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Speech delivered by

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Respected Chair and distinguish participants, Greeting from BHARAT!

Today, once again, we have gathered here in high spirits to deliberate over challenges, opportunities and developments in the world of work. With its unique tripartite model, ILO, since 1919 is working with full commitment and sincerity in bringing Government, Employers and Workers together throughout the world to formulate labour standards towards promoting decent work for all women and men. Now, towards ILO centenary in 2019, we are discussing on “Effective Development Cooperation towards Sustainable Development Goal” where ILO has proposed, Decent Work agenda as universal goal to achieve SDGs.

Today, our world is confronted by serious issues such as inequality, forced displacement, unemployment, climate change, growing violence and other humanitarian crisis. Due to globalization, many people are living in places other their place of origin. Rapid economic integration over the last century has led to the development of supply and value chain model which has given birth to informality and global inequality crisis. The richest 1% now has more wealth than the rest of the world combined. Most studies have reported a fall in the labour income share since the 1980s. The possible cause of falling share is the shift in employment from labour-intensive to more capital-intensive sectors, where labour shares are lower. Amidst this, Fourth Industrial Revolution, with its focus on technological developments in robotics, artificial intelligence and genetics have brought new challenges to the labour market. Agriculture and rural economy which engages major workforce in many developing countries has experienced a decline in wages and productivity. Rise in harassment at workplace which not only includes physical attack but also include domestic violence, stalking, threats, harassment, bullying, emotional abuse, intimidation and other forms of conduct has been reported to create anxiety, fear, and a climate of distrust in the workplace.

We accept that the ultimate reason and enemy of all these problems are the decisions based on economic rationality and dehumanization of politics. The ultimate solution must be a revitalization and restoration of humanity. Therefore, it is imperative that we seek out a new way of thinking, a paradigm shift that will reach to the very foundation of human civilization.

A collection of 17 Sustainable Development Goals were set out by United Nations in 2015. One of the most important difference between MDGs and SDGs is SDGs were drafted with the inputs of civil society through survey to find priority areas of engagement. Most of the respondents were under thirty years of age and areas which were ranked highest for engagement were healthcare, job opportunities and education. It has been highlighted that:

“Millions have already engaged with, and will own, this Agenda. It is an Agenda of the people, by the people, and for the people—and this, we believe, will ensure its success. “

Another distinguishing feature of the SDGs as a people’s agenda is that they take a new approach based on the awareness that the issues facing us “are interrelated and call for integrated solutions.” There is no difference in developed and developing countries rather they are applicable to all. Agenda 2030 introduces a right based approach and in our context, promotion of labour based human rights that are enshrined in the ILO’s fundamental conventions.

Today, there is an urgent need to work in three dimensions: economic, social, environmental including integrated strategies for sustainable enterprises, skill development, social protection, health and social institutions. While talking about economic drivers, a large number of countries, including India have attempted to integrate SDGs with National policies. Here we would like to propose few essential economic drivers to shape SDGs; first a comprehensive **Technology Policy**, which can work in a multidimensional manner to provide vision for human sustainability instead of noticing short term benefits of technology. We recommend the appointment of technological commission and an ombudsman to understand the impact of technological changes. Second, while, looking at the thrust on employment generation and skill development, we suggest formulation of **National Employment Policy** which can work with a coordinated and concentrated vision to not only achieve employment goals but also to reap demographic dividend. It will draw plan and provision for balanced labour intensive industrial development of the country as well as vision for global linkages of our economy. Third, to overcome inequality and balance labour income share there is an urgent to work on a **Wage Policy** which can provide guidance on the criteria of fixing wages, component of wages as well as wage differentials. But at the grass root level still there in need of unity at local governments with the people’s agenda.

Another thing we would like to highlight is that moral compass is indispensable in addressing the global challenges. World need a fusion of ethics and policies. It is this fusion that can lead to a better & peaceful society. Not only is the promotion of SDGs important it is also important to measure the progress in which collection of data plays a critical role. SDGs require the role of multiple stakeholders to speed up its development. Capacity building, peer exchanges based on

multi stakeholder approach will not only mobilize resources but also create awareness among people on importance of achieving SDGs.

We, Trade unions have an important role to play. We are the organizations connected with the people working on ground and going through the impact of policies drafted at national and international level. If we see the composition of society, entire working population is part of workforce; their concerns are the concerns of Trade Unions. Therefore, it is our responsibility to create that awareness in society as well as in youth and align them with our agenda to bring out transformation. It is time for Trade unions to identify, plan and implement their roles under each SDG. Also, the success of accomplishing sustainable development goals also depends on how each one of us present here take it as our personal responsibility to work in its progress. It is important that we align our organization activities with these objectives and clearly work towards fulfilling them. To realize peace in the coming century, it is absolutely essential that we replace the traditional ascendancy of competing national interests with an international community dedicated to the welfare of the whole of humankind and Earth.

With this hope and vision, I would like to finish my speech, and wish everyone to work in greater solidarity than ever towards accomplishing 2030 agenda in next 12 years.

Thank you.

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