

Speech ILC plenary by Dutch workers representative, Han Busker,  
president of FNV

Norm: 650 woorden voor 5 minuten

ILO 100 years- future of work

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Thank you chair.

As a representative of the workers delegation from the Netherlands I want to congratulate the ILO with its hundred years of active efforts fighting for Decent Work all over the world.

After 100 years, the ILO is still the authority for labour rights, social dialogue and social justice in the world, and therefore giving an important contribution to worldwide peace. As we see inequality, populism and xenophobia on the rise, many regions torn apart by conflict, and shrinking democratic space, we must ensure that the ILO will be as strong and ambitious entering its second centenary as it was 100 years ago.

We hope that starting this second century, we will be capable to make sure labour rights regulation is not bound by national borders, which means putting responsibility on transnational actors such as multinational companies to make this happen. Rules for responsible business conduct based on the ILO-norms are indispensable.

We welcome the recommendations of the Global Commission on the Future of Work. We think it has all the necessary elements for ILO's Future of Work Declaration debated right now at this conference. Globalization and technological change are creating new paths to prosperity but are also disrupting existing work arrangements and leading to more global inequality in wealth. This is a once in a generation opportunity to set rules for the global economy to work for all people and to shape the ILO Declaration with a new **social**

**contract** backed by a universal guarantee of rights for all workers.

We call for a renewed social contract underpinned by a guarantee based on universal respect for the fundamental labour rights including occupational health and safety; a minimum living wage, limits and influence on working hours for all workers including those in informal work. A new social contract that is based on these principles will ensure progress regarding the SDG's.

The best way to show that the ILO is alive and kicking is by showing the world that it is still relevant. Relevant because it addresses the current and hot issues that are important for workers today. Violence and harassment at work is unfortunately still a reality for many workers, female and male. Let's show the world that we want to put an end to this by agreeing together on a new convention.

**Why we should all agree on this convention?** The #metoo discussion has shown us that that sexual violence and harassment is very common, we can still not assume that a workplace is free from violence. 1 in 3 women in The Netherlands have experienced sexual harassment at work. And yet, there is no ILO instrument to tackle this problem. Violence that can have long term, even lifelong consequences for the victims. We hope that governments, employers and workers will rise to the occasion and adopt this important convention this year.

Finally, we thank the Director General for his annual Report on the Situation of Workers of the occupied Arab territories. We see with great worry how over the last few years this occupation has expanded and the Oslo Agreements have been called into question. Ever more settlements and ever less mobility of Palestinians will not bring peace. Overall, livelihoods on the Palestinian side are declining and the labour market is increasingly anaemic. The productive sectors have been hollowed out. In Gaza, unemployment among

youth and women is approaching universality. A third of West Bank household income is earned in Israel, involving timeconsuming travel every day and precarious working conditions. **We therefore strongly commend engagement of ILO in the promotion of Decent Work for the Palestinian workers.**

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