

**RESPONSE BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT, KACHOLLOM
SHANGTI DAJU mni
TO THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF
THE GOVERNING BODY AND THE DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR
ORGANISATION**

The Director General of the ILO, Mr Guy Ryder
The President and vice-Presidents of the Conference
Excellencies and Heads of Delegations
Distinguished delegates and Observers present here
and connected online
Ladies and Gentlemen.

The report of the Director-General on The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) – Crisis, structural transformation and the Future of Work is very appropriate for our debate in view of the multiple implication of current global challenges. As in previous reports, the focus on LDCs is of concern to all as poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere. We thank and congratulate Mr Guy Ryder for the choice of this theme as his

last report and wish him success in his future endeavours.

2. Chairperson, the analysis of the character and challenges of the labour markets index of the 46 LDCs raise some concerns especially in the light of the impact and slow recovery progress of many economies after the pandemic. The volume of job losses and the established link between social justice and global peace should provoke honest debate at this conference. The wave of insecurity, terrorism, food scarcity, rising cost of energy, impact of COVID-19, among others should challenge our common humanity and shared international relations. These are consummate recipes for global socio-economic disruption and widening inequality. The ripple effect of the deteriorating situation in these 45 LDCs is capable of eroding the gains of the developing and developed economies. Our response should go beyond statistics and rhetoric to plans which will stimulate economic activities to generate decent jobs for the

teeming unemployed youth who yearn for dignified life.

3. Nigeria has over the years upheld the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda as well as the Strategic Objectives of the ILO by implementing different transformative Agenda and Visions to structurally transform and improve its economic productive capacities and outputs. This ultimately, is a bit to move the country on the path of sustainable development and economic growth. Currently the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (EGRP) of 2017-2020 is being rolled into National Development Plan 2021-2025 and it takes into cognisance achievements from preceding activities, programmes and projects with well defines key performance indicators as guide. We have entrepreneurial programmes and projects in the agricultural sector through various loan schemes that have created volumes of decent jobs. We also focused on several intervention programmes on social assistance and social protection to ensure the

non-erosion of the pre-COVID-19 gains on Social Protection Floors. These were to cushion the effect of the emerging global challenges listed in the DG's report.

4. Distinguished delegates, if LDCs are to proceed on the legitimate path of structural transformation, it would involve reengineering their productive capacity, recalibrating their institutional arrangement and reviewing their governance structure to transit to the league of developing countries. It will require increasing support and projects by international communities and multinational institutions (ILO inclusive) to assist the LDCs in the six key focus areas listed in para 25 of the report in addition adhering to the principles of country ownership emphasised in the Doha Programme of Action to transition.

5. Chairperson, unfortunately though, the ambitious centenary declaration of 2019 and the 2021 Global Call to Action for a human-centred

recovery from the COVID-19 crisis have no direct link to the LDCs. We request a review and reiterate our previous call for the need to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines reach the remotest part of the world by granting patent rights for production of vaccines to regions. Sadly too, the LDCs are mostly the regular members on the Committee of Experts on the Application of Standards. We advocate a review of this practice especially as it relates to the LDCs economic performance and development.

6. Finally, Chairperson, with the current state of growing inequality gap, we consider that the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 is at a great risk. If the goal of “**not leaving any one behind**” is ever to be realized, urgent effort, support and contribution will be required by all in a renewed commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation.

7. I thank you for your attention.