

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Mr Matthew Wilson

Chairperson of the ILO Governing Body
International Labour Office (ILO)
Genève

Madrid, 31 July 2026

Dear Mr Chairperson,

Acting in my capacity as Spain's Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, it is my honour to present the candidacy of Ms Yolanda Díaz Pérez for the position of Director-General of the International Labour Organization.

Over the past few years, in her role as Second Vice-President of the Government and Minister for Labour and the Social Economy, Ms Díaz has headed a major transformation of the Spanish labour market, acting on the conviction that social dialogue is the optimal tool for achieving lasting reforms.

Under her leadership, thirty agreements have been reached with the most representative trade union and business organizations, powering a labour reform that has reduced the percentage of workers on temporary contracts (as opposed to permanent contracts) to historic lows, while Spain achieved record-breaking employment figures. She has fostered significant progress in the protection of labour rights, the strengthening of the social and solidarity economy and sustained increases in the minimum wage.

This trajectory shows that economic growth, competitiveness, the creation of quality jobs and the extension of labour rights are compatible goals. It is the lessons we have learned in achieving transformations based on consensus and social dialogue that Spain wishes to place at the service of the ILO.

In the accompanying statement, Ms Díaz presents the vision that would guide her action, a vision of a new era for the Organization, focused on strengthening its financial sustainability; renewing social dialogue and tripartism as essential instruments of governance; guaranteeing that the digital transformation and artificial intelligence are placed at the service of decent work; promoting equality between women and men; democratizing the Organization; and strengthening its presence and capacity to respond to challenges in all regions of the world, prioritizing the Global South through robust technical cooperation adapted to ILO Member States' needs.

I am convinced that Ms Díaz's capacity to build consensus and her firm commitment to the foundational values of the ILO will contribute decisively to strengthening an institution that is crucial to overcoming the challenges of work in the twenty-first century.

I entreat you to accept, Mr Chairperson, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

José Manuel Albares