

Dear Mr Director General,
Distinguished delegates,

It is a privilege to attend this conference. The ILO is a true supporter of Moldova in strengthening decent work and advancing our country's labour agenda.

In these unprecedented times, I would like to start by expressing Moldova's full support to our friends and neighbours from Ukraine. We stand with you in these difficult times.

Since the outset of the war in Ukraine right at our country's border, Moldova received the highest number of refugee per capita compared to any other European country. We are committed to ensure refugees benefit from good quality social services and that they find a welcoming home in Moldova.

Moldova is a small country with a fragile economy. Besides the war in Ukraine, the Covid-19 crisis, the rising energy and food prices have all left a mark on our country. We are actively implementing solutions to address the high inflation, low employment, widespread informality, and the refugee crisis. Despite this challenging context, we are committed to tackle each of these challenges one by one while advancing decent work.

A new Strategy on employment, which we will launch shortly, sets out the roadmap for increasing the participation of women in the labour market, decreasing informality and better matching job seekers and employers. We are determined to promote labour force participation and more and better employment opportunities for all.

Minimum wages and pensions were raised so that the most vulnerable can be more resilient in face of rising prices. We are working toward a sustainable and equitable pension system, including equalizing the pension ages of men and women.

The labour inspectorate will be reformed and modernized to apply the law more effectively. We will improve controls and penalties to fight effectively against undeclared work.

Moldova continues to advance on our European path. We will continue the transposition of EU directives and advance our implementation of our Association Agreement with the EU.

After years of stagnation, social dialogue has intensified in the past year. Together with the ILO, we aim to further strengthen and reactivate social dialogue for a more effective participation of social partners.

The ILO has been a constant supporter of Moldova. Within the framework of the Decent Work country programme, we remain committed to sustainable development and cooperation with our partners to achieve good working conditions and decent work for everyone.

I thank you all.