

**PLENARY ADDRESS BY  
THE HONOURABLE  
PEHIN DATO ABU BAKAR APONG  
MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Mr. President

Chairperson and Members of the Governing Body

Director-General of the International Labour Office

Honourable Ministers

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning/afternoon to you all.

First and foremost, I would like take this opportunity to convey my congratulations to Your Excellency, Jean-Jacques Elmiger on your election as President of the 108<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference.

I am confident that, under your guidance and leadership, this significant Centenary session of the International Labour Conference will build upon the invaluable outcomes of past sessions of the Conference as well as provide opportunities to exchange perspectives on the future of work.

Therefore, Mr. President,

I am pleased to join fellow constituents in congratulating the International Labour Organization in celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Centenary. It is during this momentous occasion that we also seize the opportunity to reflect on the nature, complexities and inspirations that can be garnered from the changing nature of work, its economic consequences and its potential impact on society.

I would like to take this opportunity to underscore the work of the ILO's Global Commission on the Future of Work and their landmark Report on "Work for a Brighter Future". The Global Commission report exceptionally calls for decisive action in anticipation of a future where technological advances and the greening of supply chains within economies will see a mismatch between the skills of now to the jobs needed for tomorrow.

For this, constituents are urged to advance and reaffirm their investment into approaches that enhance avenues for people development – such as

lifelong learning opportunities, supportive curriculums that foster active labour market participation and policies that strengthen social protection and gender-equality. We must continue to reduce disparities and nurture productivity by securing the core foundations of formalized work – including the protection of fair wages, occupational safety and health, working hours, and open dialogue.

Mr. President,

I am proud to share that lifelong learning and the upskilling and reskilling of our citizens is at the very heart of Brunei Darussalam's Vision 2035. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had called for the enhancement of skills development governance to address the challenges brought about by the fourth industrial revolution.

Today: our national education and training institutions are actively engaging with businesses to build curriculums that meet the future demands of industry, we are adapting syllabuses through our Centre for Capacity-Building to ensure job-seekers are marketable and employable, we are working to bridge graduate job-seekers to the job market through our JobCentre Brunei and the i-Ready Apprenticeship Programme. Ultimately, we are forging equitable and sustainable employment continuity through essential engagement between policy-makers and the

private sector to craft strategies that are multi-faceted, resolute and purposeful.

Therefore, Mr. President,

I am pleased to note that this year's Conference will be presented with a **Centenary Declaration** – which consolidates the long-standing tenets of the ILO, reflects on the report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work, and reinforces the important role that the ILO plays in the UN multilateral system and in forging the future of work.

In this Centenary session of the International Labour Conference, Mr. President, we would like to take this opportunity to commend the resiliency and fortitude of the Organization in continuously initiating platforms for discourse on global labour and employment inequalities. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to applaud the ILO's tireless commitment towards the pursuit of a decent, equitable and harmonious world of work for the years to come.

Thank you Mr. President.

***Time Limit: 5 minutes***