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Mr President of the Conference,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's a great honor for me to address this Plenary today as the International Labour organization commemorates its centenary. It's important not only to look at the past and what has been achieved during one hundred years but also to talk about the future we all want to have. Therefore, the future of work topic, as the flag of the ILO's centenary is very important for us.

In the context of the ILO centenary Lithuania has organized an international conference "Towards a Digitalized World of Work: What Future Works for All?". With the participation of the ILO, OECD, European Commission and other relevant international and regional organisations, different member states, social partners and other stakeholders, we believe the outcome of the discussions has well contributed to the discussions here in the Conference and we will have a strong Centenary Declaration on the future of work that will guide us during the next centenary towards a brighter future of work, overcoming challenges and using the given opportunities. Our collective efforts are crucial in combating poverty and decent work deficits by promoting fair and inclusive labour markets, adequate social protection and strong social dialogue, by actively participating in actions to further promote social justice.

Although the changes we are facing raises many challenges, at the same time it also provides opportunities to transform regular jobs and business models, including more flexible and independent work arrangements, improvement in skills and productivity. Harnessing the fullest potential of technological progress might help to achieve welfare

and development of our society, with access to its benefits made available for everybody. Our task is to turn challenges into opportunities ensuring that no one is left behind.

In doing so, we have to take into account that the changes we are facing will affect different groups of our society unevenly. One of the main challenges for future of work will be to reduce income inequality. Adequate and immediate policy actions are required to secure the most vulnerable groups in society and to promote their inclusiveness. Particular attention needs to be paid on a more equal and fair distribution of resources.

Gender equality is another key aspect that we have to take into account when developing our future policies. We must turn the moment of flux in labour markets into an opportunity to proactively entrench gender equality into the future. Now is the perfect time to attempt this. We should use this moment of change to empower all women and girls. We need to create policies that foster gender equality in the changing landscape of work, by providing women with the right skills, closing gender pay gap, supporting job transition and ensuring income security. In this context I believe that new international standard on violence and harassment in the world of work will contribute towards achieving these goals.

Talking about the future of work we must not forget that our societies are ageing and older workers should also be better included in the labour market in the context of the technological change. Our life expectancy is increasing, retirement age is extending. Therefore, we need to create sustainable labour market and pension policies to have more positive effects on our wellbeing at the old age.

Enabling the future that works for all is our common responsibility. We cannot achieve it all alone. We have to strengthen our cooperation not only nationally with relevant institutions, social partners and civil society, but also to cooperate with the regional partners that face similar challenges and to enhance the international organisations by creating our common commitments to effectively implement international standards and policies.

Dear colleagues,

Let me conclude by saying that if we want to turn the challenges we are facing into opportunities, efforts by all international, regional and national actors should be jointly directed to promote decent work and sustainable environment in the digital age. If we engage in active cooperation, the future is ours.

Thank you.

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