



**The Honourable Tony Burke MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations  
Australian Government**

On behalf of the Australian Government, I am honoured to address the 110<sup>th</sup> meeting of the International Labour Conference. The Australian Government is a long-standing member of this important multilateral organisation, which is at the heart of the future of work.

I stand here as Australia's recently appointed Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, following a change in government only last month. I am proud that Australia will be represented at the ILO by a Government that is committed to achieving safe, secure and decent work for all.

The Australian Government is committed to advocating for and upholding international norms and has the utmost respect for the values of the multilateral system.

We are privileged to be working alongside our social partners and working with member states at the ILO to help make progressive and sustainable change on a global scale.

We have to continue to look at ways to strengthen our labour systems, because even as global catastrophes persist, over 3 billion people need to work. Each nation has its own unique labour challenges that require targeted and tailored responses.

For Australia's Government this means working towards secure work, better pay and a fairer system.

For secure work, we are putting job security at the heart of decision-making. Secure work means protecting those in the platform economy and standing up for casual workers.

For better pay, the Australian Government is committed to implementing a "same job, same pay" policy. Workers employed through labour hire companies will receive no less than workers employed directly.

For a fair system, we are committed to progressing action on gender equality. This means closing the gender pay gap. Women should not be paid less than men – it's that simple. It also means ensuring that women are safe and respected at work.

Finally, our Government will be a model employer, leading Australians by example.

It has never been more critical that we work together—as governments, employers and workers—to drive collective global action to ensure that no one is left behind.

Collective global action means acknowledging and addressing the unique challenges that faced the least developed countries in order to promote sustainable development and decent work practices in these regions.

We support the Director-General's comments that the ILO as a whole needs to draw our attention to capacity-building and policy development within less developed countries, to contribute to lasting structural transformation.

Our support for ILO member states extends to Australia's commitment to working more closely with our regional neighbours to strengthen our responses to labour challenges. We are really looking forward to discussing how our region can address these challenges at the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting in December later this year.

It is important that our efforts continue to be guided by the fundamental principles of the ILO and the Conventions and Recommendations of which our member states have developed over the course of a century.

We must work together in the face of challenges to the global rules-based order and stand with those whose rights are threatened or violated. Australia was proud to join over 45 other member states to stand in support of Ukraine at the Governing Body meeting in March this year. We continue to stand by Ukraine and will continue to support their involvement in the ILO and the global community.

Our government is committed to working together to forge a path for the future of work that contributes to decent work for all, and to contribute to an ILO that is responsive, collaborative and ambitious.

We will work together to ensure that no one is left behind. Delegates, we will work together to ensure that the future of work is fair and just for all.

Thank you for the opportunity Chair.