



International
Labour
Organization

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
BUREAU FOR WORKERS ACTIVITIES (ACTRAV)

Conference on the New Social Contract - A Trade Union Perspective for the Caribbean

25-26 February 2025, Accra Beach Hotel, Bridgetown, Barbados

Agenda

Day 1: Tuesday, 25 February 2025

Opening Session: 9:00 – 10:00

Welcome Remarks

Ms. Toni Moore, General Secretary, Barbados Workers' Union (BWU)

Mr. Ryan Phillips, President, Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB)

Introductory Remarks

Ms. Maria Helena André, Director, Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV), ILO

Keynote address

The Honourable Colin E. Jordan, M.P.
Minister of Labour, Social Security and Third Sector, Barbados

Coffee break: 10:00-10:30

High level Session: 10:30 – 12:00

Panel discussion on establishing a New Social Contract: Limitations of existing governance structures at national and international level in light of transformational change in the world of work and the way forward.

Panellists:

- Mr. André Lewis, President, Caribbean Congress of Labour
- Ms. Toni Moore, Deputy President, Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)
- Mr. Ruben McSween, President, Caribbean Employers Confederation (CEC)
- Ms. Wanya Illes, Deputy Programme Manager, Free Movement and Labour CARICOM Single Market and Trade
- Dr André Vincent Henry, Director, Cipriani College of Labour and Cooperative Studies

Moderator: Ms. Maria Helena André, Director, ILO-ACTRAV

Lunch break (12:00 – 13:00)

Session 1: 13:00 – 14:30

Panel discussion on a macroeconomic framework that promotes decent work creation: recovering in a “poly-crisis” environment through increased policy coherence, wage growth, formalisation and sustainable development.

Panellists:

- Mr. Roberto Telleria Juarez, Policy Officer, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean
- Ms. Saadiqa Khan, Programme Dean, Interdisciplinary Studies, Cipriani College of Labour and Cooperative Studies
- Mr. Michael Annisette, General Secretary, Caribbean Congress of Labour
- Mr. Ruben McSween, President, Caribbean Employers Confederation

Moderator: Mr. Michael Watt, Economist, Workers’ Activities Specialist, ILO-ACTRAV

Coffee break - 14:30 – 15:00

Session 2: 15:00 – 16:30

Workshop on establishing a truly “pro-employment” macroeconomic framework focusing on wage growth and formalisation through social dialogue.

Discussants (Trade Unionists)

- Ms. Des Rita Gilkes-Boucher, 2nd Vice President, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Public Service Union
- Ms. Kirsty Lennon, Assistant General Secretary, St. Kitts Nevis Trades and Labour Union
- Mr. Johann Harewood, General Secretary, National Workers Union, Saint Lucia
- Mr. Jamal Moss, 2nd Vice President, National Congress Trade Union of The Bahamas
- Ms. Sharon Cangierter, President, Windward Islands Civil Servants Union and Private Sector Union, Sint Maarten

Moderator: Mr. Khalid Maman Waziri, Economist, Technical Officer, ILO-ACTRAV

Day 2: Wednesday, 26 February 2025

Session 3: 09:00 – 10:30

Panel discussion on the importance of just transition: Climate change and environmental degradation and their impact on lives and livelihoods.

Panellists:

- Mrs. Yolande Howard, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy, Barbados
- Mr. Cristian Mora, Programme Lead, Cipriani College of Labour and Cooperative Studies
- Ms. Erika Watson, Programme Manager (Ag.), Barbados People Development Implementation and Monitoring Unit, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Third Sector
- Mr. Roberto Telleria Juarez, Policy Officer, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean

Discussants:

- Mr. Shamir Brown, Vice President, Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions
- Mr. Robby Berenstein, President, Trade union Federation C-47 representing RAVAKSUR, Suriname
- Mr. Chris Furbert, President, Bermuda Industrial Union
- Ms. Shakeda Williams, Head of Membership Engagement , Barbados Workers' Union

Moderator: Ms. Blanca Patino, Green Jobs and Just Transitions Specialist, ILO LAC

Coffee break - 10:30 – 11:00

Session 4: 11:00 – 12:30

Panel discussion on strengthening labour institutions and workers' rights as key component of a new social contract in light of transformative changes such as digitalisation.

Introductory remarks: Michael Watt, Economist, Workers' Activities Specialist, ILO-ACTRAV

Panellists

- Ms. Toni Moore, Deputy President, Trade Union Confederation of the Americas
- Mr. Hose Figaroa, President, Federacion di Trahadornan di Aruba
- Mr. Joseph Mitchell, President, General Bank and General Workers Union
- Ms. Emmeline Stedman, Representative, Dominica Amalgamated Workers' Union
- Mr. Ryan Phillips, President, Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados

Moderator: Ms. Vera Guseva, Workers' Activities Specialist, ILO DWT/CO-Port-of-Spain

Lunch break - 12:30-13:30

Session 5: 13:30 – 15:00

Roundtable discussion on the concept of a new social contract: Development of a common agenda and strategies for trade unions in the region.

Discussants:

- Mr. André Lewis, President, Caribbean Congress of Labour
- Ms. Toni Moore, Deputy President, Trade Union Confederation of the Americas
- Ms. Ella Waight, President, National Trade Union Congress of Belize
- Ms. Michelle Cassell, Vice President, Montserrat Civil Service Association
- Mr. Fernando Samuel, Senior Industrial Relations Officer, Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union
- Mr. Norris Witter, President, Guyana Trades Union Congress

Moderator: Ms. Amanda Villatoro, Desk Officer for LAC, ILO-ACTRAV

Closing Session (15:00 – 16:00)

Key conclusions and the way forward.

Closing remarks: Ms. Maria Helena Andre, Director, ILO-ACTRAV