

Better Work Nicaragua, Roundtable with US Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis.

Managua, July 27th 2010.

Honorable Secretary Solis
Ambassador
American officials
International buyers' representatives
ILO and IFC colleagues

I believe that your presence in Managua is a very positive sign for the hemispheric cooperation in the Americas.

To promote investment, and to support decent and productive work generation are crucial for the renovation of the old Pan-American ideals in a globalized world.

Honorable Ms. Solis we are here, in the land of your family, to listen to your thoughts -as US Labor Secretary- on the American support to a Better Work/Mejor Trabajo project in the textile sector of the Nicaraguan free trade zone.

As ILO Director for Central America, Haiti, Panama and the Dominican Republic I hope that the efforts that we are developing here could be expanded to the rest of the region. Improvements in national economic performances will help to strengthen democratic governance in countries where, 20 years ago, civil wars were daily reality.

Honorable Secretary we are listening to you.