



Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Somalia to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland

Speech of Hon'ble Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Federal Government of Somalia
at the Plenary Session of the 110th International Labour Conference.

Read by:

Amb. Ebyan Mohamed Salah, Ambassador of the Federal Government of Somalia to
Switzerland and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva on behalf of
Minister Abdiwahab Ugas Hussein Ugas Khalif, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs.

President of the 110th ILC
Director General ILO,
Dignitaries
Ladies and gentlemen

First and foremost, please accept my warmest greetings on behalf of the Somali
government and people to you, Mr. President, and all the distinguished delegates present
at this conference. Before I continue giving out my remarks, allow me to congratulate the
incoming Director General, Mr. Gilbert Hounbo who is taking over from Mr. Guy Ryder.
We believe Mr. Gilbert will continue from where Ryder left. I would also like to extend
our appreciation to his predecessor, Mr. Guy Ryder for his able leadership in steering the
work of the ILO during his tenure and express to him our sincere best wishes in all for his
future endeavor.

Mr. President,

1. The Somali government has been committed as a member country of the ILO since
November 1960 to channeling all its efforts to advance a human-centered response,
including a recovery approach to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, the current dire
drought situation my country is facing and other recurrent shocks such as locust
infestation. Somalia continues to strengthen its response that addresses poverty,
engages in social dialogue, strengthens the institutions of work and supports social
justice despite the current situation that we are in.
2. Somalia is committed to the implementation of health and safety at work and is
among the first countries worldwide to ratify the new Violence and Harassment
Convention (C190), which is the first international standard that provides a common

framework to prevent, remedy, and eliminate violence and harassment in the workplace, including that which is gender-based.

3. In 2019, Somalia made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of Child Labor however there is a long way to go to eliminate Child Labour from my country. Many families are forced to send their children to work due to economic hardship and lack of decent employment opportunities for family heads. Currently, my office is working closely with ILO on the process of ratification of C138, a classic evidence that shows how committed we are on the elimination of Child Labor. I call upon ILO to continuously work with my country in developing a National Child Labor Policy that will finally help us be part of other countries willing to end Child Labor by 2025.
4. My country appreciates the way ILO has adapted itself to the emerging challenges and concerns in the world of work. Somalia is a fragile country, recovering from decades of civil war, and yet we are in the process of far-reaching economic reforms. We have recently developed the "Somalia Decent Work Country Program (DWCP) 2022-2025" jointly with ILO and the tripartite constituents. With gender equality, tripartism, social dialogue and institutional capacity building as mainstreamed issues, four priorities have been identified for Somalia's Decent Work Country Program: Promoting fair opportunities for decent jobs and skills development; Promoting social protection for all and social care to families; Strengthening institutions of work for effective labour administration; and Promoting social dialogue for protection of labour right.
5. We have recently built a National Employment Centre with the aim of opening up opportunities for unemployed youths to visit our hub and use th resources in applying for positions either in government or in the private sectors. In the next three years, we are aiming to establish model career centers across the country that will guide the youth of Somalia to employment opportunities and related career counseling. We are opening a door of opportunity for ILO to partner with my ministry in making it achievable in creating thousands of jobs to our youths.
6. Social security for all is the government's top priority in the coming years. Several initiatives by the government at large and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in particular are underway. While the government has made a number of efforts to provide services to the poor and vulnerable segments of society as part of social safety net programs, we have also taken steps to improve employability and encourage innovation and entrepreneurship. We are working on a comprehensive strategy to bring employment to the core of our development.
7. We look forward to the continued partnership with ILO to promote the objectives of decent work and sustainable development goals. I will conclude by wishing the conference participants every success in the important work they are doing here at the International Labour Conference.

I thank you for your attention!