



MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES

STATEMENT BY

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AT THE

**PLENARY SESSION OF THE
108TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE
(THE ILO CENTENARY : 1919-2019)**

“ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE, PROMOTING DECENT WORK”

ASSEMBLY HALL, PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

18 JUNE 2019 (TUESDAY)

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates.

Good morning.

Let me begin by congratulating you on your appointment to the important function of Chairperson of the 108th Session of the International Labour Conference.

2. The Future of Work Initiative is at the centre piece of the ILO Centenary Initiative. In January 2019, the Global Commission on the Future of Work published the 'Work for a Brighter Future' report. Malaysia fully supports the 'Work for a Brighter Future' report. The report is meant for tripartite partners, in particular the Governments to consider on new forms of work, the institutional ramifications of the changing nature of work, life-long learning, greater inclusivity and gender equality, the measurement of work and human well-being, and the role of universal social protection in a fair and just future of work. The report examines the driving forces changing the world of work, presents recommendations to address challenges arising from these changes, and calls for collective action to better prepare countries for the future of work; and

3. Malaysia strongly believe that a human-centred agenda for the future of work would be able to create better growth for our economy as well as better jobs and living environment for our people. The human-centred agenda consists of three pillars of action, increasing investments in people's capabilities, increasing investments in the institutions of work, increasing investment in decent and sustainable work.

4. On greening of economy, Malaysia has also started the shift towards environmental sustainability and aims to increase green jobs in our work force but this shift requires new types of jobs, skills and technology which form part and parcel of future of work. Malaysia also puts its focus on promoting green industries and jobs in the ASEAN countries and targets to create 250,000 green related jobs. In this regard, Malaysia together with

other ASEAN member states have agreed to issue a Joint Statement on Green Initiative. The said Joint Statement will also be circulated in this meeting.

5. Creating jobs for youth is another pressing challenge faced by Malaysia and at present our youth unemployment is at 10.5%. Our challenge is to increase youth employability by shaping policies, programs and projects that can help youth adapt nimbly to the constantly changing world it works. In this connection, the benefits of artificial intelligence and automation to youth through employability and venturing into businesses would steer economic growth and productivity contributions.

6. In a dialogue with technical and vocational education training (TVET) trainees at the Industrial Training Institute in Ipoh, Perak (my home town) last month, I asked the TVET trainees what their biggest concerns were.

7. To my surprise, several expressed concerns about whether machines will take over their jobs. It goes to show that more information on the importance of reskilling and up skilling needs to be provided. The government's new initiative is to give more focus; funding and attention to TVET based education to address the advent of IR4.0.

8. With that let me underline Malaysia's ambition to improve education and training standards, especially our technical and vocational education and training (*TVET*) to ensure we harness technology to its fullest potential. The future of work will require workers to pick up new skills while businesses use technology to become more productive and eventually more profitable.

9. The future of learning should consist of advanced standard curriculums which are developed on the basis of being industry-centric, based on job analysis, enterprise surveys as well as regional occupational skill standards that should be put online which facilitates self-learning and life-long learning and also becomes a valuable open source reference for TVET institutions.

10. Indeed, by thinking deeply about our future, we can seek to create a better future. This conference will enable all our stakeholders from around the world to come together to turn challenges into opportunities, concerns into action, and build a brighter future together.

11. Malaysia takes a stand against any practises of forced labour and will enforce the labour law strictly which are currently in the process of been amended. Malaysia will also start to be more inclusive with its Human Capital to include persons with disabilities and those who are retiring to be reintroduced into the workforce.

12. Malaysia also plans to increase the participation of women in the workforce through new initiatives that will support the agenda.

13. In the current global technological context the contractual differences of Master Servant relationship is blurred. In Malaysia we stress on win -win collaborative endeavour between Employers and Employees in line with ILO principles.

14. Malaysia believes that tripartism, workplace safety and health, and embracing technology for inclusive growth.

15. Recently Malaysia has also introduced the social security system for workers who have lost jobs. We call it the Employment Insurance System. It provides monetary benefits and job search assistance such as job placement and career counselling, thereby effectively preventing the workers from failing into poverty traps. Under this Employment Insurance System, private sector workers who lose their jobs due to automation or any other reasons are eligible to short-term financial payouts during their period of unemployment, provided they are actively seeking for a job and undergoing job skills training, as well as benefits when they secure a new job. In addition to financial aid, workers will also receive an allowance for job training to ensure they are updated with relevant skills for future of work.

- a. On the topic of Social Security, Malaysia has announced in principle its desire to extend it to 1.4 million housewives in the country and subsequently to all citizens of the country

16. Therefore, I congratulate the ILO on the 100 years of good work. I wish you continued success ahead.

Thank you.