

**DEAR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE CONFERENCE,
DEAR DIRECTOR GENERAL,
AND DEAR DELEGATES,**

- I SALUTE YOU ON BEHALF OF THE TURKISH CONFEDERATION OF EMPLOYER ASSOCIATIONS AND MYSELF.
- I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN MY WORDS WITH MY THANKS TO ILO AND CONSTITUENTS FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE THIS CONFERENCE.

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

- IN 2019, WE ADOPTED “ILO CENTENARY DECLARATION FOR THE FUTURE OF WORK”.

- AND LAST YEAR, WE COMMITTED TO **“THE HUMAN CENTRED APPROACH FOR INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT RECOVERY”**.
- NOW, WE ARE EXPERIENCING AN EVER-ACCELERATED DIGITAL AND GREEN TRANSFORMATION AGENDA.
- HOWEVER, WE ARE ALSO IN A PERIOD OF A FRAGILE RECOVERY ENDANGERED BY UNFORTUNATE GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS.
- NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ARE INCREASING. WE EVEN START TO WORRY ABOUT FOOD SHORTAGES THAT WILL AFFECT THE WORLD.
- THESE ARE THE TIMES WHEN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION BECOMES EVEN MORE CRUCIAL.

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

- AS THE EMPLOYERS' DELEGATE OF TURKEY, I AM PROUD THAT WE TAKE ACTIONS IN LINE WITH THE ILO INITIATIVES, IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.
- DURING THE PANDEMIC, WE HAVE TAKEN ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT OUR WORKERS.
- WE HAVE SUSTAINED STRONG DIALOGUE WITH OUR GOVERNMENT AND TRADE UNION STAKEHOLDERS.
- AS A TOP PRIORITY, OUR MEMBER COMPANIES HAVE MANAGED TO MAINTAIN THEIR EMPLOYMENT LEVELS.

- WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED COMPREHENSIVE UPSKILLING AND RESKILLING PROGRAMS BASED ON THE NEED OF TRANSFORMING LABOUR MARKET.
- AS AN HISTORICAL CHANGE, OUR GOVERNMENT HAS REMOVED ALL TAXES ON THE MINIMUM WAGE LEVEL.
- WITH THIS ACHIEVEMENT, WE SUPPORT EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME LEVELS, THANKS TO OUR STRONG TRIPARTITE COOPERATION.

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

- THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS AFFECTED BY ANY CRISIS ARE INFORMAL WORKERS.

- AS STATED IN THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT, INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT RATE IS EXTREMELY HIGH WITH 90% IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.
- PREVENTION OF INFORMALITY IS VITAL TO CREATE PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND ENSURE "DECENT WORK FOR ALL".
- WOMEN AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SHOULD ALSO BE IN THE CORE OF RECOVERY AGENDA.
- WE BELIEVE THAT RECOVERY COULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY A HOLISTIC APPROACH.

- BRINGING TOGETHER GOVERNMENTS, EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS WILL CREATE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS.
- WITH THIS MANDATE, WE HAVE LAUNCHED NEW COLLABORATIVE ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET PROJECT.
- THIS PROJECT WILL PROVIDE YOUTH WITH SKILLS AND ENSURE THEIR EMPLOYMENT.
- WE ESTABLISHED “JOINT DIALOGUE FORUM” IN 2019 AS A LEADING EXAMPLE OF SOCIAL DIALOGUE.
- SINCE THEN, WE HAVE ORGANIZED THE EVENT EVERY YEAR DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY THE PANDEMIC.

- MR. GUY RYDER, MR. EROL KIRESEPI, MS. SHARAN BURROW, MS. RENATE HORNUNG-DRAUS, MR. ROBERTO SUAREZ SANTOS, MR. HEINZ KOLLER AND MR. OWEN TUDOR HAVE HONORED THIS EVENT.
- I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND INVITE THEM TO THE FOURTH FORUM IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

DEAR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

- ALTHOUGH NATIONAL EFFORTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT, WE NEED TO JOIN OUR FORCES TO TACKLE GLOBAL CHALLENGES.

- I AM SURE THAT OUTCOMES OF THIS CONFERENCE WILL GUIDE US TO A BETTER FUTURE.
- BEFORE CONCLUDING MY SPEECH, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MR GUY RYDER FOR HIS SERVICE SINCE 2012.
- AND I CONGRATULATE MR GILBERT HOUNGBO FOR HIS ELECTION AS THE NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL.
- I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO OUR MINISTER PROF DR VEDAT BİLGİN AND PRESIDENT OF TÜRK-İŞ MR ERGÜN ATALAY FOR THEIR CONTINUOUS COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT.
- FINALLY, THANKS TO ALL DELEGATES FOR THEIR VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.