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Plenary sitting: Inaugural Forum of the Global Coalition for Social Justice

Contents

	Page
Opening of the inaugural Forum	3
Thematic Dialogue: Building the resilience of societies	5
Thematic Dialogue: Improving the coherence between economic and social policies.....	11
Thematic Dialogue: Fostering social dialogue for shared prosperity	18
Official closing	25

Thursday, 13 June 2024

President: Mr Buzu

Opening of the inaugural Forum

- Address by Mr Gilbert F. Houngbo, ILO Director-General and Co-Chair of the Coordinating Group
- Address by Mr Luiz Marinho, Minister of Labour and Employment of Brazil, representing the Government of Brazil as Co-Chair of the Coordinating Group
- Address by Mr Ramchandra Paudel, President of Nepal

The President of the Conference welcomed participants to the inaugural Forum of the Global Coalition for Social Justice. The Forum consisted of three thematic dialogues, each with a Partners' Conversation and a Partners' Spotlight led by two renowned moderators. Keynote speeches would be given by President Ramchandra Paudel of Nepal and President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil. With over 1,200 participants, the Forum would hold its conversations between two alternating meeting rooms, with participants in the secondary room following the proceedings on screens. He emphasized the importance of the programme for partners to share their perspectives, experiences and priorities to align with the Coalition's objectives.

Mr Houngbo warmly welcomed all participants. The inaugural Forum marked a significant milestone following the establishment of the Global Coalition for Social Justice by the ILO Governing Body. He expressed deep appreciation for the commitment shown by nearly 300 partners representing governments, employers' and workers' organizations, United Nations (UN) agencies, regional bodies, non-governmental organizations, businesses and academics. The Coalition was a space for dialogue, action and advocacy, with a key role in advancing social justice worldwide.

Since the Coalition's inception, partners had participated actively in thematic discussions aimed at translating debates into actionable initiatives. At the Forum, partners were poised to showcase their commitments to building resilient societies, enhancing coherence between economic and social policies, and fostering social dialogue for shared prosperity. He expressed hope that those commitments would inspire collaborative actions to realize the Coalition's goals. Looking forward, he stressed the need to elevate social justice on national, regional and global agendas, affirming the Forum's role in guiding the Coalition's trajectory towards meaningful impact. He concluded by calling for collective efforts in dialogue, collaboration and action to transform the world for the better.

Mr Marinho underscored Brazil's steadfast commitment to social justice and the promotion of decent work for all, a commitment reaffirmed and strengthened in 2024 through targeted actions. The country demonstrated unwavering support for the fundamental principles and rights at work advocated by the ILO, and President Lula's personal presence at the Forum was a symbol of Brazil's deep-rooted dedication. Brazil took a proactive stance in driving forward the Coalition's agenda, which focused on human-centred approaches and inclusive development.

Global challenges included the profound impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rapid evolution of the digital economy, and the urgent environmental crises, including the catastrophic floods in Brazil's Rio Grande do Sul region. Brazil was undertaking extensive efforts, under President Lula's leadership, to mitigate those challenges, including substantial financial investments to aid affected communities and support businesses in the region. In the

context of Brazil's current presidency of the G20, it was advocating for fair and inclusive economic policies, particularly focusing on the regulation of the digital economy, equitable distribution of the benefits of technology, and environmental sustainability. Brazil's agenda within the G20 aligned closely with its commitments to the Global Coalition for Social Justice, aiming to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Looking ahead, he expressed optimism about the potential of the Global Coalition for Social Justice to advance the Decent Work Agenda and accelerate progress towards the SDGs. Brazil was committed to eliminating child labour and forced labour, promoting gender equality, and fostering fair and inclusive economies. It also took an active role in advocating for reform of international governance and regional balance within the ILO and other international bodies. In addition to Brazil's contributions through South-South and Triangular Cooperation with the ILO, social dialogue played a critical role in achieving comprehensive social justice and promoting decent work globally.

He concluded by reaffirming Brazil's openness to dialogue and collaboration with all stakeholders, underscoring the importance of collective action in prioritizing decent work and human well-being on a global scale.

Mr Hounghbo warmly welcomed the President of Nepal, noting that throughout his long political career, the President had always been a strong and an ardent advocate of social justice, fairness and democratic participation. His unwavering commitment to democracy and social values had meant that he had even been sentenced by an authoritarian regime to many long years of imprisonment. Thanks to the people's movement, to which President Paudel belonged, Nepal was now a federal democratic republic. The Constitution of Nepal expressed a strong determination to creating a balanced society on the basis of the principle of social justice.

He commended the country's efforts in ensuring safe labour migration through bilateral agreements in cooperation with the ILO. Furthermore, Nepal had become a pathfinder country of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, as well as a member of the Global Coalition for Social Justice, which demonstrated the country's dedication to promoting social justice in Nepal and beyond.

Mr Paudel congratulated the ILO on the inauguration of the Global Coalition for Social Justice and expressed his gratitude for having been invited as a keynote speaker. A century ago, the ILO had been created based on the premise that universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice. The ILO still stood firmly on the foundation of social dialogue and tripartite cooperation. The rapidly changing labour market demanded new skills, technologies, and creative ways of working across various sectors, including industrial production, service sectors, IT-based banking services, and artificial intelligence. There was therefore a need for adaptability and innovative work styles to accommodate those changes and implement the Decent Work Agenda.

Nepal's constitution embraced provisions on social justice, such as equal rights, opportunities and treatment, which aligned with the core values of the ILO. He expressed Nepal's dedication to social justice by participating in the Global Coalition for Social Justice and reaffirming faith in multilateralism. He stressed the importance of climate justice, noting the severe impacts of climate change on Nepal, despite its negligible contribution to carbon emissions. The retreat of glaciers in the Himalayas had had adverse effects on drinking water, agriculture, biodiversity and public health, pushing many into marginal poverty and exacerbating inequality. He subsequently called for adequate funding, compensation and the necessary technology to be provided to countries affected by climate change, emphasizing the

responsibility of major emitters. He also highlighted the misallocation of resources towards weapons instead of development, and urged the international community to focus on shared prosperity and global brotherhood for sustainable peace.

In Nepal's transition to a federal democratic republic, labour rights, the right to employment, the right to form trade unions, and the right to participate in collective bargaining had been enshrined in the constitution. Legal and institutional arrangements, such as the Labour Act, the Trade Union Act, the Employment Rights Act, the Contribution-Based Social Security Act, and the National Employment Policy, had been established to implement those provisions. Recently, the Government had announced the "Shramadan" plan to create employment within Nepal. He appealed to all countries to treat migrant workers with respect and adhere to the principle of decent work, and affirmed Nepal's active engagement in the Alliance 8.7 against child labour, forced labour and modern slavery, and its role as a pathfinder country for the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions. He highlighted the implementation of the Decent Work Country Programme 2023–2027 in Nepal, whose three pillars were employment, rights and social dialogue.

In conclusion, he expressed his belief that the Global Coalition for Social Justice would continuously inspire collective efforts through social dialogue to achieve social harmony, tolerance, economic development and prosperity. He reiterated the importance of ensuring that a fair share of the fruits of labour reached the hands of workers, which was the essence of social justice.

Thematic Dialogue: Building the resilience of societies

(a) Partners' Conversation

Moderator

- Ms Femi Oke

Panellists

- Ms Marina Elvira Calderone, Minister of Labour and Social Policies, Italy
- Mr Syed Hussain Syed Husman, President, Malaysian Employers' Federation (MEF)
- Ms Zingiswa Losi, President, Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)
- Mr José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Mr Adama Mariko, Secretary-General, Finance in Common

The moderator introduced the first Thematic Dialogue, entitled "Building the resilience of societies", noting that the Global Coalition for Social Justice, although only seven months old, held significant potential for addressing social justice deficits, implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and ensuring decent work for all.

Ms Calderone, as a representative of the country holding the G7 presidency, emphasized the responsibility they had to promote concrete, innovative and sustainable initiatives to address global challenges. It was important to understand their role, particularly in ensuring protection during real emergencies, such as addressing inequalities, protection gaps, and the exploitation of labour, including child labour, and of supporting the Global Coalition for Social

Justice on those themes. At their meeting in Cagliari in September 2024, G7 labour ministers would emphasize their support for the Coalition and adopt a declaration. Social dialogue was a key element of the Coalition, which supported transition processes in advanced, emerging and developing economies to ensure decent working conditions, improve lifelong learning and promote occupational safety and health. The Italian Government encouraged all countries to ratify ILO Conventions and support the capacity and representativeness of employers' and workers' organizations. There was a need to protect workers during technological, ecological and demographic transitions, which would significantly change societies and create new opportunities and risks. She concluded by stressing the importance of creating comprehensive guarantees and extending collaborative work on the implementation of the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

Mr Syed Husman stated that Malaysia was an economically sound country. The current Government's main emphasis, as highlighted by the Prime Minister, was on integrity, trust and care for its citizens, ensuring no one was left behind. Malaysia had implemented many social policies to benefit its citizens. One significant success was the introduction of the Social Security Organization, initially covering the formal sector. Recognizing the growing informal economy, plans had been implemented to include it in the social security scheme. The scheme required employers to pay 1.75 per cent of the basic salary while employees paid only 0.25 per cent. It provided 24-hour coverage for any accidents or injuries requiring hospitalization and medical care. The Government had also agreed to cover the substantial foreign labour workforce. To address the lack of coverage for housewives and househusbands, the Government had introduced a scheme to provide them with coverage, recognizing their contributions to the economy. The inclusive national policy ensured that every working person in the country was covered by insurance, reflecting true social justice. Those actions had significantly benefited the economy, as a stable family environment led to better performance in organizations.

Ms Losi, speaking on behalf of workers, emphasized the importance of practical measures to ensure adequate participation of workers across all sectors when championing a just and inclusive transition. No transition could succeed without workers and trade unions, and sector-wide opportunities for upskilling and reskilling were needed to prevent anyone from being left behind. Intentional efforts must address unemployment and underemployment through targeted opportunities. Localization should be an entry point for economic growth, including investments in emerging sectors, local manufacturing, and job creation in construction sectors. Communities and workers were equally affected by a just transition, and there must be sufficient investment in social ownership, social protection, and ensuring households were not disadvantaged. Social compacts and partnerships between government, workers and employers were important to ensure a just transition across all sectors, especially in energy, manufacturing, agriculture and related sectors. Workers whose jobs were directly and indirectly affected by transitions, including those in value chains and host communities, must be taken into account to prevent negative economic impacts such as ghost towns. Particular attention must be paid to women, youth, persons with disabilities and rural residents in discussions and actions related to a just transition and social justice.

Ms Calderone emphasized the importance of managing transitions to avoid worsening inequality and further weakening vulnerable workers. All countries faced the challenge of ensuring that progress was coupled with guarantees and protections, especially concerning people's rights.

Mr Salazar-Xirinachs noted that ECLAC had recently joined the Global Coalition and underscored the Coalition's crucial significance. Latin America and the Caribbean faced a number of economic challenges, including alarmingly low average economic growth of 0.8 per

cent over the past decade, contrasted with much higher growth rates in previous decades. There was an urgent need for productive transformation policies to stimulate growth and create jobs. Low economic growth impeded efforts to reduce poverty, informality and inequality, and to finance social policies for social justice. He stressed the importance of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, which was achievable through policies fostering governance, social dialogue and collaboration across sectors. Successful approaches included cluster initiatives bringing together the private sector, public institutions and academia to enhance productivity and job creation. In addition to low economic growth, two further traps in the region were inequality and weak governance. Addressing those challenges collectively could catalyse transformative growth and social justice.

Mr Mariko expressed his excitement about the formation of the Global Coalition, which had potential as a powerful instrument for promoting social justice. Development banks should support its work in the long term. There were approximately 530 public development banks worldwide, but only 10 per cent had an international mandate as international financial institutions. The remaining 90 per cent operated nationally, serving as intermediaries between government fiscal policies and economic investments. Collectively, those banks managed assets totalling US\$23 trillion and invested \$US2.5 trillion annually across various economies. The banks could play a significant role in supporting social transitions and promoting social justice, particularly through financing the SDGs and integrating social perspectives into national climate strategies. Examples were countries such as South Africa and others involved in the Finance in Common coalition, where banks were actively engaged in policy dialogues and funding social protection and disaster risk reduction programmes. It was important for public development banks to share knowledge and best practices to strengthen social protection programmes and reduce social inequalities. They had an important role in investing in infrastructure and utilities while considering social impacts and addressing inequalities. He advocated for continued investment in social safety nets, particularly during economic shocks such as the COVID-19 crisis, and noted the counter-cyclical role that public development banks played in reducing inequalities and societal fractures.

Mr Salazar-Xirinachs acknowledged the critical role of finance within the Coalition. An important conversation was taking place within the UN about the inadequacies of the financial system in meeting the SDGs and addressing climate issues. There was a significant gap in financial support despite the importance of social dialogue and well-designed public policies. Without robust financial resources, even the best-laid plans might falter.

The moderator asked panellists to conclude with one word or sentence on how they envisioned collaboration within the Coalition.

Mr Mariko expressed the usefulness of creating awareness through the Coalition ecosystem.

Mr Salazar-Xirinachs acknowledged that the Coalition was still young and needed to establish effective working methods and operational procedures to ensure transformative impact.

Ms Losi stressed the critical role of social dialogue, transparency and worker inclusion in economic growth and development.

Mr Syed Husman highlighted the commitment of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) to social justice through dialogue, collaboration and learning from both strengths and weaknesses.

Ms Calderone emphasized the importance of human capital and skills development according to a rationale of social dialogue, which also created the ground for protection for everyone, starting with the promotion of quality collective bargaining.

The moderator concluded by thanking for their significant contributions to the inaugural Forum of the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

(b) Partners' Spotlight

Moderator

- Ms Femi Oke

Speakers

- Mr Adama Kamara, Minister of Employment and Social Protection, Côte d'Ivoire
- Mr Pasi Hellman, Undersecretary of State, Development Policy, Finland
- Mr Michal Mlynár, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Acting Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- Mr Joel Hernández García, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Mexico
- Mr Jung Sik Lee, Minister of Employment and Labour, Republic of Korea

The moderator introduced the Partners' Spotlight of the Thematic Dialogue on "Building the resilience of societies", which gave partners of the Global Coalition a platform to showcase their contributions to social justice.

Mr Kamara expressed his delight at participating in the event dedicated to promoting social justice and resilience in societies, which was aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. President Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire was committed to those goals, and the country played an active role within the Global Coalition for Social Justice. Recent achievements contributing to social justice included the implementation of various government policies aimed at creating sustainable and protective employment opportunities, and significant steps to enhance working conditions and increase incomes, including the establishment of social safety nets benefiting over 200,000 disadvantaged households. Over 13 million people were registered for universal health coverage and the aim was to increase the figure to 20 million by the end of 2024. From 2022 to 2024, focused efforts had targeted poverty and precarity, particularly in the northern border regions, alongside initiatives to empower jobseekers with necessary skills. In addition, the Government had established robust support systems, including unemployment benefits, housing assistance and retirement provisions, ensuring comprehensive support throughout citizens' lives. He called upon all stakeholders to unite their efforts in building a resilient and sustainable future for all generations to come.

Mr Hellman thanked Mr Hounbo for his leadership in prioritizing social justice globally. Finland was committed to contributing actively to the preparations for the World Social Summit in 2025 and recognized the significant potential of the Global Coalition on Social Justice to contribute to it. Finland supported the Coalition's objectives and efforts. There was a critical need for resilience in societies facing increasing global turbulence. Progress on the SDGs had been insufficient and uneven, hence bold action was urgently needed to enhance the well-being of populations, particularly women, girls, young people and vulnerable groups. Finland

advocated for decent work, inclusive labour markets, universal access to health and social services, and social protection as essential strategies to combat poverty and discrimination. The country was committed to sustainable development through a comprehensive approach involving the entire government and society. The “economy of well-being” approach integrated economic, social and ecological dimensions into all political decision-making processes, both domestically and in foreign and development policies. Finland supported the ILO’s Trade for Decent Work Programme in Africa. The country focused on fostering innovation, including technological and social innovations. Policy coherence within the UN and the multilateral system was crucial to promote social justice and decent work effectively, which required cross-governmental strategies. It was time to adapt the social contract to current realities and build resilient economies that fostered inclusive and sustainable well-being within planetary boundaries.

Mr Mlynár commended the ILO for the important initiative. UN-Habitat was collaborating with the ILO on crucial social justice policies, particularly within urban areas, where over 50 per cent of the population and 70 per cent of economic activity resided. Cities thus had a pivotal role in shaping social justice. UN-Habitat’s mission was to ensure universal access to adequate living standards, including housing and basic services, in resilient human settlements conducive to safe, healthy and prosperous lives. The long-standing partnership between UN-Habitat and the ILO focused on enhancing housing and public services in urban settings. He expressed eagerness to renew and strengthen that partnership in pursuit of social justice and a sustainable future. Urban housing and social conditions were pressing priorities for labour movements, and protection of rights was imperative for marginalized groups, such as those in extreme poverty, homelessness or displacement, women, young people and those experiencing discrimination. Three key initiatives highlighted UN-Habitat’s commitment to fostering societal resilience, where collaboration from partners would be welcomed: firstly, the establishment of an intergovernmental expert working group on adequate housing for all under the UN-Habitat Assembly aimed at monitoring efforts and promoting strategies globally; secondly, the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative, which integrated climate action across urban sectors like buildings, energy, waste, mobility and water; and thirdly, the Local2030 Coalition, a network supporting SDG implementation at the local level, where local and regional governments were essential partners in advancing social justice. Concluding, he urged participation in empowering local governments with tools, knowledge and networks to effectively serve communities in achieving societal goals.

Mr Hernández García, speaking on behalf of Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Türkiye and Australia (the MIKTA countries), noted that as a result of Indonesia’s recent decision to join the Global Coalition for Social Justice, all five MIKTA countries had become partners. They supported the initiative aimed at intensifying collective efforts to urgently close social justice gaps and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDGs and the Decent Work Agenda. All five countries were aligned with the Coalition’s goal to foster cooperation and partnerships to address critical issues, and were committed to developing their activities over time to better serve the cause of social justice. The five countries supported the efforts of the Forum to enhance societal resilience, promote coherence between economic and social policies, and foster social dialogue for shared prosperity. The MIKTA countries welcomed the Forum as a unique opportunity to advance the core objectives of the Global Coalition for Social Justice and invited other countries to join them in the endeavour.

Mr Lee expressed his delight at being part of the inaugural Forum of the Global Coalition. In today’s world, there was increasing complexity and uncertainty due to biological hazards

such as COVID-19, climate change, new forms of employment and digitalization. Regrettably, vulnerable groups, especially in low-income countries, were experiencing growing inequalities due to the disproportionate impacts of those challenges. The Global Coalition aiming to minimize inequalities and achieve social justice was a timely initiative to navigate the global challenges. Less than a year from its launch, the Coalition had garnered 284 partners, including 71 governments. The Korean Government had supported the Global Accelerator, a key pillar of the Coalition, even before formally joining. Since 2004, the Republic of Korea had engaged in partnership programmes with the ILO to enhance employment and labour systems in developing countries and strengthen their capacity to implement international labour standards. The Korean Government's commitment to the Global Accelerator included the recent signing of an agreement on 11 June extending the partnership with the ILO for three years and committing an additional US\$1.35 million. The Republic of Korea had transitioned from a recipient to a donor country, and international support had been crucial for the country's development after the Korean War. He affirmed the country's commitment to sharing its experiences of economic growth and democratization and providing continued financial support to global initiatives. Looking ahead, the Government of the Republic of Korea would maintain close solidarity and cooperation with the international community, including the ILO through the Global Coalition, to promote fair growth and expand social justice worldwide.

Thematic Dialogue: Improving the coherence between economic and social policies

(a) Partners' Conversation

Moderator

- Ms Yvonne Ndege

Panellists

- Mr Colin E. Jordan, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Third Sector, Barbados
- Mr Boris Zürcher, Secretary of State, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland
- Ms Jacqueline Mugo, Executive Director, Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE)
- Mr Gerardo A. Martínez, General Secretary, Union of Construction Workers of the Republic of Argentina (UOCRA)
- Ms Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)

The moderator opened the Thematic Dialogue on “Improving coherence between economic and social policies for social justice”. The Partners’ Conversation aimed to unpack the complexities of economic policies, identify overlaps with social policies, and explore strategies for inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Mr Jordan expressed gratitude for the opportunity to discuss the crucial need for coherence between social and economic policies. Governments must focus on improving standards of living and human well-being through integrated policies. Social dialogue among workers, employers, governments and civil society was crucial in understanding the needs of human beings and achieving policy coherence. The instruments developed through such dialogue at the ILO could be used as guiding principles for coherence between social and economic policy. Small island developing States like Barbados needed access to financing. Reform in international financial institutions was needed to better accommodate their needs and perspectives, alongside reform in governance structures to ensure the meaningful participation and recognition of those States’ unique challenges and aspirations. The ILO needed to leverage the Global Coalition for Social Justice and other forums to enhance the visibility and impact of countries pursuing policy coherence and social justice globally.

Mr Zürcher affirmed Switzerland’s strong support for social justice and the Global Coalition, emphasizing the critical role of integrating social justice objectives across the multilateral system. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) were economic pillars of many countries and needed an enabling environment to foster sustainable enterprises and create decent jobs. Switzerland, alongside Norway and Italy, proudly backed the ILO’s Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work approach, which addressed productivity constraints and promoted a fair distribution of gains. He urged more partners to join the initiative, which was supported by a Strategic Advisory Committee comprising the ILO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, UN Trade and Development, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the IOE. Financial institutions played an important role in facilitating the formalization of informal businesses, and policies that enabled access to finance were required. In terms of trade, Switzerland advocated for inclusive policies that benefited all, founded on open and rules-based

international trade, including adherence to WTO frameworks and international labour standards. In conclusion, he called on the Global Coalition to enhance understanding of how MSMEs benefited from inclusive trade, and to allow them to increase their market opportunities while also building decent jobs and ensuring that no one is left behind.

Ms Mugo, speaking on behalf of employers, expressed strong support for the Coalition, emphasizing the crucial role of advocacy, policy coherence and knowledge generation through cooperation in addressing issues such as informality, business environment enhancement, and tackling poverty, child labour and youth unemployment. Actionable steps that could be taken to enhance partnerships and cooperation on social and economic policy coherence under the umbrella of the Global Coalition included robust partnerships and resource mobilization to achieve the Coalition's goals; diverse stakeholders could contribute financially. Capacity-building among Coalition partners was important to enhance their effectiveness in driving change on the ground. Additionally, there was a need to foster social dialogue through stakeholder engagement to ensure genuine collaboration on social and economic policy coherence. Information sharing, knowledge exchange and replication of best practices across countries were important to scale up initiatives and promote social justice globally. Lastly, a policy coherence observatory should be established to monitor and evaluate the social and economic impacts of the Coalition's work, aiming to learn from both successes and failures for informed decision-making in the future.

Mr Martínez stressed the importance of innovative approaches to tackle the challenges ahead. The Coalition led by the ILO and tripartite partners was crucial in addressing global inequalities exacerbated by past economic crises such as the 2008 financial downturn and the recent pandemic. He emphasized the need to integrate social justice principles into policy frameworks, not only as governmental or employer demands but also as fundamental values that addressed the concerns of workers globally. Practical mechanisms were needed to align economic goals with social justice imperatives through multilateral cooperation and institutionalized tripartite dialogues. A universal social protection floor should be discussed as a priority by the Global Coalition. Predictability and reliability were important in addressing global inequalities. He reiterated the international union movement's long-standing call for democracy and social justice, and highlighted the role of institutionalized tripartite dialogue in shaping policies to promote inclusive development and reduce wealth disparities globally, especially in regions with significant poverty and inequality.

Ms Okonjo-Iweala emphasized the WTO's commitment to ensuring that trade and investment delivered greater social benefits and reduced inequalities, especially in low-income countries. Highlighting the role of stronger partnerships, including at the multilateral level, she made six points. First, she strongly believed that economic policy should serve social policy and social justice. If economic policy did not serve people, it needed adjustment. Second, there was an often-fraught relationship between trade and labour. Labour saw trade as a threat to jobs and wages, while the trade community viewed labour standards as potential protectionism. That suspicion must be overcome by demonstrating that trade and labour could support each other. Third, the WTO's founding document, the Marrakesh Agreement, aimed to enhance labour standards, create jobs and support sustainable development. That knowledge could change the attitude towards trade of many in the labour community. Fourth, the WTO was determined to link with the labour community, listen to it and explain the WTO's role. That was why the Organization had joined the Coalition for Social Justice. Fifth, trade had lifted 1.5 billion people out of poverty, including hundreds of millions outside China. Trade had been an instrument for inclusion and economic development but had also left some people behind. There was a need to correct that by rethinking trade and complementing trade policies with

direct supply-side interventions. Lastly, current challenges in trade included protectionism and geopolitical tensions, but there were also opportunities for “re-globalization” – decentralizing supply chains to include developing countries. That would create jobs and promote social justice. Examples included decentralizing vaccine and semiconductor production to benefit developing countries. Partnerships were crucial, and the WTO was working with various organizations to support small and medium-sized enterprises, bridge the digital divide and transform industries in developing countries. The future of trade was green and digital, but it must also be socially inclusive and serve people.

The moderator asked panellists to share a concrete initiative or action they were prioritizing to strengthen policy coherence and social justice, and how they envisioned collaborating with other Coalition partners.

Mr Jordan highlighted the Bridgetown Initiative, proposed by the Prime Minister of Barbados, which advocated for reform of the international financial system to ensure access to necessary resources for public services. The initiative aimed to ensure sustainable coherence between social and economic development, benefiting the people of small island developing States with limited resources. Scarcity of funding should not force countries to choose between servicing high debt and providing essential services such as healthcare and education.

Mr Zürcher stated that Switzerland viewed the Coalition as both an incubator and accelerator for social justice initiatives and partnerships. Better coherence between trade and social policy was vital; Switzerland and other partners incorporated social sustainability provisions in free trade agreements. There was great potential for multilateral collaboration, particularly between the ILO and the WTO, which currently lacked a formal cooperation framework. He expressed hope that the Coalition would play a significant role in accelerating those efforts.

Ms Mugo stated that a key role of an employers’ organization was to influence the business environment through advocacy and engagement with the government and social partners. That aimed to create a conducive environment for keeping people in jobs, growing the economy and strengthening enterprises. There was a strong correlation between social aspects and the economy, and it was important to support enterprises through regulations, policies and laws. Kenya and other developing economies, had a large informal economy and enterprises needed help to scale up. She also advocated for recognizing and rewarding employers and businesses that promote best practices, emphasizing the creation of decent jobs to improve livelihoods and lift people socially.

Mr Martínez emphasized the importance of the debate, noting that the current tripartite dialogue focused on employment. Employers and workers had stressed that the financial system must create decent work and generate jobs to improve living conditions worldwide. Global development cooperation should involve various countries to generate social justice through socio-economic policies to bridge existing inequalities. Trade unions were a crucial part of that debate, being the voice of demand and understanding the best tools to resolve current global dilemmas. There was a need to institutionalize tripartite dialogue at the global, regional and national levels to guarantee sustainability and create a hopeful reality.

Ms Okonjo-Iweala stated that the WTO was prioritizing helping poorer cotton-growing countries in West Africa to improve living standards and create jobs by developing the cotton value chain locally. The Cotton Partnership initiative involved partnerships with international organizations such as the ILO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the private sector,

civil society and governments to establish manufacturing facilities and invest in the region. Success in that partnership could be replicated elsewhere. Progress in collaboration with the ILO included a memorandum of understanding and ongoing efforts, including its joining the social justice platform.

The moderator thanked the panellists for their valuable insights on social dialogue, collaboration in trade, and financial investment to improve coherence in economic and social policies for social justice.

(b) Partners' Spotlight

Moderator

- Ms Yvonne Ndege

Speakers

- Ms Karien Van Gennip, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, Netherlands
- Mr Kamel Maddouri, Minister of Social Affairs, Tunisia
- Ms Florence Bore, Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Kenya
- Mr Alok Chandra, Senior Labour and Employment Adviser, Ministry of Labour and Employment, India
- Ms Anousheh Karvar, Delegate of the French Government to the ILO, France
- Mr Oliver Röpke, President, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- Mr Pradeep Wagle, Chief, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The moderator welcomed everyone to the Partners' Spotlight on improving coherence between economic and social policies for social justice, which aimed to provide partners with an opportunity to showcase concrete initiatives for advancing social justice through collaborative efforts.

Ms Van Gennip expressed gratitude for the Forum and for the establishment of the Global Coalition for Social Justice. Societal inequalities had increased, therefore cohesive societies were needed to address challenges such as climate change, migration, artificial intelligence, ageing populations and geopolitical factors. Prioritizing social justice and decent work was essential for equitable growth. The Forum was an opportunity to expand cooperation and seek collective solutions. She highlighted three key considerations. Firstly, policies should be people-centric, providing equal opportunities and fair chances for decent work. That approach ensured that everyone had a fair chance at making a living through decent work. Secondly, integrating the social agenda with economic and financial agendas was crucial for achieving inclusive economies and labour markets, and just transitions. Examples included lifelong learning, investing in skills for digital and green transitions, and ensuring fair wages. A tripartite agreement within the ILO on the concept of living wages would benefit workers directly and also provide security and purchasing power, thereby supporting broader economic development. Thirdly, it was essential to have broader cooperation by transcending existing coalitions and partnerships to achieve the SDGs. International cooperation and partnerships were vital; working in silos was not an option. The interconnectedness of the

SDGs required close collaboration at all levels and for every individual. The Netherlands was a proud supporter of the Global Coalition for Social Justice and applauded cooperation between the ILO and international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. It was crucial to connect the social, trade and economic dimensions of development. Countries could only prosper if all citizens were doing well. There was now a collective responsibility for partners to deliver on their promise.

Mr Maddouri expressed his delight at participating in the inaugural Forum. Integrating and ensuring cohesion among social, political and economic policies was crucial to meet individuals' needs. There was a need to review globalization and return to the foundational principles of the WTO, to guarantee decent work and living standards. International and regional collaboration was crucial for paving the way towards good socio-economic policies. Inequalities and social exclusion were major challenges, therefore social policy must be cross-cutting and fundamental to economic policies to achieve economic justice and a just transition for all societal groups. In Tunisia, the concept of social justice was integrated into the Constitution, reflecting the Government's commitment to aligning social, economic and political policies towards decent work and fundamental rights. Social policies were at the heart of economic policies and were human-centred, with a focus on extending social coverage, ensuring a just transition and promoting job market access for all. Tunisia had implemented the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), to guarantee a minimum income, pensions and benefits for various societal groups. The Government had also focused efforts on formalization, improving occupational safety and health, and enhancing social security through capacity-building programmes. Tunisia aimed to be a social State based on decent work, social security and the fight against inequalities, to guarantee the well-being of all members of society. The country intended to focus on true cohesion of the various social, economic and other policies, striving to achieve the SDGs.

Ms Bore provided an overview of Kenya's efforts in addressing social justice deficits and accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Decent Work Agenda, as a partner of the Global Coalition for Social Justice. Kenya had formulated various policies and legislation to create an enabling environment for businesses, enhance labour protection and job creation, and empower the community. It had developed a wages and remuneration policy aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability, equity, productivity, enterprise competitiveness, and sustainable employment creation and retention. The country had also re-engineered its social dialogue institutions, including the National Labour Board and sectoral councils for wages, skills development and social protection. It had put in place the National Labour Migration Policy, which promoted inclusive, sustainable development through safe, orderly and productive labour migration, maximizing the participation of Kenyan migrant workers in economic development. A policy on recognition of prior learning aimed to mitigate challenges faced by disadvantaged individuals lacking certification, providing formal education opportunities and contributing to socio-economic transformation. Further key Government actions included revising labour laws to align with the national Constitution, integrating robust labour market information systems, implementing a green economy strategy to combat climate change, establishing National Guidelines for Sector Skills Committees to enhance labour market relevance, and promoting the National Skills Development Policy aimed at fostering a skilled workforce capable of sustainable socio-economic development. Additionally, efforts to reform Kenya's justice system included educating judges on international labour standards to ensure fairness and equitable access to justice. Lastly, initiatives were ongoing to review and develop social protection policies, including the National Policy on Family Promotion and Protection, the National Policy on the Elimination of Child Labour, the Policy on Persons with Disabilities, and

the Older Persons Bill. Those initiatives were designed to enhance quality of life, boost productivity and foster economic progress. In order to realize social justice for all, it was important to involve everyone from the initial stages of policy development to implementation, supported by monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and adopting a bottom-up approach as articulated in Kenya's national policy framework, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda 2022–2027. She suggested that partners could adopt a similar approach to move forward in the quest for social justice.

Mr Chadra commended the ILO Director-General for his initiative promoting decent work and social justice. India viewed economic prosperity and social well-being as intrinsically interconnected, and essential for achieving sustainable development and justice globally. While economic and social policies were often seen as separate, India believed them to be interdependent. Economic growth, vital for prosperity, must be inclusive and equitable to benefit all segments of society. Conversely, social policies addressing inequality and human development required a robust economic foundation for sustainability. Despite those synergies, achieving coherence between economic and social policies remained challenging. India's development paradigm centred on inclusive growth and equity, linking economic progress with social inclusion. Initiatives such as financial inclusion, infrastructure development and targeted investments aimed to create an enabling environment for inclusive growth. Welfare programmes, including the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Programme, provided employment and support for vulnerable populations, improving human development alongside economic growth. Moreover, India had implemented specific measures such as extending maternity benefits to 26 weeks for employed women. Education and skills development were pivotal in bridging economic and social gaps, empowering individuals to engage productively in the economy. India also prioritized sustainable development through initiatives such as the National Clean Air Programme and the International Solar Alliance, balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship and social equity. He urged members of the Global Coalition for Social Justice to reaffirm their commitment to collaborative efforts, breaking down silos and integrating economic and social initiatives into a cohesive framework for development.

Ms Karvar underscored France's steadfast support for the Global Coalition for Social Justice since its inception. Social justice was central to France's approach, which included equitable resource redistribution and universal access to essential services such as education, healthcare and social protection as key priorities. France actively participated in global initiatives promoting jobs and social protection, including a project in Senegal aimed at developing a universal social protection system. Social protection was a fundamental human right and addressed multiple determinants of decent work and health, including poverty and education, while enhancing societal resilience during crises and reducing income disparities. Gender equality was a critical focus, and France had undertaken efforts through feminist diplomacy and ratification of ILO Conventions to combat discrimination. The country advocated for policies integrating gender perspectives to reduce inequalities in health, education and justice, particularly for vulnerable groups. Furthermore, it emphasized respect for fundamental rights in business practices globally in its national laws, the European Union (EU) Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive and commitments to eliminate child labour, forced labour and modern slavery through alliances such as Alliance 8.7. Coherence among economic, social and environmental policies was vital for a sustainable and equitable future, and all international actors must take concerted action to achieve that goal. France had secured commitments at the G7 summit and forged initiatives such as the Paris Pact for People and the Planet to foster global cooperation. The Global Coalition for Social Justice provided an opportunity to lay the groundwork for a more inclusive and prosperous world, contingent

upon strong political will, close collaboration with social partners, and unwavering dedication to the principles of justice and equity.

Mr Röpke praised Mr Hounbo's initiative, of which the EESC had been an early supporter, as a commitment to promoting social justice globally. The EESC focused on quality work as central to social justice, addressing challenges posed by digitalization and platform work, such as inadequate social protection and health risks. The EESC stood ready to support the ILO in developing guidelines for those evolving work environments. Investment in occupational safety and health was crucial for workers' well-being and sustainable social security systems. The EESC would gladly share its expertise on occupational safety and health legislation in the context of the Conference discussion on biological hazards. Eliminating violence against women was imperative for coherence between economic and social policy, hence the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), and the recent EU Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence must be implemented without delay. The EESC had pledged to promote global social standards through domestic advisory groups and enhance cooperation with the ILO on monitoring standards in EU trade agreements. Ensuring sustainability in global supply chains and realizing labour rights as human rights were essential, which required measures such as mandatory due diligence and international treaties. He reaffirmed the Coalition's potential for cross-border collaboration to advance social justice globally.

Mr Wagle highlighted the partnership of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with the Coalition. The Human Rights Economy concept launched by his Office aimed at addressing structural injustice, promoting human rights and fostering a more equitable and sustainable future. The world had experienced the adverse effects of economic and social policies that had neglected universally shared values and human rights principles, exacerbating poverty and income inequalities globally. Economic growth alone could not mitigate inequality, hence economic policies must be anchored in human rights to ensure equality and non-discrimination. His Office believed that prioritizing human rights in economic policies could significantly contribute to positive outcomes. Many States were undertaking efforts to integrate human rights into policy frameworks, and there was a need for conscious design and assessment of policies from a human rights perspective. He invited participants to collaborate to build a human rights economy to orient policies towards universal norms grounded in human rights principles. He expressed hope that the Coalition would serve as a platform to align economic and social policies with international human rights, labour rights and social justice frameworks.

The moderator thanked the speakers for their significant contributions to the Partners' Spotlight, and closed the Thematic Dialogue on "Improving coherence between economic and social policies for social justice".

Thematic Dialogue: Fostering social dialogue for shared prosperity

(a) Partners' Conversation

Moderator

- Ms Femi Oke

Panellists

- Mr Pablo Zenteno, Director, National Labour Directorate, Chile
- Mr Utoni Nujoma, Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation, Namibia
- Mr Daniel Funes de Rioja, President, Industrial Organization of Argentina
- Ms Elly Rosita Silaban, President of the National Executive Board of the Confederation of Indonesian Trade Unions
- Mr Apostolos Xyrafis, Secretary General, International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions
- Mr Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, European Commission

The moderator welcomed the audience to the third Thematic Dialogue of the day, entitled "Fostering social dialogue for shared prosperity". She underscored the importance of social dialogue in shaping labour and economic policies and empowering workers and businesses.

Mr Zenteno, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Social Security of Chile, emphasized the country's strong commitment to the Global Coalition for Social Justice. He expressed gratitude to the Director-General for prioritizing social justice and aligning it with the SDGs. Chile was highly committed to creating decent work, tripartism and social dialogue, and was implementing reforms to ensure that social justice was a cornerstone of its legislative agenda. Through social dialogue, Chile had reduced the working week to 40 hours and had ratified Convention No. 190, which had been integrated into national law. It had also just ratified the Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176). The Government had focused on regional public policies driven by social dialogue. Emphasizing the effectiveness of social justice as a tool for progress, he reaffirmed Chile's commitment to advancing initiatives aligned with the SDGs and its support for the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

Mr Nujoma began by highlighting Namibia's efforts since its independence in 1990 to dismantle discriminatory practices inherited from the apartheid era. The country was committed to advancing the economic and social status of its predominantly black population, including marginalized groups such as women, persons with disabilities, youth and ethnic minorities. In Namibia, social dialogue, rooted in freedom of association and collective bargaining rights, played a critical role in fostering robust labour relations and promoting collaboration among stakeholders. The country's Constitution contained provisions for independent trade unions safeguarding workers' rights. Namibia had ratified key ILO Conventions, including the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), and the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144). The Government and social partners actively engaged in social dialogue through

tripartite bodies such as the Labour Advisory Council, the Employment Equity Commission and the Employment Services Board, aiming to build consensus on labour laws, policies and regulations. Addressing inequality and promoting inclusivity in the labour market were central to Namibia's agenda, focusing on eliminating barriers to employment and enhancing labour market efficiency. Despite challenges such as a union density of only 20.6 per cent, the Government's efforts to foster collaborative agreements between trade unions, employers and sectors had resulted in sectoral collective agreements governing employment conditions and wages. He concluded by affirming Namibia's commitment to collaborative efforts with employers and trade unions, ensuring that constitutional guarantees of workers' basic rights were upheld. That task was not easy but was crucial to addressing high inequalities and bridging the great divide between people that had been inherited from colonialism.

Mr Funes de Rioja expressed strong support for the Coalition, which was needed to harmonize economic and social policies. In Argentina, dialogue and consensus-building were indispensable in addressing economic challenges. In his extensive experience with the ILO and representing employers internationally, the focus had shifted towards integrating real economy stakeholders into policy decisions affecting production and labour globally. The real economy was often an informal economy, particularly in developing countries but also among G20 nations. Employers had an important role in contributing to vital debates on labour market improvements and productivity enhancements, crucial for societal progress. It was critical to have substantive action beyond rhetoric, and tripartism and social dialogue were essential mechanisms to foster effective policymaking and translate ideals into tangible outcomes on the ground. In Argentina, collaborative efforts with trade unions had averted mass lay-offs, illustrating the efficacy of crisis management through inclusive dialogue. Global economic crises had profound impacts on real economies and production, and governments had a responsibility to foster conditions conducive to social dialogue. The Coalition's role was to facilitate meaningful exchanges and foster goodwill among stakeholders.

Ms Silaban underscored the critical importance of robust social dialogue among employers' and workers' organizations, governments and civil society to effectively address societal challenges. In 1919, the founders of the ILO had recognized the pivotal roles of governments, employers and trade unions in shaping social and economic development grounded in social justice principles. Social dialogue was a cornerstone for improving working and living conditions. Key issues vital to workers' welfare included job quality, social protection, workplace safety, living wages and decent working hours, as referenced in the 2019 report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work. Countries where social dialogue thrived and collective bargaining agreements were respected tended to enjoy broader societal support and sustainable economic development. Conversely, restrictions on trade union voices could exacerbate tensions and social conflicts. Amid multiple global crises, fostering strong social dialogue at all levels was crucial not only for economic prosperity but also for maintaining peace. Solidarity and equitable redistribution were outcomes of effective dialogue. Indonesia had been developing a comprehensive social protection system, and the trade union movement played an ongoing role in ensuring its inclusivity and effectiveness. All stakeholders in the Global Coalition for Social Justice must uphold the fundamental rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining enshrined in ILO Conventions Nos 87 and 98 as essential components of democratic practice and equitable governance.

Mr Xyrafis expressed gratitude for the opportunity to advocate for the "difficult sport" of social dialogue. He had been involved since 1996 in shaping Greece's economic and social culture. In 1999, the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions was founded, which had grown to 70 members globally. The Association had

shown resilience in fostering collaboration among its diverse members despite challenges to multilateralism. National social dialogue bodies contributed to shaping and monitoring countries' plans to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Such bodies played a key role in influencing policy priorities and enhancing the effectiveness of policy implementation through consultation and advisory functions. There was a diversity of social dialogue models worldwide, but the most effective model was one tailored to each country's specific needs and context. While social dialogue institutions typically served as consultative bodies offering advice and reports to executive and legislative bodies, the potential for successful policy outcomes was increased when their recommendations were taken into account. In conclusion, he advocated for the integral role of social dialogue in advancing global agendas such as the SDGs, and its potential to enhance policy coherence and societal progress through inclusive governance practices.

Mr Schmit expressed gratitude to the ILO for launching the Global Coalition for Social Justice, underscoring that the historic Declaration of Philadelphia indicated that there could be no peace without social justice. Social dialogue had been a fundamental component within the EU since the days of its predecessor, the European Coal and Steel Community. With 27 diverse EU Member States, social dialogue had since evolved. Former European Commission President Jacques Delors had played a pivotal role in revitalizing social dialogue within the EU, stressing its dual importance in achieving a strong economy and a fair social environment. A recent Council Recommendation aimed to reinvigorate social dialogue at multiple levels to address contemporary challenges such as technological shifts and climate policies. The EU had more than 40 sectoral social dialogues, where stakeholders discussed sector-specific issues and proposed solutions. The EU's framework allowed social partners to propose solutions adopted by Member States, which was a collaborative approach to improving social and economic conditions. Furthermore, an EU Directive on adequate minimum wages emphasized the role of collective bargaining in ensuring fair wages and strengthening social dialogue across governance levels. Lastly, the EU was committed to advancing social justice through dynamic and inclusive social dialogue practices.

The moderator invited the panellists to share their thoughts and key takeaways on the Forum in a brief statement.

Mr Funes de Rioja emphasized the importance of social dialogue as an instrument for advancing beyond mere discussion to concrete agendas, proposals and agreements. At the G20 summit in Japan, he had learned of the concept of "Society 5.0", which underscored the need to prepare societies for technological and societal changes, particularly those impacting youth employment. His organization had drafted a white paper outlining proposals for enhancing production, productivity and competitiveness. Reforms were needed to modernize outdated legislation and enhance employability, which required collaborative efforts between government, employers and workers to meet the demands of a transformed economy. Believing in and practising robust social dialogue were essential for driving meaningful societal transformations and preparing future business leaders and workers for emerging challenges and opportunities.

Mr Xyrafis highlighted that social dialogue could take various forms, including bipartite, tripartite, or tripartite plus civil society. Social dialogue addressed not only labour or industrial relations but also broader societal issues. Drawing from John Rawls' concept of achieving social justice, he advocated for incremental steps and finding common ground among diverse stakeholders to foster a just society.

The moderator asked panellists to indicate concrete actions or the priority for the Coalition.

Mr Nujoma, recalling Mr Schmit's reference to the acknowledgement in the Declaration of Philadelphia that social justice was essential for peace, asked fellow panellists how social justice could be accelerated to address global challenges such as violent conflicts, high informality and youth unemployment, which were especially prevalent in Africa.

Mr Zenteno noted that social dialogue was crucial for finding solutions collectively to the global challenges posed by technological change, wars, climate issues and new social divisions. In Chile, specific challenges meant that reform of the pension system reform and collective bargaining was necessary, for which social dialogue could come up with proposals. It was important to demonstrate the effectiveness of those mechanisms to citizens to maintain credibility and legitimacy. He underscored the importance of committing to the original mandate of the ILO as advocated by the Director-General.

Ms Silaban emphasized the importance of ensuring that global agreements extended beyond meetings to include follow-up and implementation. The Coalition was a new entity needing continuous adjustment, adaptation and serious engagement from all involved. There was a need for justice at the national level, and all stakeholders had a role to play in finding solutions collectively for the benefit of humanity. True justice started with effective implementation in each country.

Mr Schmit expressed optimism and high expectations for the Global Coalition for Social Justice in the face of global challenges such as climate change, conflicts, technological advancements and societal inequalities. International collaboration, rather than conflict, was needed to address them. The upcoming World Social Summit in 2025 was a crucial opportunity to initiate significant global change, aiming to unite societies from the North and South in combating inequalities. He expressed confidence in the Coalition's ability to achieve those goals with the collective efforts of its members.

Mr Xyrafis noted that the essence of action was raising awareness and building trust among stakeholders to tackle global challenges, particularly focusing on combating inequalities as a pathway to achieving social justice. Practical actions rather than mere words were needed, as progress had been slow in addressing those issues globally. His Association had held a meeting in Athens with 40 delegations from economic, social and civil institutions worldwide, leading to a joint declaration. Furthermore, a recent visit to Abidjan had monitored implementation and gathered new ideas from the African continent. He committed to continuing such efforts to raise awareness and foster collaboration on those critical issues.

Mr Funes de Rioja emphasized the Coalition's role in promoting and stimulating action to create an environment conducive to fostering social dialogue among stakeholders. Varied approaches were needed rather than a uniform solution. It was important to set examples that resonated with people.

The moderator thanked the panel for their insights in the Partners' Conversation on fostering social dialogue for shared prosperity.

(b) Partners' Spotlight**Moderator**

- Ms Femi Oke

Speakers

- Mr Yiannis Panayiotou, Minister of Labour and Social Insurance, Cyprus
- Mr Daniel Ysaú Maurate Romero, Minister of Labour and Employment Promotion, Peru
- Mr Alexander Astorga Monge, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Security, Costa Rica
- Ms Thea Lee, Deputy Undersecretary for International Labor Affairs, Department of Labor, United States of America
- Mr Arshad Mahmood, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Pakistan
- Ms Kareen Jabre, Director, Division of Programmes, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

The moderator opened the Partners' Spotlight on fostering social dialogue for shared prosperity.

Mr Panayiotou underscored the enduring commitment of the Government of Cyprus to social justice as a foundational element for universal and lasting peace, a principle upheld steadfastly for more than a century. Achieving peace within and between nations, alongside the progress and prosperity of humanity, necessitated a fair distribution of the benefits of peace through equitable employment, working conditions and wages. Central to his Government's vision was the role of evidence-based social dialogue and results-oriented policymaking. Those practices were essential for social partners and political leaders to collaboratively develop and implement policies that upheld social justice in the evolving labour market landscape. While political commitment through rhetoric was crucial, it must be complemented by concrete actions and outcomes. As a proud member of the Global Coalition for Social Justice, the Government of Cyprus affirmed its dedication to advancing fair wages, robust pensions and adequate income support for its citizens actively engaged in the labour market. He expressed confidence in the Coalition's ability to succeed, highlighting the imperative of raising awareness among high-level policymakers and equipping them with effective tools for socially just policymaking. His Government took a proactive stance in collaborating closely with the ILO and other Coalition members. He expressed optimism that the country's initiatives, developed in partnership with the ILO, would contribute positively to the Coalition's ambitious objectives moving forward.

Mr Maurate Romero expressed appreciation for the opportunity for the Government of Peru to participate in the Global Coalition for Social Justice and highlighted the pressing issues of poverty, unemployment and inadequate work conditions as critical facets of social injustice. In 2015, the UN General Assembly had adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with ambitious aims for social, environmental and economic advancement among Member States. For a well-defined pathway from current challenges to future goals, specific, actionable initiatives were needed within the Coalition. Achieving measurable outcomes was essential to gauge progress effectively. Ongoing social dialogue among workers, employers and governments played a pivotal role, which required adaptive strategies that could yield concrete results in addressing societal challenges. The success of the Global Coalition for Social Justice hinged on its ability to identify and implement effective pathways towards eradicating poverty,

unemployment, informality, forced labour and child labour. Measurable results and adaptive social dialogue were essential in steering the Coalition towards tangible and sustainable impacts on a global scale.

Mr Astorga Monge enthusiastically welcomed the Global Coalition for Social Justice as a critical forum to address global challenges affecting partner countries. Global solutions were needed for issues such as artificial intelligence, evolving labour practices and climate change, and tripartite social dialogue and joint efforts were essential tools. Costa Rica's efforts within the Coalition focused on institutionalizing tripartite social dialogue forums and strengthening public labour policies. Recent initiatives by the Higher Council for Labour had prioritized decent work, including freedom of association, collective bargaining and occupational safety and health. Costa Rica was committed to combating labour-related health issues and managing labour migration flows while upholding human rights. Important measures included formalizing work, enhancing social security in new labour environments and eliminating child labour to promote safe and decent working conditions. Costa Rica attributed its robust policies for social justice to effective tripartite social dialogue. The Government was confident in the ability of the Coalition to advance initiatives through collaborative efforts to address global challenges and capitalize on emerging opportunities. Costa Rica was committed to sharing its experience within the Global Coalition for Social Justice, where tripartite social dialogue would be key to fostering inclusive policies and sustainable development aligned with SDGs.

Ms Lee enthusiastically welcomed the participation of the Government of the United States in the inaugural Forum of the Global Coalition for Social Justice, emphasizing the significance of social dialogue as the cornerstone for inclusive policymaking. All available tools and resources should be leveraged to improve conditions for working people and their families worldwide. Freedom of association and collective bargaining had a fundamental role not only for economic growth but also for upholding human rights, strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring fair competition. The Coalition's focus on social dialogue was pivotal to achieving its objectives effectively. The United States had introduced the Research, Innovation and Strategic Engagement (RISE) project, a collaborative effort with the ILO aimed at advancing freedom of association and collective bargaining globally, which sought to bolster policy frameworks, enhance organizational capacities and introduce innovative strategies at the global, national and sectoral levels. She expressed optimism that RISE would foster collaboration and spark new partnerships worldwide to advance those critical rights. She concluded by congratulating the ILO and its Director-General on the successful launch of the Coalition.

Mr Mahmood highlighted the Government of Pakistan's robust efforts to advance social dialogue and welfare policies aimed at improving the lives of workers, including policy, legal, financial and institutional interventions. Key initiatives included the imminent introduction of a national immigration and welfare policy focused on the welfare of immigrant and domestic workers and enhanced social safety nets. The Government was also committed to improving workplace safety standards, particularly in high-risk sectors such as mines and healthcare, drawing from lessons learned in Decent Work Country Programmes. Recent fiscal measures, such as a significant increase in the minimum wage and allocations to social safety nets, had been announced to bolster worker protections and economic stability. The Government had pledged to ratify international labour Conventions and enhance the National Industrial Relations Commission to resolve pending labour union issues swiftly. Plans were under way to expand health and crop insurance, facilitate credit for potential immigrants, and collaborate with the ILO's International Training Centre to boost workforce efficiency. The Government had expressed unwavering commitment to the Global Coalition for Social Justice, and

remained dedicated to tackling poverty, inequality and injustice through “tripartite plus” social dialogue.

Ms Jabre expressed gratitude for the launch of the Coalition for Social Justice, emphasizing the long-standing cooperation between the ILO and the IPU, which brought together 180 national assemblies globally, in advocating for social justice through legislative and oversight functions. Social justice was intrinsic to the work of parliaments, underpinning their engagement within the Global Coalition. The IPU’s efforts spanned global, regional and national levels, focusing on issues such as inequality, discrimination, and workers’ rights as human rights. The IPU facilitated dialogue among policymakers, developed parliamentary strategies and supported concrete actions at national levels to advance social justice. Inclusive decision-making was crucial, hence parliaments had a responsibility to engage citizens and ensure that their voices, especially those of women, youth, minorities and vulnerable groups, were heard. The IPU’s initiatives aimed to foster democratic participation and contribute to social dialogue and justice through political will and inclusive frameworks. She reiterated the IPU’s commitment to contributing to the efforts of the Global Coalition and looked forward to pursuing initiatives to raise awareness and engage policymakers to use their powers to make a difference.

The moderator asked the panellists to describe in a nutshell their mood at the very first Forum of the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

Mr Panayiotou felt very optimistic because, after a long period during which social justice had not been a part of the public debate, there was currently a move back to basics.

Ms Jabre said that she was really looking forward to embarking on the new initiative.

Mr Mahmood pointed to the importance of respect for difference of opinion and merit-based decision-making.

Ms Lee felt a sense of unity.

Mr Astorga Monge felt hopeful that partners would achieve great things with the Coalition.

Mr Maurate Romero stressed that social dialogue must include those who did not yet have a voice.

The moderator inquired whether partners already had examples of working together, bilaterally or multilaterally, since the start of the Coalition in November 2023.

Ms Lee commented that the United States Government was proud to have joined the Coalition with both employers’ and workers’ organizations. She looked forward to learning from them and hoped to live up to their social dialogue commitment.

Mr Mahmood explained that Pakistan had reinvigorated tripartite committees at the federal and provincial levels, which had had extensive sessions listening to the counterpoint of views and building a consensus, aiming to translate into efficiency and standard operating procedures.

Ms Jabre noted that the IPU was part of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness. It was important to acknowledge the added value of each Coalition partner, to identify the opportunities and to work together in good faith and based on trust.

The moderator thanked the partners for sharing their thoughts and their efforts to encourage others to join the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

Official closing

- Address by Mr Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Address by Mr Roberto Suárez Santos, Secretary-General, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
- Address by Mr Luc Triangle, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- Address by Mr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (WHO)
- Address by Mr Gilbert F. Hounbo, ILO Director-General, Co-Chair of the Coordinating Group
- Address by Mr Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil, representing the Government of Brazil as Co-Chair of the Coordinating Group

The President of the Conference thanked the moderators, panellists and spotlighted partners for their enriching discussions, and welcomed President Lula of Brazil, representing the Government of Brazil as Co-Chair of the Coordinating Group of the Global Coalition. He then invited the distinguished guests to make their concluding addresses.

Mr Hanif said that it was an honour to deliver closing remarks and represent the UN Secretary-General at the inaugural Forum of the Global Coalition for Social Justice. He recalled Nelson Mandela's speech at the International Labour Conference 34 years previously, in which he had emphasized cooperation, peace, friendship and social progress.

The Forum reflected a renewed system aiming to leave no one behind, reinforcing the concept that social justice is essential for peaceful, prosperous and inclusive societies. He congratulated the ILO Director-General for leading the initiative, which highlighted the connection between peace and justice.

The ILO had been built on the premise of social justice, and the Declaration of Philadelphia stated that poverty anywhere constituted a danger to prosperity everywhere. There was a critical need to address contemporary challenges such as inequality, discrimination, exclusion, climate change, technological disruptions and the absence of peace through social justice. The collective resolve to turn dialogue into tangible progress was heartening and would accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

Social justice was necessary to correct the course of sustainable development, foster global stability and prosperity, and uphold human rights. That called for a renewed social contract based on trust, justice, inclusion and human rights. The Coalition had great potential to address the needs of unemployed youth and persons with disabilities globally, and of those excluded due to their race, origin or religion, or because they were poor.

He urged partners to continue to cooperate, undertake collective actions, forge partnerships and hold each other accountable at the outcome of the Forum, and invited them to participate in the upcoming World Summit for Social Development and the Summit of the Future, aiming to place social development at the heart of all policies. The UN stood ready to

support the Coalition in every possible way, providing a platform for collaboration, a voice for advocacy and a framework for accountability.

He concluded by invoking President Mandela's vision urging the dismantling of all forms of apartheid through promoting values based on social justice, where every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances, could lead a life of dignity, equality and opportunity.

Mr Suárez Santos explained why employers actively engaged in the Global Coalition for Social Justice. Representing over 50 million companies worldwide, the IOE vocally supported social justice, but recognized that not all business and political actors were as vocal. Employers supported the values of the ILO at the origins of the Organization and in the Declaration of Philadelphia, firmly believing that labour is not a commodity. In 1998, they had made a further commitment to social justice in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998), as amended in 2022, which had been followed by the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008), as amended in 2022, and the ILO Declaration for the Future of Work in 2019.

Employers could not be neutral on issues such as decent jobs, education, skills, health, diversity and social protection. Despite significant progress, over 60 per cent of the global workforce remained in the informal economy, with weak institutions and corruption, with badly framed regulations, and without decent work opportunities. The lack of access to primary education for 72 million children and the nearly 800 million adults who were illiterate were unacceptable. Digital tools were important for education and training, but a third of humanity remained unconnected. Gender inequality and lack of opportunities for women were not acceptable either. Access to health was critical, as seen during the pandemic, yet half the global population lacked essential health services.

Employers viewed sustainable social protection schemes as investments, not costs. The risks of inadequate social protection had been witnessed during the pandemic. It was unsustainable and risky for businesses, locally and globally, that half of the population still did not benefit from social protection incomes. Freedom of association was also crucial, and employers opposed any backlash against the rights to associate and to freedom of expression.

There was a need for multilateralism, engaging with the UN and other global discussions, and building efficient partnerships based on common objectives and trust. Employers' engagement went beyond financial contributions, to bring expertise, knowledge and innovation. An environment that supported business growth and development was key, but was lacking in many countries due to inadequate regulations, excessive barriers, a lack of incentives and ideological prejudice, which particularly affected small and medium-sized enterprises.

The profound transformations in global growth, business and new technologies, including artificial intelligence, required a new mindset, which was also essential for partnerships. He expressed his expectation that the Coalition would foster powerful partnerships to address job disruption and the opportunities arising from digital and climate change policies. He strongly supported the Coalition's role in enhancing advocacy, promoting policy coherence and generating knowledge through cooperation, as it was essential for society and beneficial for business and employers. In concluding, he thanked the ILO for its instrumental role in creating a strong foundation to effect real change, which could count on the strong commitment of employers.

Mr Triangle, speaking on behalf of the ITUC representing over 200 million workers worldwide, noted the distinguished speakers' strong support for the Global Coalition for Social Justice. Their contributions had highlighted the Coalition's crucial role in tackling global challenges such as political instability, escalating conflicts, rising inequality, climate disasters and pandemics.

The ITUC and workers globally strongly supported the Coalition, whose objective was social justice, a core mandate of the ILO. Social justice should guide all international, economic and financial policies. The world needed a new social contract aimed at rebuilding trust in governments, creating decent and climate-friendly jobs with just transitions, ensuring rights for all workers, providing living wages, and offering universal social protection, equality and inclusion.

The UN Secretary-General had undertaken initiatives that aligned with those goals, particularly the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, which placed the social contract at their core. There was a need to build on those initiatives to achieve a new social contract leading to social justice.

Commitments were needed at both the national and international levels to finance social policies. Such financing was not a cost, but an investment with high returns. Social justice could not be achieved without a transparent and multilateral debt relief architecture, improved global governance on taxation, reform of international financial institutions, and increased ambition for reallocating special drawing rights to support an SDG-led recovery and resilience in developing countries. All investments must be aligned with the objectives of social justice, the SDGs and the Decent Work Agenda.

Social dialogue played a pivotal role in achieving social justice and sustainable development. Multilateralism was at stake, amid deep distrust towards global institutions and strong divisions within the international community. The ITUC remained committed to multilateralism and supported the UN as the peak multilateral body. A truly inclusive multilateral system where social partners were involved through real social dialogue would pave the way to social justice and sustainable development. The Second World Social Summit on Social Development represented a key opportunity to advance the pillars of a new social contract and achieve social justice. The role of social dialogue and tripartism must be recognized in the Summit's outcomes as essential governance tools for social development and achieving the SDGs.

A rights-based development model and a truly inclusive multilateral system were needed to address the current imbalance of power and wealth, using social dialogue as a key means of achieving social justice. Workers were delighted to join forces within the Global Coalition with those ready to contribute to delivering social justice for more people. He acknowledged the governments and other parties that had already joined the initiative and urged many more to join as a priority. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of collective action in delivering social justice, as workers, societies and the world needed it.

Mr Tedros expressed his gratitude to President Lula for his unwavering commitment to social justice, and his dedication to equality and solidarity, including combating hunger and poverty. He expressed his appreciation for the President having prioritized health and hosted the WHO Investment Round during Brazil's G20 presidency.

He noted that social justice served as a moral compass, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances, had access to basic human rights, opportunities and necessary resources. Equity was central to social justice, requiring fairness

in the distribution of wealth, power and privileges. That principle mandated stakeholders to confront systemic injustices, challenge discrimination and dismantle barriers that prevented individuals from realizing their full potential. He envisioned a world where everyone could achieve their full potential. Diversity and inclusion were key to creating a society where all felt valued and respected.

He welcomed the Global Coalition for Social Justice, which aligned with the WHO's mission in relation to health. The Constitution of the WHO, adopted in 1948, affirmed health as a fundamental human right for all. Despite that, around the world, 4.5 billion people lacked essential health services, and 2 billion faced financial hardship due to health spending. The WHO's goal was to close those gaps by advancing universal health coverage so that all people had access to essential health services without facing financial hardship.

There was, however, a global shortage of 10 million health and care workers, with the poorest nations having as little as one tenth the health workers of the richest ones. Many health workers faced violence, discrimination and unsafe working conditions, and had low pay and few rights. Together with the ILO and the OECD, the WHO's Working for Health programme supported countries in mobilizing cross-sectoral policies, actions and investments to increase the education, employment, protection and retention of health workers. Additionally, in partnership with the ILO, the WHO was developing a global strategy to enhance workplace health and well-being.

He reiterated his gratitude to President Lula and Director-General Hounbou for the opportunity to participate, and looked forward to continued partnership in advancing social justice and human rights, including the right to health. He concluded by emphasizing the essential role of social justice in achieving equitable and inclusive societies, underlining the importance of collaborative efforts to create a world where everyone could thrive and succeed.

Mr Hounbou extended his thanks to all distinguished speakers for their participation in the event. The day's discussions had emphasized the critical role of social justice in fostering productive and peaceful societies and economies and restoring trust in multilateralism. The launch of the Coalition coincided with the 80th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philadelphia, which set out the right of all human beings "to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity".

The Coalition's mission was to turn those principles into practical outcomes for all. Its work had only just begun and the fruitful dialogue must be translated to concrete action. He called for sustained collective efforts to effect meaningful change, especially in confronting global challenges such as climate change, which was disrupting livelihoods worldwide. Expressing solidarity with the victims of environmental disasters, he underscored the urgent need for a just transition to sustainable economies through support for sustainable businesses and the development of green skills.

Social justice served as the linchpin connecting economic, environmental and social agendas, essential for achieving the SDGs. In the months ahead, common priorities and a comprehensive work plan would be finalized, buoyed by the shared commitment demonstrated by leaders such as President Lula and Mr Tedros. He called for ambitious actions at the national and international levels to reaffirm the collective resolve to transform social justice from an aspiration to a tangible reality globally. In conclusion, he expressed gratitude to all participants for their dedication and urged continued efforts to advance social justice worldwide, emphasizing the responsibility to create a world characterized by fairness and equity for all.

Mr Lula da Silva expressed great joy in returning to the International Labour Conference, which represented the relationship between labour and management. The Conference had great historical significance and the ILO's tripartite structure continued to play a crucial role in the current complex global context. Societies were still recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic at uneven paces, with new political tensions and ongoing conflicts exacerbating existing issues. In addition, digital and energy transitions were impacting on workers worldwide and quality of life was deteriorating due to climate change, with 2.4 billion workers directly affected through heat stress.

Social justice was more relevant than ever. It was necessary to revive the spirit of the Declaration of Philadelphia, which asserted that labour is not a commodity and should be treated as a source of dignity. Pope Francis had recognized the interconnectedness of welfare and justice, stating "There is no democracy with hunger, no development with poverty, and much less justice in inequality".

The Government of Brazil had therefore accepted the invitation from the Director-General to co-chair the Global Coalition for Social Justice, which would be instrumental in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Goal 8, on decent work for all, was not progressing at the necessary pace and scale, despite a modest fall in projected global unemployment rates. Issues such as informality, precarity and poverty were persistent; indeed, the number of people with informal jobs had increased from 1.7 billion in 2005 to 2 billion in 2023. Additionally, work income was declining for the less educated and the new generations faced challenges in entering the labour market. Extreme poverty was affecting 215 million people worldwide, many of whom were in work, and inequalities on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation and geographic origin were aggravating factors. Women were in a particularly vulnerable position in the labour force, and the principle of equal pay for work of equal value remained a distant goal. Over half a billion women of working age were excluded from the labour force due to unequal family and care responsibilities. Furthermore, 80 per cent of the world's 280 million migrants lived in the global South. Their remittances often surpassed foreign direct investments in their countries of origin, but were insufficient. A dysfunctional financial architecture was exacerbating inequalities, as development banks invested very little.

The motto on the cornerstone of the original ILO premises, "If you want peace, cultivate justice", remained just as relevant, with war being waged in Ukraine and Gaza, among many others. Workers who should have been dedicating themselves to their own lives and their families were being sent to battlefronts, as had been the case in the First and Second World Wars, with devastating impacts. Significant civilian casualties had ensued and, in Gaza, record numbers of deaths of humanitarian workers. He also condemned the increase in global military spending. The irrationality of a conflict in Europe had reignited fears of nuclear catastrophe. Hence there was a need to reaffirm that the world needed peace and prosperity, not war.

In 2024, nearly half of the world's population would be going to the polls. Democracy and social participation were crucial for achieving workers' rights. Historically, attacks on democracy had been accompanied by a loss of rights, as in his own country's experience. Political extremism attacked and silenced minorities and neglected the most vulnerable. A progressive, democratic approach was crucial to challenge the current order. Furthermore, the role of the State in planning development and addressing inequalities exacerbated by the market's "invisible hand" needed urgently to be restored. Productivity growth had not resulted in wage increases, leading to dissatisfaction and polarization. Therefore, a new form of globalization that prioritized human welfare and social fairness was called for.

Those concepts aligned with Brazil's priorities during its presidency of the G20. Discussions were ongoing on how to promote a just transition and use emerging technologies to improve the labour market. The flagship initiative, the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, aimed to accelerate efforts to eliminate hunger and poverty. Additionally, Brazil was spearheading a proposal on taxing the super-rich, highlighting the stark concentration of wealth among a small number of billionaires, some of whom even had their own space programmes.

There was, however, an urgent need to address issues here on Earth, particularly the environmental crises affecting various regions, including his own country. The climate crisis would be the priority of the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30), which would be hosted by Brazil in the Amazon city of Belém. It was also vital to consider the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and workers such as fishers, miners and rubber-tappers in conservation efforts. Thus, rich countries should bear the costs to support the survival and well-being of people living in the Amazon region. The Government of Brazil had committed to achieving zero deforestation in the Amazon region by 2030 and urged other countries to follow suit.

The sociobioeconomy, green industrialization and renewable energy sources represented great opportunities to enhance collective welfare and promote a just transition. Policies and action on development of digital skills and sustainable practices would be crucial in a decarbonized, technology-intensive global economy. In previous industrial revolutions, the world had seen how technological innovations could improve humanity's horizons, but it was the workers' struggles that had democratized their use. Artificial intelligence would radically transform our way of life, and action was needed to ensure that it benefited everyone. Internet access and digital resources were still unevenly distributed, and linguistic diversity was not yet adequately represented in the digital world.

Consequently, he called for global cooperation to address those challenges. Brazil had drawn inspiration from the Spanish Government's efforts to regulate work for transportation apps and to promote collective bargaining. It had also joined the United States in a Partnership for Workers' Rights, which had been launched at the headquarters of the United Nations in 2023. The Government of Brazil was committed to improving labour conditions, with policies including increasing the minimum wage, eliminating child labour and combating modern slavery. Furthermore, a bill on equal pay for men and women had been passed, and Brazil had joined the Equal Pay International Coalition. A national care plan addressing various social inequalities was also in preparation. Furthermore, the Government was investing in reindustrialization and job creation.

The Global Coalition would be an essential tool to build a just transition with decent work and poverty eradication. However, it was essential for developing countries, which were being called on to contribute to resolving the current global crises, to be adequately represented on global governance bodies, based on the premise of "one country, one vote". Brazil was therefore advocating for the ratification of the 1986 Amendment to the ILO Constitution to abolish the permanent seats on the Governing Body.

In conclusion, he emphasized the ILO's significant role in building a fairer, more humane world. He stressed the increased responsibility of ILO participants in the twenty-first century, given the unpredictable impacts of digitalization on labour. A collaborative approach to artificial intelligence development was called for, particularly so that the global South could remain competitive. He highlighted the importance of the ILO's credibility and work in

promoting global fairness and solidarity. He concluded by calling for peace in Ukraine and Gaza, and for justice to achieve global stability and prosperity.

The President of the Conference thanked President Lula for his concluding address and for his global leadership. He expressed his appreciation to the distinguished delegates for their participation and contributions, and declared the inaugural Forum of the Global Coalition for Social Justice closed.