



Remarks

by

Mr. Dwayne Woods

Acting President

National Congress of Trade Unions Bahamas

at the

110th Session of the International Labour Conference

Geneva, Switzerland

June 2022

On behalf of the National Congress of Trade Unions Bahamas, I congratulate you, Mr. President and your Vice-Presidents on your election as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, of this 110th Conference. I am certain that colleague Ministers will agree that under your able leadership, we anticipate a most productive session.

Additionally on behalf of the social Partners and the People of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the Director General of the International Labour Organization for the role he has played in ensuring that the collaboration with Caribbean Office of the ILO and the Bahamian Social Partners met the goals and objectives over the past twenty four months.

I wish to advise that the spirit contained in ILO Convention 144, "Tripartite Consultations to Promote the Implementation of International Labour Standards", is alive and well in the Bahamas. Delegates at this meeting would be pleased to know that on December 6, 2021 the Government of the Bahamas, in conjunction with the Social Partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Caribbean office to formally launch the Second Generation Bahamas Decent Work Country Program 2021 – 2026.

This historic document that is available on the ILO Website sets out, the common commitment of the Government of The Bahamas, workers, employers' organizations and the ILO to promote Decent Work. This historic signing signifies the Government's commitment to social dialogue, and our steadfast desire to work with our social partners in national development.

Mr. President and Distinguished Vice-Presidents, since we met last the Government of the Bahamas in collaboration with the Social Partners has formally adopted a National Child Labour

Policy and just last week our Minister of Labour & Immigration the Hon. Keith Bell participated in the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in South Africa. The attendance at that Conference is an indication of my country's commitment to the Regional Initiative of Latin America and the Caribbean, Free of Child Labour and to work with the ILO in its' quest of eliminating child labour and the worst forms of child labour by 2025.

Mr. President and Distinguished Vice-Presidents

I am proud to report that prior to the September 16th General Elections in the Bahamas the Joint Trade Union Movement signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Progressive Liberal Party thus making a public commitment to support the political party that demonstrated its support to the working people of the Bahamas.

We, in the Bahamas look forward to a deepening of the excellent relationship with Caribbean Office of the ILO. We work collaboratively to accomplish the goals set before us. To this end I am pleased to announce that The Bahamas Government, after recommendations of the National Tripartite Council is poised to increase the National Minimum Wage.

In closing Mr. Director General, on behalf of the Joint Trade Union Movement and the People of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, I join other Caribbean States in thanking you for selecting Mr. Dennis Zulu to lead the Team at the Caribbean Sub-Office of the ILO.

God Bless the ILO and God Bless the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.