Concluding remarks of Hon’ble LEM for the International Conference on South-South Cooperation – Innovations in Public Employment Programmes for Sustainable Inclusive Growth 01\textsuperscript{st}-03\textsuperscript{rd} March 2012, New Delhi (2\textsuperscript{nd} March 2012, 3:30 PM)

Hon’ble Ministers from various developing countries,  
ILO Regional Director Ms. Sachiko Yamamoto,  
Mr. Salazar, Executive Director ILO,  
Labour Ministers of various States,  
Ambassadors of various countries,  
Secretary (L&E), Dr. Mrutyunjay Sarangi,  
Representatives of UN bodies,  
Representatives of Central Trade Union Organizations and Employer bodies,  
Officials from various Central Ministries and State Governments,  
Friends from Media,  
Ladies & Gentlemen.

On the successful culmination of this two-day International Conference on South-South Cooperation, let us commit ourselves to further develop and promote South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation with ILO in order to contribute effectively towards the implementation of Decent Work Agenda. The four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda can only be achieved through building of partnerships and exchanging of experiences in the fields of Employment, Social Protection, Rights at Work and Social Dialogue. We look forward to enhance policy dialogue and exchanges between all countries of the South.

The technical knowhow and the expertise of ILO will play a crucial role in making this type of cooperation more effective. This workshop has been instrumental in better appreciating the range of policy issues relevant to the Public Employment Programmes, Employment Guarantees, Green Jobs and various Innovative Social Protection Schemes. I am sure this close interaction of developing countries will provide guidance for designing effective policies & programmes and lead to exchange of these experiences among the countries of the South. The larger goal remains fostering of greater solidarity and enhancing equality among the countries and the people in the world of work. Countries of the South have been successful in developing innovative solutions to the challenges of poverty and in bridging Decent Work Gaps. India’s Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), South Africa’s “Expanded Public Works Programme” and Brazil’s “Bolsa Familia” are some of the success stories in this direction.

This Conference has done the ground work towards broader support for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, helping to tailor these horizontal partnerships to a greater diversity of country contexts and needs. Such exchange of knowhow will support low income countries to strengthen their Social Protection Systems, Skill
Development Policies & Institutions. UN agencies like ILO and UNDP have also been very proactive in cementing the South-South cooperation as these initiatives will lead to job intensive recovery and creating a framework for sustainable growth.

I also hope that all of us in the near future will be looking at concrete avenues on how we can put the last two days rich discussions into action. This can take the form of MOUs between two or more countries.

Let me conclude by stating that this IBSA South-South Cooperation will lay the foundation of many such operative efforts in the coming days, bring people of our countries together and significantly contribute towards meeting the aspiration of our working class.

Thank you.

JAI HIND