

Speech of Kassahun Follo Amenu (ETHIOPIA, Workers delegate)

Mr President

Distinguished Delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to deliver a speech at this annual tripartite global labour parliament on behalf of the Ethiopian working community and on my behalf. This year's international labour conference is a special gathering as it is being held on a hybrid modality amid the on-going COVID-19 crisis around the world. The conference will obviously give us all the opportunity to discuss a number of issues of critical importance to the world of work as well as other contemporary challenges manifesting themselves in various social, economic forms.

Mr President:

Permit me to congratulate Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo the Director General-elect being the first African to that has been given the mandate to preside over the International Labour Office since the establishment of the ILO in 1919. You are assured of the support of the Ethiopian working population in this forward march and we wish you a very successfully tenure.

Also, I would like to express our deepest thanks and gratitude to Mr. Guy Ryder, the outgoing Director-General of the ILO, for his wonderful and unforgettable leadership, particularly during the last stage of his mandate, which has been very difficult as the world continues to grapple with the tragedies of the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate change. As the first trade union leader ever to assume this high office, you deserve for all of us the spontaneous praises and high acclaims you are receiving in recognition for a job superbly done. You have made history in the ILO by leaving behind you records of prosperity.

Allow me to express my gratitude for the decision of the ILO Governing Body to put Occupational Safety and Health on the agenda of the ILC.

This is a further testimony that our tripartite organization is living up to its constitutional mandate. I am convinced that the outcome of the tripartite discussion on this subject will ultimately lead to the inclusion of occupational safety and health in the list of core labour standards. Thus, our ability to negotiate and reach consensus on this issue will strengthen our resolve to achieve a safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental right for the benefit of all.

Finally I would like to reaffirm my organization's to the pursuit of the goals of the decent work agenda through our sustained advocacy campaigns for the ratification and application of some key ILO Conventions, the establishment of a minimum wage system to protect vulnerable and marginalized workers against poverty and wage inequality, the extension of labour protection and social protection coverage for all.. It is my organization's strong belief that the outcomes of this conference will certainly contribute towards enabling our global organization to effectively address the existing daunting challenges faced by the today's world of work to advance social justice and promote decent work for all.

I Thank You .