

**SPEECH OF
MR. ASHRAF W. TABANI, PRESIDENT EFP
ON THE OCCASION OF PRE-LAUNCH WORKSHOP ON GLOBAL COMPACT
27TH SEPTEMBER 2003**

- Respected Mr. Muhammad Javed Ashraf Hussain, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Industries & Production, Government of Pakistan
- Mr. J. Lokollo, Director ILO Islamabad,
- Mr. Onder Yucer, U.N. Resident Coordinator in Pakistan,
- Mr. Rajen Mehrotra, Senior Specialists on Employers' Activities for South Asia, ILO - India

Assalam-o-Laikum.

I want to most warmly welcome Federal Secretary Mr. Muhammad Javed Ashraf Hussain, to this Pre-launch Workshop on Global Compact. Our warm welcome also for Mr. Onder Yucer, U.N. Resident Coordinator in Pakistan and Mr. Rajen Mehrotra, Senior Specialists on Employers' Activities for South Asia, who has come all the way from Delhi to join us this morning.

The Employers' Federation of Pakistan is the apex body of employers in Pakistan, which is duly recognized by the Government of Pakistan, International Labour Organizations and other international agencies. Employers' Federation was founded and registered in 1950 with a mission to

"Strive for Industrial peace, Harmony, Poverty Reduction and Employment Generation and to pursue Policies and Legislation conducive to Investment, Economic Growth and Development of Pakistan."

The Federation remains in continuous consultation with:

The Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis on improving and revising of labour policies and legislation and now also with the Planning Commission, on the Government of Pakistan's, Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

The UN Secretary-General in a speech at the World Economic Forum first espoused the idea of Global Compact in 1999. He asked business leaders to contribute to a more sustainable and inclusive global market by embracing and implementing Nine universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour rights and environment.

In a meeting of a distinguished group of CEOs and high executives in New York the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan on July 26th 2000 formally launched the Global Compact. I was also invited along with the Private Sector Executives from all over the world.

Since the UN Secretary General's call to the world business community in the year 2000 for adopting the Global Compact, your Employers Federation has been closely working with the International Organization of Employers, the ILO office in Islamabad and the regional federation of employers for promoting the principles of Global Compact.

In fact EFP joined the Employers Organization of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Srilanka in passing a unanimous resolution at a joint study meeting of the South Asian Employers Organizations held at Dhaka Bangladesh on 16th October 2002 declaring its whole hearted support to the nine principles of Global Compact in pursuing the vision envisaged by the UN Security General for making globalization more inclusive, stable and equitable.

Employers Federation of Pakistan firmly believes that the nine principles of Global Compact define the new code of business and industrial relations in the 21st century in the wake of growing challenges of globalization. Of the 9 principles of Global Compact two relate to human rights, four relate to labour rights and three to environment.

We therefore find ourselves rightly poised to formally launch the global compact initiative for the Pakistani enterprises by organizing a one day workshop on Principles of Global Compact followed by a gathering of CEOs and heads of enterprises from the private & public sector to show their positive attitude towards the principles of Global Compact. This pre-launch workshop proposes to raise awareness and is meant to be an introduction for our members to understand the principles of the Compact by interacting with the experts who have kindly agreed to be with us here this morning.

We take this opportunity to specially mention the ILO office in Islamabad and Geneva, the multidisciplinary team at New Delhi, the UN Office at Islamabad, as well as the IOE for extending support to EFP in its efforts to promote the Global Compact in Pakistan. We wish to assure that EFP will strengthen the synergy being generated by the stakeholders including UNDP and ILO in preparing employers in Pakistan to rise and meet this challenge of Global Compact and to devise ways and means to define the use of these nine principles at the work place and in the communities around us. We hope it will help to improve our organizational performance as well as our national image. We may thus turn globalization from being a threat to our survival into an opportunity for achieving excellence in the comity of nations.

I once again thank Mr. Muhammad Javed Ashraf Hussain, and all distinguished guests who have travelled from all over Pakistan to participate in this programme today. I am also thankful to Mr. Onder Yucer, U.N. Resident Coordinator in Pakistan, Mr. Rajen Mehrotra, Senior Specialist on Employers' Activities for South Asia, for their active involvement and support for the program.

Our sincere thanks also to the officials of ILO who have traveled from Islamabad to be with us this morning. We are grateful to Mr. Lokollo for his continuous support and assistance for the achievement of mutual objectives of Employers' Federation and ILO.

Thank you for your attention.