

Visits to Nedlac

A highlight of the year under review was the visit by the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation, Juan Somavia, to Nedlac.

He gave the constituencies a strong message regarding the importance of putting job creation strategies at the heart of all Government policy making. "Employment cannot be the result of economic policies, it should be the objective", he told a meeting of Nedlac's Management Committee. He said that he was becoming increasingly worried that the present model of globalisation was incapable of producing jobs where the people are.

Paying Nedlac an enormous compliment, he said that if any country in the world was capable of solving this problem, it was South Africa, and if South Africa managed to do it, it would be because of Nedlac.

Mr Somavia's second challenge to South Africa was to pay more attention to the local sector of the economy. "South Africa will not create the jobs the country needs by just hooking into the global economy, you need to concentrate on the local", he said.

- At the request of the Department of Labour, Nedlac hosted a tripartite delegation from Ghana on 16 May, led by the Deputy Minister of Manpower and Employment.
- At the request of the ILO, Nedlac hosted a tripartite delegation from Nigeria on 22 May.
- There was a follow-up visit from a Tanzanian delegation in the first week of July. The group, which included representatives from the Government and the Business Council, studied Nedlac's model in detail. They proposed further interaction in future, beginning with an invite to visit them in Dar es Salaam.
- A group from Ditsela's Women's Group studies visited Nedlac on 25 June.
- Nedlac hosted the Portfolio Committee of Labour on 30 July
- There was a tripartite delegation from Japan which met the secretariat on 2 August 2002. (They met with constituencies separately).
- Ditsela brought another study group for a session on 18 September.
- There was a visit from a delegation from the IMF on 27 November. Discussion was largely around the transformation of the financial sector, black economic empowerment and the forthcoming growth and development summit
- S. Marchi, Chairman of the WTO General Council in 2002, Permanent Representative of Canada to the WTO and Ambassador E. Pérez Motta, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the WTO, Chairman of the WTO TRIPS Council, addressed a special meeting of the Trade and Industry Chamber on 6 March 2003.