

SOCIAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Report Seminar AICESIS-ILO

Members of the delegation:

- René Richardson, Chairman
- Gerard Richardson, Secretary

In the framework of the partnership between the International Labor Office (ILO) and the International Association of Social Economic Councils and related institutions (AICESIS), the Social Economic Council (SER) St. Maarten was invited by Council member of the AICESIS Social Economic Council Curacao to participate in the seminar in the Dominican Republic from November 10th to 11th 2011.

Mr. Monseñor Agripino Núñez Collado, Chairman of the SER Dominican Republic welcomes all the delegations from South America, Central America and the Caribbean Region and introduces the Panel members, Secretary General of the AICESIS, Mr. Patrick Venturini, the Director of the International Labor Office for Central America, Haiti, Panama and the Dominican Republic, Mr. Virgilio Levaggi and Dr. Iraima Capriles, Secretary General of the SER Dominican Republic.

The purpose of the meeting was to exchange experiences, information and features of the SERs in the region. Experts spoke about the 'social dialogue' among the SERs, local governments and the citizens. The organization of the seminar, also strived to exchange experiences, by giving various presentations, so as to ultimately develop the best practices for a number of national SERs and the ultimate contribution of AICESIS.

The SERs of Central and South America, in view of the population and social circumstances, are large in size. In Brazil, there is the Economic and Social Development Council (CDES), which is an advisory committee with the President of Brazil holding the position of Chairman of the Council. The Council is further comprised of 90 members who represent the social middle level (organizations, associations, entrepreneurs and social factions) and 17 Ministers of the Government. Within the SER Brazil, entrepreneurs, social factions and recognized political leaders work together on the development of Brazil.

In Brazil the relationship between the Government and the CDES is equal. In comparison with the other countries present at the seminar, there is no political division between the advisory organ and the Government in Brazil. This leads us to conclude that each country gives its own interpretation to the Social Economic Council. During the presentation of the Brazilian delegation this was also one of the most discussed points during the debate.



The Consejo Economico y Social (CES) is the name of the SER in the Dominican Republic. The legality of the CES is anchored in the constitution of the Dominican Republic. The legal position of the CES caught the eye of the St. Maarten delegation which brings us again to our previous conclusion; that each country gives its own interpretation to the Social Economic Council. The CES is comprised of 46 members; 1 Chairman, 1 Secretary-General, 26 employers' organizations, 11 Organizations from the community (primarily churches) and 7 trade union organizations.

In the Dominican Republic, it is notable that churches from part of the SER. While this phenomenon also occurs in other Latin American Countries, it is a new phenomenon for the SERs of St. Maarten, Aruba and Curacao. Especially in the countries of this region with many catholic churches.

During the seminar contact was established with the Secretary General of the AICESIS, Mr. Patrick Venturini. The International Association of Social Economic Councils and related institutions (AICESIS) is a new association in development. Established in 1999, it now consists of almost sixty members from four continents (Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe). The economic and social Councils are the Advisory institutions, which include organizations of Social partners and other stakeholders.

The delegations of Curacao and Aruba were also present at the discussions with AICESIS. Mr. Venturini welcomed the delegations and explains the purpose of the AICESIS. The purpose of the AICESIS is to exchange experiences and information through seminars, meetings and congresses among the members and to create and improve possible forms of cooperation. For the period 2011-2012, the Dominican Republic and Curacao form part of the Council of the AICESIS.

The delegation from St. Maarten explains a bit about the establishment and the current situation of the Social Economic Council St. Maarten. After the discussion had ended the delegation from St. Maarten asked about the possibilities of becoming a member of the AICESIS. Mr. Venturini explains the conditions for membership and indicates that St. Maarten should prepare its candidacy via AICESIS council member Curacao.

