

Esteemed President,

As Sweden's worker delegate, I would like to highlight the vital role of the ILO in contributing to a world where Decent Work, Equality and Peace are guiding stars in our tripartite work.

During the pandemic, we have seen how developing countries have been left behind, both in terms of vaccines and in efforts for transition when jobs disappear.

The 553 million that the Director General mentions in his report living in poverty, and the 215 million that are malnourished, must not be abandoned.

If we are to achieve the global goals by 2030 of putting an end to poverty, we must ensure good healthcare, good working conditions and education for all. The way out of poverty is through free education - no children should work!

At the same time, women's rights in working life have taken several steps backwards.

The pay gap between women and men is still wide, unemployment increases – and the first ones to lose their jobs are women.

So, efforts to increase gender equality in the global labor market must be intensified.

Today we also can see how a modern slave trade has emerged. With dreams of a more secure future people are exploited by unscrupulous, greedy employers.

We must create a labour market where all employees have the right to re-skilling and up-skilling and lifelong learning through their whole work life.

Therefore, the work achieved by the General Affairs Committee at this year's ILC, to include a safe and healthy work environment in the fundamental rights is of great importance.

Mr President,

In many countries today, trade union activists and workers are persecuted, imprisoned, and even killed. Belarus, Iran, Myanmar etcetera prevent free trade unions from representing workers. This must end!

On behalf of the Swedish Trade Union Confederation and the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees, I also want to express our profound solidarity with the workers in Palestine.

The Director General's report about the occupied territories demonstrates that the decent work deficit in Palestine is alarming.

Together with the global trade union movement we also strongly condemn the violence conducted by Israel. One recent example is the killing of the journalist Shireen Abu Akleh,

and where there are strong grounds to believe that she was shot to death by Israeli forces. An impartial investigation needs to be carried out urgently and perpetrators put to justice.

The occupation must end, the trade blockade of Gaza must be terminated, and the daily harassment of civilians must stop.

We believe that the Swedish government's recognition of the state of Palestine supports the progressive forces. Both in Palestine and in Israel.

We want to reaffirm our support to these forces and to a lasting solution in which Israel and Palestine live side by side in peace and security.

It is only when dialogue replaces violence that a just, two-state solution can be a reality.

Thank you!

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