



March 25, 2009

FIGHTING THE WORLDWIDE CRISIS
POSITION PAPER AND PROPOSALS
OF THE
CONFEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATIONS (CICA)

Whereas,

- ❖ CICA, the **Confederation of International Contractors' Associations**, through its regional member-federations, represents the Construction Industry at the world level, involving contractors of all sizes with a combined annual turnover of US\$ 4 trillion and a work force of 110 million people, from developing, emerging and developed countries;
- ❖ CICA stresses the fundamental impact of the Construction Industry on the economy at local, regional and global levels. The contribution of the Construction Industry to the world's GDP is estimated at 9 %. The impact on the world economy at large is much higher;
- ❖ Investments in adequate infrastructure, social housing and energy efficiency are vital to economic growth, mitigating energy issues, fighting poverty and improving health and well being of citizens.

Such investments contribute to the creation of jobs and provide well paid employment which has an immediate impact on the economy. The financial crisis that started in 2008 is impacting the entire world economy; it is the most severe crisis since 1929.

Notwithstanding that

- ➔ Governments worldwide are looking at rapidly increasing their investments in infrastructure, social housing and energy efficiency as an important component of economic stimulus;
- ➔ a number of countries have announced recovery plans or have already taken measures in order to counteract the economic crisis, relying notably on the Construction Industry;
- ➔ International Financial Institutions and other International Organizations have set up action plans parts of which are dedicated to infrastructure financing;



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Considering

the seriousness of the worldwide economic situation, CICA states that Construction, the driving force of most of the economies, is part of the solution and asks that

ACCELERATED AND PRACTICAL MEASURES ARE TAKEN

- 1.** Governments and International Financial Institutions have to urgently provide capital, guarantees, and investments in infrastructure & social housing in order to provide jobs and required infrastructure with lasting impact on sustainable development (including, among others, health, safety, environmental quality, and energy efficiency);
- 2.** Declarations of good intentions or political announcements have to be followed by the corresponding actions without further delay;
- 3.** Governments and International Financial Institutions should elaborate and implement emergency concrete action plans, such as :
 - 3.1.** using investment mechanisms that would allow rapid injection of the necessary resources for a sustainable worldwide investment in infrastructure and for the protection of the investments made in the past
 - 3.2.** deployment of priority projects, well adapted to the needs of the respective countries
 - 3.3.** accelerating preparation of designs and tender documents
 - 3.4.** reduction of the time required for calls for tender and alleviation of lengthy procedures
 - 3.5.** reducing the time taken to obtain public permits and certificates
 - 3.6.** implementing expedient contracting methods
 - 3.7.** promoting design and build, PFI contracts and/or other innovative forms of contracts (including relevant contractual guarantees), that could bring forward the start of the works
 - 3.8.** setting up simultaneously the necessary control mechanisms in order
 - 3.8.1.** to ensure quality, good governance, and ethical behavior of all stakeholders,
 - 3.8.2.** to take all measures for the preservation of the environment, (e.g. energy savings/mitigation of Green House Gas emissions).



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Therefore,

CICA and its Member Federations along with their National Federations and their Companies are ready to accompany Governments, International Financial Institutions and other International Organizations in order to contribute to the success of their plans;

CICA and its Member Federations along with their National Federations and their Companies are ready to make teams immediately available

- ❖ to contribute to the elaboration and implementation of the subsequent action plans;
- ❖ to collaborate actively in the definition and implementation of these policies.

