taking into consideration special circumstances of the LBT stakeholders.

**Incentives:** Advise the Governments to remove disincentives or put in place incentive schemes that will promote/maximise the use of LBT. Disincentives to be removed may be in the form of tax favours that favour import of equipment over local manufacturing. Where the local capacity to manufacture is not in place, incentives schemes could include import tax exemption on LBT equipment, tax holidays, tax reductions.

**Capacity Building**

**Education and Training:** Impress upon relevant Government Ministries/Institutions of higher learning and other training institutions to introduce, use, integrate and mainstream LBT topics in their relevant programmes. This shall entail development/review of relevant curricula for LBT inclusion and developing tailor made courses for LBT practitioners at all levels.

**Research and Development:** Encourage and fund labour-based practitioners, research institutions and institutions of higher learning to embark on LBT research and development, and dissemination of research findings and proven technology promulgation of best practices.

**Awareness Raising/Advocacy:** Undertake to promote the benefits of LBT through lobbying, information dissemination, awareness campaigns on LBT practices to mobilise public opinion and civil society to demand for the same. The awareness and advocacy should also include analysis of barriers against LBT maximisation and mainstreaming.
Resource Allocation

Financial: Governments should put in place financing systems and encourage the participation of local financing institutions that will ensure sustainable access of funds by LBT practitioners. The system should embrace favourable credits/loans schemes, special funds for micro-enterprises, setting aside some percentage of major projects for LBT, etc.

Equipment: Governments through relevant departments should put in place a system of enabling local contractors to access equipment, such as establishing equipment hire schemes, including encouraging establishment of private equipment hire companies.

Linkages: Governments should be advised to put in place a mechanism of linking various projects and programmes related to poverty reduction to maximise their positive impacts thereby optimising resource utilisation. Linkages should also focus on enhancing networking, management and sharing of information.

Cross Cutting Issues

HIV/AIDs, Gender, Environment and Poverty: We call upon the Governments through their relevant departments and all stakeholders including civil society, to mainstream HIV/AIDs, gender, environmental and poverty issues in all LBT interventions.

Therefore, we call upon Governments, the donor community and other stakeholders to take steps to formulate a PLAN OF ACTION. We recommend the 11th Regional Seminar review the progress.