

**Speech in ILC plenary
Palais des Nations, Assembly Hall
18 June, 12:00-12.30 (max 5min intervention)**

Speaking points:

- First of all, allow me to congratulate the International Labour Organization on its Centenary.
- ILO's founding mandate is as relevant today as ever. Peace is never to be taken for granted. Easy to destroy, long to build. We need everybody to contribute to it and common rules to move forward. This is multilateralism.
- This is why the European Union has always been, and is, in essence a strong supporter of the ILO and of a rejuvenated United Nations altogether.
- The normative and supervisory role of the ILO is essential to us. I am proud to say that all EU Member States have ratified all ILO core standards (and many others). It is the first step to social justice. The European Union and its Member States also work really hard supporting the ILO, contributing to the adoption, ratification and implementation of labour standards worldwide and providing a significant financial effort to help the ILO fulfil its mandate.

- The Philadelphia Declaration, drafted more than 75 years ago, is as inspiring today as it was back then, and the 1998 and 2008 Declarations are key references for today. I'm sure this Conference will adopt a Declaration that will equip the ILO to serve tomorrow's world of work, world of justice and world of peace.
- We share a view that world of work is in transformation.
- Shaping the future of work is essential to the future of our societies. This we cannot achieve alone - locally, at national level. In Europe, we see the dynamics created by the European Pillar of Social Rights (proclaimed in 2017) as promising to ensure that everyone can enjoy the benefits of change - by supporting fair and well-functioning labour markets and social protection systems, promoting equal opportunities, inclusion and fair working conditions.
- With its report, the Global Commission on the future of work has made a key contribution to the design of strategies to shape the future of work we want, in Europe and everywhere. I want to congratulate its co-chairs and members for their inspiring recommendations.
- Building on this report, the world needs now a Centenary Declaration on the future of work that is ambitious and

shows the way forward. This Declaration is important to call everybody for action and contain concrete orientations to further promote social justice, achieve the 2030 SDGs, and strengthen multilateral governance.

- In view of our European experience, what do we think is important? We identified the following priorities:
 - Invest in skills.
 - Ensure safe and healthy conditions of work. Life and health are fundamental rights.
 - Provide labour protection and fair conditions of work in changing employment relationships
 - Organise access to social protection and support for all during transitions.
 - Reinvigorate social dialogue.
- The European Union and its Member states are making every effort to achieve an ambitious and inspiring Centenary Declaration in this Conference.
- There is one dimension I would like to highlight: Gender equality and equal opportunities. Gender equality not only has to be a key element of the Declaration - it needs a new impetus everywhere.

- Chair, we are hopeful that this Conference will adopt a Convention and a Recommendation that will put an end to violence and harassment at work. The EU and its Member States are engaging constructively to adopt an instrument that will make us all proud.
- I'm sure that at the end of this week, with our joint efforts, the ILO will be even fitter to serve in a changing world of work.
- Thank you.

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