

Speech on 16th June, 2021
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Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

This is a unique Conference in the 100 years history of the ILO as first, and hope the last in virtual nature. The devastation that the pandemic has brought to the lives of millions of workers on the world of work is brutal, particularly for the millions of workers in the informal economy with precarious jobs and from the protection offered by social protection and labour laws.

In such a situation we want the ILO to take a leadership role to guide the way out of the Covid crisis towards a more sustainable and equitable world of work and the need for a new social contract to in the multilateral system, as the COVID has resulted in many human and labour rights' violations. The key role of Collective bargaining was in halt and on improving wages.

Vaccination is gaining speed in the global North but countries in the global South still cannot afford to purchase it. Inequality in access is leading to a growing global vaccination gap, which will inevitably increase economic and social inequality in the world of work. The racism and discrimination of migrants workers, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples, that have seen dramatic increases during the pandemic.

Digitalisation and technological change and growth have accelerated because of the crisis and must urgently be addressed, to prevent it to increase inequalities in the world of work.

There are clear risks and challenges in relation to wages, working conditions, contractual relations, social protection but if properly managed, may also be

opportunities with regard to work-life balance, cost effectiveness for business provided social dialogue and collective bargaining are taken essential to reduce these risks.

We strongly support a central role for the ILO in promoting policy Coherence in the multilateral system, based on the 4 pillars of the decent work agenda. We firmly believe that the pandemic has made it more urgent than ever to realize the mandate of the Philadelphia Declaration.

We salute to workers and trade unions of Myanmar, Belarus, the occupied Arab territories and Colombia are standing up for democracy, peace, workers' rights and freedom of association.

We welcome the analysis of the DG in his extremely worrying recent report on the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the urgent need to end the occupation if ever we want to see lasting peace in the Arab region.

We must now act to ensure universal social protection, address existing gaps in coverage, make contributory social security systems as more inclusive and ensure adequate social protection floors.

The Centenary Declaration is laying the foundation for such a new social contract, requiring tripartite concerted action to provide for decent work, shared prosperity and environmental sustainability. The Centenary Declaration reconfirmed the importance for the ILO to act, based on its unique tripartite and normative mandate. The human-centred approach must be firmly rooted in the concept that we must act on social justice to achieve peace and resilience.

The ILO should play a central role in assessing all international economic and financial policies and measures in light of its constitutional objective of social justice.