



Special sitting

Monday, 9 June 2014, 3 p.m.

President: Mr Funes de Rioja

World of Work Summit

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**MR ABDULLAH ENSOUR, PRIME MINISTER
OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN**

The PRESIDENT

It is my great honour to call on the Secretary-General of the Conference, Mr Guy Ryder, to introduce our distinguished speaker, Prime Minister Ensour of Jordan.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

It is for me a very great pleasure to welcome this afternoon Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour to our Conference. Your Excellency, thank you very much for coming to be with us today. We look forward to the perspectives that you bring to world of work challenges and opportunities in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Your country is strategically located, and in a complex region. With the goal of sustainable, inclusive growth in mind, your Government is striving to balance reform and stability to exercise fiscal discipline, while upholding the principles of this house of social justice. You are also grappling with the impact of upheavals, playing out beyond your borders, which have had profound consequences for your country, placing heavy strains on your infrastructure, on your economy and on your people.

It goes without saying that they magnify your development challenges and your experience underscores the value, and indeed the imperative, of solidarity in a sometimes troubled world. We know that very high among your priorities is the need to respond to your people's demand for the jobs that enable them to have decent standards of living and to maintain the hope of social and economic progress for all.

And with that in mind, your Government has placed employment and decent work, and investment in your people at the centre of your policy objectives. This has provided a solid foundation for our cooperation. Today, that cooperation is centred on implementing the second Decent Work Country Programme, which focuses on decent work for young women and men, targeting better working conditions, non-discrimination and equal rights at work, the establishment of a social protection floor as part of a more comprehensive social security system, and the expansion of employment opportunities with a focus on youth employment. Jordan has

taken on board the integrated nature of the Decent Work Agenda, with standards, social dialogue and gender equality dealt with as cross-cutting issues.

We see your presence, Mr Prime Minister, as an expression of a very solid partnership between Jordan and the International Labour Organization. And with this visit you, Sir, follow in the footsteps of His Majesty King Hussein, who addressed our Conference in 1997; and six years later we were honoured to receive the visit of His Majesty King Abdullah II and Her Majesty Queen Rania. Therefore, today, we are delighted to have you with us and we look forward eagerly to hearing the message that you bring. Welcome again, Excellency.

*Original Arabic: Mr ENSOUR (Prime Minister,
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)*

I thank you for the warm words of welcome and I am honoured to be addressing such an august Conference, thanks to the invitation of the Director-General, Guy Ryder. Although Mr Ryder has been serving for only two years as Director-General of the ILO, his global vision, his dedication and commitment to the fundamental principles of the Organization, to labour rights and to the promotion of decent work have earned him our esteem and that of the entire international community.

On behalf of His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein and the people of Jordan, I wish to thank Mr Ryder and all delegates here with us today for the important work that they are doing to secure a better life for our future generations.

I come from a region that, over the past few years, has witnessed waves of upheaval and instability which Jordan, its small size and limited resources notwithstanding, has been able to weather and from which it has even been able to benefit thanks to the wisdom and leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II, who saw in these events an opportunity to carry out many reforms in response to the aspirations of the Jordanian people.

Jordan has adroitly taken advantage of these waves to generate the energy necessary to hold many reforms in social, political and economic domains, and these reforms have been welcomed and received broad support from those concerned with Jordan and the Middle East. Successive governments, including my own, have taken big strides towards enhancing public freedom and strengthening the country's democratic institutions.

Thus, in 2011, Jordan amended its Constitution, adopted a new Elections and Political Parties Act, established an independent Elections Commission that managed the elections, which were commended by international observers on their transparency and credibility, and established a constitutional court. We are also working in partnership with Parliament to enhance local governance that guarantees a strengthened role for citizens in decision-making, in conjunction with our firm approach towards decentralization, as part of the process of political and developmental reform and modernization in Jordan.

Jordan's real wealth consists in its human resources, in particular, its educated and skilled population. Accordingly, inspired by our belief that the growth of our economy requires significant growth in the productivity of our workforce, over the last decade we have made systematic and concerted efforts to boost the productivity of that workforce through a wide range of reforms related to education, in particular reforms to involve the private sector in the design of technical and vocational curricula.

In the midst of work on these reforms, we, together with the whole world, were taken by surprise by the Syrian problem, which resulted in the displacement of large numbers of Syrian citizens. For many of these Jordan was their first destination, and currently there are some 1.4 million Syrians in the territory of Jordan, including about 640,000 refugees registered with the UN, which has increased pressure on our existing infrastructure and basic service provision. This pressure has led the Government to invest extensively in the host communities receiving these huge numbers of refugees, in particular in the areas of education, health, water, sanitation, energy, transportation and security.

Perhaps the greatest impact of this process that we are able to evaluate has been its impact on the informal labour market. This, among others, is the reason why I am here before you making this statement, as it is difficult for anyone to appreciate fully the impact that the Syrian crisis has had on my country and its labour market in view of the vast number of refugees who have entered that market and placed such enormous strain upon it.

This has also led to a decline in wages, as so many refugees will accept any wage in order to secure the possibility of employment. In turn, this has given rise to social problems, in particular in provinces and cities in which there are concentrations of Syrian refugees, who were already suffering hardship before leaving their country, as a consequence of unemployment and the arduous living conditions and economic circumstances – and here I am referring to the international financial crisis of 2008.

It is also worth noting that the problem of Syrian refugees and their entry into the informal labour market has significantly exacerbated the problem of child labour, given that refugee children account for some 70 per cent of all child labour in Jordan. In Jordan, however, we recognize the importance of tackling this most inhuman and unacceptable denial of the dignity and basic human rights of children, since we fully accept our responsibility to give children the right to be raised in an environment free of oppression and poverty.

I would like to emphasize from this rostrum that Jordan has always stepped forward to help and support its neighbours in times both of prosperity and of adversity. It is also our wish, however, that the

international community and relevant international institutions should play their part in enabling Jordan to perform this humanitarian function by furnishing us with all necessary support and assistance so that we can provide Syrian refugees with humanitarian services without detracting from those which we provide to Jordanian citizens. The available resources for this are constantly shrinking, however, and we might one day be simply unable to provide any further assistance, either for Syrian refugees or for Jordanian citizens.

Although we have been receiving some humanitarian aid from certain donors, the cost incurred by Jordan in hosting these refugees far exceeds the assistance we have received specifically for this purpose, which does not even amount to 20 per cent of the funding required, as calculated by various UN organizations, to meet the needs of the large increase in the refugee population fleeing the Syrian crisis.

In this context, I would like to share with you the results of a study conducted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which only assesses the financial impact of the Syrian crisis, without tackling the broader economic impact, or for that matter the humanitarian, social or security impacts. Nevertheless, the study assesses the direct financial impact for both the years 2013 and 2014 at about US\$909 million, while it estimates that the direct and indirect impacts for both years amount together to some US\$1.4 billion.

For its part, the UN estimates the requirements for addressing the impact of the Syrian conflict in Jordan at about US\$1.6 billion for 2014, in accordance with the inter-agency Syria Regional Response Plan, including US\$1.2 billion for humanitarian needs and one third of this amount to meet the urgent needs of the Government of Jordan.

The Syrian refugee crisis is not of Jordan's making. It is an international problem which has been imposed on my country leaving in its wake unprecedented social, financial, and economic instability and turmoil. The time is overdue for the international community to assume its full responsibility in this regard.

The ILO has been at the forefront of efforts to promote the social dimension component. It is for this reason that I call upon you, Mr Ryder, and the esteemed delegates of this unique, tripartite Conference, to take the initiative and the leading role in whatever manner you deem appropriate to muster the support of the international community in living up to its obligations towards Jordan by providing it with the appropriate support and assistance to enable it to deal with the impact of the Syrian humanitarian tragedy on my country.

Jordan is firmly committed to keeping the door open for its brother Syrians exposed to the crisis and humanitarian disaster, but, owing to its limited resources, Jordan is finding it very difficult to continue to receive these refugees and may be unable to provide even the most basic livelihood and decent living conditions for them and their families unless the international community steps forward to support it in these humanitarian endeavours.

Notwithstanding the enormous pressures faced by the Jordanian economy, all Jordanian government institutions, public bodies and non-governmental organizations are endeavouring to cooperate actively with the ILO in improving the conditions of workers, both Jordanian and expatriate.

I would like to place on record here the pride that Jordan takes in its longstanding, strong partnership with the ILO. This relationship, which has developed as a consequence of Jordan's strong commitment and adherence to the Organization's fundamental principles and standards, continues to be consolidated through the joint activities and projects being implemented. These activities and projects are bearing fruit in noteworthy achievements.

Allow me to share with you here some examples of these achievements. First, in the area of human trafficking, my Government is working hard to eradicate this threatening and inhuman phenomenon, and we have intensified our efforts to protect victims of this practice. Thus, earlier in 2014, we opened our first shelter. In this regard, I fully endorse Mr Ryder's view that we need to have decent jobs and social protection included as explicit goals in the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

Second, earlier this year we ratified the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), and are abiding by its provisions relating to old-age and disability benefits, insurance for death of the breadwinner and for work-related injuries, and the rights of inheritance. In doing so, Jordan was the second country in the Arab world to ratify this instrument.

Third, Jordan has also assumed its responsibilities at the international level through the participation of Her Majesty Queen Rania Abdullah in a select group of Heads of State and First Ladies. Her Majesty has taken an active role in the ILO's efforts to combat child labour around the world. Jordan has been chosen as the focal point for the pilot project in West Asia aimed at the eradication of child labour at the national level by 2016.

I would like to express my thanks and commendation to Mr Ryder for his Report, *Fair migration: Setting an ILO agenda*, and for responding to the calls by delegates for a thorough discussion of this issue, with a view to formulating appropriate and effective decisions.

Here we would like to thank the ILO and the donor countries for assisting us, in our project on decent work in Jordan, to improve all aspects relating to the issue of migrant workers, because this issue is so controversial and complex. The issue is also of great importance, as it involves 232 million migrant workers throughout the world. These workers need justice and protection of their rights through long-term and realistic solutions to their plight, designed to raise their standard of living and provide them with the security and stability that they need to lead more contented and productive lives. We concur with the viewpoint contained in the Report of the Director-General that, and I quote: "It is certainly possible to build migration regimes which respond equitably to the interests of countries of origin and of destination and those of migrant workers and members of existing national labour forces." I very much hope that discussions during this Conference will be a starting point in determining a strategic agenda for fair migration.

The Report of the Director-General, *The situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories*, high-

lights the dire conditions that continue to prevail in the occupied territories. The Report notes the pessimism arising from the lack of progress in the latest phase of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The Report also notes that, even while the peace talks have been taking place, Israeli settlement activity has intensified, violence has increased and whatever promises there have been of economic advances have not materialized. In fact, the overall situation has reached a level of deterioration in Palestine and the occupied territories that prompts Mr Ryder, in his preface, to question seriously whether the peace process is heading towards a breakdown and whether a viable two-state solution is still feasible.

We believe that a lasting peace could only be achieved through the implementation of the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the territories occupied after the 1967 war, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and with the resolution of all final status issues in accordance with international law and the Arab Peace Initiative.

I am delighted to note the extensive reforms that have been carried out in the Conference and the Governing Body. This constant quest for improvement is tangible proof of the evolution and advancement of the Organization. I wish to emphasize here that the delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which will be a member of the Governing Body for the period 2014-17, will spare no effort in contributing to attainment of the aforementioned process of reform and development.

The PRESIDENT

On behalf of the International Labour Conference, I want to stress, Prime Minister Ensour, our many thanks for these words of strong support for our institution, especially your explicit commitment to the fundamental principles and rights of work and your concerns, which are shared by us, regarding the fight against the worst forms of child labour.

Your comments on the situation in Jordan, with large inflows of refugees from Syria, as well as the country's status as both a receiving and sending nation for labour migration, will certainly nourish the discussion of the Director-General's Report, *Fair migration: Setting an ILO agenda*, which you also referred to.

Let me tell you that the Hashemite Kingdom has truly been a constant friend to the ILO. His Majesty King Hussein I and his son, His Majesty King Abdullah II, have both done the Conference the honour of visiting and addressing us here in Geneva. Now, you yourself are here, and let me tell you on behalf of the Conference that we appreciate your presence. Many thanks for reinforcing this close friendship by finding the time in your busy schedule to visit us. And finally, I am absolutely sure that the Director-General took note of your national concerns and will work on them, as the Office does, in order to try to help countries and to help the region, and to try to cooperate in solving the problems. Thank you very much on behalf of the Conference.

(The sitting adjourned at 3.30 p.m.)

Special sitting

Monday, 9 June 2014, 4.25 p.m.

President: Mr Funes de Rioja

World of Work Summit (cont.)

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY
MR NOROVIIN ALTANKHUYAG,
PRIME MINISTER OF MONGOLIA**

The PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to call on the Secretary-General of the Conference to introduce our distinguished guest, Prime Minister Altankhuyag of Mongolia.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

Your Excellency Prime Minister Noroviin Altankhuyag, it is a sincere pleasure to welcome you today to our Conference. In 1990, your country, Mongolia, chose the peaceful path to democracy, human rights, freedom of speech and social justice. And you, Prime Minister, were actively involved in that quest for freedom which your countrymen and women now enjoy. From the ILO's perspective, it has been extremely encouraging that, not long afterwards, Mongolia chose to ratify all eight of the ILO's fundamental rights Conventions, those Conventions that underpin freedoms in the world of work. Mongolia was among the first countries in the Asia-Pacific to have ratified all eight of these Conventions.

At that time, in 2005, Prime Minister, you were Minister of Finance, and your support for ratification was critical. Since then, you continued to give importance to the role of international labour standards in realizing your country's development objectives. Global development challenges, from the impact of climate change to poverty and unemployment, take a particular shape in your vast, landlocked country, so rich in resources and in traditions and culture as well. Yet, endowed with great mineral wealth, you are striving to realize the enormous potential to ensure that change and prosperity benefit all of your people.

Today, Prime Minister, your reformed Government is promoting the empowerment of people to achieve poverty eradication, social inclusion and full employment in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. You have emphasized the goal of full and productive employment which provides women and men with adequate incomes while extending protection to the most vulnerable. You are investing in your young people so that they are ready to contribute to, and benefit from, the opportunities that derive from your natural resource base and your diversification policies. Prime Minister,

the ILO has been pleased to work in partnership with our tripartite constituents in Mongolia to develop these policies and the programmes and institutions that can support your development goals.

I am told that you are often heard to say that "a lazy man has many tomorrows". But, Prime Minister, this cannot be said of you. You are working today for *one* tomorrow, the tomorrow where your people will have decent work, decent lives, and enjoy shared prosperity. We wish you well and we look forward to continuing our cooperation with your country. It is really a great privilege to have you with us here today and the Conference looks forward to hearing the message that you bring.

*Original Mongolian: Mr ALTANKHUYAG
(Prime Minister of Mongolia)*

It is a pleasure for me to be given this opportunity to extend my warmest greetings to this assembly, as the first Prime Minister of Mongolia to attend the International Labour Conference, representing the people of Mongolia.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the International Labour Organization, and to the Director-General of the ILO, Guy Ryder, for the kind invitation that was extended to the Government of Mongolia to participate in this World of Work Summit, which is being organized in the context of the current 103rd Session of the International Labour Conference.

I would also like to congratulate the International Labour Organization – an Organization that has won the Nobel Peace Prize – for its success in undertaking multifaceted activities through tripartite collaboration involving governments, employers and trade unions to create adequate employment and social welfare systems, meeting the needs of member States for development in accordance with their economic characteristics and potential.

Since becoming a Member of the ILO in 1968, Mongolia has cultivated constructive and fruitful cooperation with the International Labour Organization across a broad range of areas, including labour and social welfare.

Mongolia, a country with a history of 2,220 years of statehood, has been successfully nurturing political democracy and economic reform for the past 25 years. With a population of 3 million, and 1.5 million square kilometres of territory, Mongolia is a landlocked country with the lowest population density in the world. At the same time, it enjoys a

unique position between the two major world markets of Russia and China.

Mongolia is one of the most rapidly growing economies in the world. It has secured double-digit economic growth for three consecutive years. It is ranked among the top ten countries in the world in terms of coal, copper and gold resources.

Coal, copper, gold, iron ore, fluorspar and crude oil constitute the majority of our exports, but Mongolia is still an agricultural economy, with about 50 million head of livestock. Goat cashmere is also one of our principal commodity exports, and indeed Mongolia is the country with the second largest supply of goat cashmere resources in the world.

All these advantages, together with the concrete legal measures taken by the Government to create a business-friendly environment, have placed Mongolia at the centre of investors' interests. Mongolia's economy is largely made up of private sector enterprises, supported by both domestic and foreign investment – including the large-scale copper project, which is ranked the third biggest in the world, and is very significant for us – and small and medium-sized enterprises.

The outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, *The future we want*, setting the global economic, social and development agenda for years to come, is currently being discussed at the global level. Mongolia is actively involved in these discussions and considers it important to emphasize the following points: first, with regard to supporting decent work, the Government of Mongolia has presented to the Parliament of Mongolia a policy on employment that will apply up until 2021, in line with the International Labour Organization's decent work policy; second, we are pleased to note that Mongolia was the first country selected to benefit from the United Nations-led Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) at a time when the world is moving towards green development; and third, as a landlocked country itself, Mongolia leads other similar countries and, with the support of the United Nations, we have established an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, which is based in Ulaanbaatar.

In Mongolia, some 90,000 small and medium-sized enterprises are currently in operation, with 910,000 employees. The Government is undertaking important and specific steps to create a sustainable, transparent, red tape-free government service and an investment-friendly taxation environment for business enterprises and investors. One important component of these measures is the Government's national programme to promote employment and decent wages. Within the framework of this programme, we have implemented a number of measures and achieved concrete results.

The setting up of the Ministry of Labour as an independent body within the government structure has been an important step in our policy reforms. Within the Ministry of Labour, there are divisions dealing with employment and labour relations, small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives and self-employment, vocational training and technical education systems. It has become a necessary step forward, as we seek to resolve issues relating to labour market supply and demand, with a particular focus on human resources for small and medium-sized enterprises, to connect employers' needs and

jobseekers' information in a unified information system.

The Government of Mongolia is also supporting labour rights by implementing programmes and projects to promote employment for citizens over the age of 40 and to promote businesses among target groups.

It has been over 20 years since tripartite social dialogue emerged and developed in Mongolia. I would like to highlight the fact that the ILO's multifaceted support, its technical assistance, its professional experts and its advisers in Mongolia have played an enormous role in promoting social dialogue to the highest possible level. For the last 20 years, the social partnership has successfully spread to the local, sectoral and enterprise levels, and indeed it serves as a model for the development of collective agreements, facilitates mutual recognition and ensures a culture of respect and honour.

The Government of Mongolia is grateful to the Confederation of Mongolian Trade Unions and the Mongolian Employers' Federation, our social partners who have made an invaluable contribution to developing social dialogue and partnership in the country.

Mongolia is one of the Asian countries to have adopted the eight fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organization. Our objective is to intensify the adoption of other ILO Conventions and we are preparing to ratify the Safety and Health in Mines Convention, 1995 (No. 176), the Employment Service Convention, 1948 (No. 88), and the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181).

I would like, once again, to express my sincere gratitude to the ILO for organizing the World of Work Summit, which brings together 5,000 delegates from over 180 countries. I believe that, during this Summit, pivotal issues of concern are being discussed and significant decisions will be taken to ensure that the labour and social welfare issues of member States will be addressed.

We have a saying: "The one who works is the one who earns", which has the same meaning as "No pain, no gain". I myself have eight siblings, and from a young age was aware of a very strict division of labour and responsibilities within our household. Working in my student years at various factories, including salt and brick works, taught me what work was about and gave me a taste for work, and I saw the benefits of hard work with my own eyes. I call upon the young people of Mongolia to work hard and to exert themselves at all times.

In conclusion, I would like to invite you all to visit the beautiful country of Mongolia, to experience our ancient history and promising future, and I wish every success to the Summit.

The PRESIDENT

Many thanks, Prime Minister, for sharing your perceptions with the Conference and your conception of the social path forward. I want to take note of your objective of supporting decent employment; your approach to the question of green development; the way in which you see small enterprise development as a part of your strategy; your efforts to connect employers' needs and jobseekers' information in a unified information system; and your recognition of the role of the ILO and its technical assistance in promoting social dialogue to the highest level.

Many thanks also for the strong support your Government has given to our Organization and your clear belief in the fundamental guiding spirit of the ILO and tripartite dialogue. Your words will certainly serve us in formal discussions here in Geneva, and the Conference is very grateful to you for honouring it with your presence.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE

It falls to me now certainly not to draw any formal conclusions from the Summit that we have taken part in today, but rather to make some more general reflections on what we have heard and what we might draw by way of lessons from it.

Let me say the first thing about the event itself. We have been working for quite some time in the ILO to try and make these plenary events as interactive and as fruitful as possible, as the President has said, and I think that this year, this morning and this afternoon, we have made some important progress. I believe that we have had a lively and interactive panel of a high quality where issues of real import were dealt with. And, as we have just heard, there have been two very strong messages from two Prime Ministers, which touched on issues very much at the heart of the development and jobs debate. I am sure we have drawn benefit from it all.

So let me briefly try to draw a few lessons from the discussions that we have taken part in.

First, and I think this is something which is quite clear and we all agree on, all speakers have come together around the fundamental character and importance of employment and job quality as a driver of sustainable and equitable growth. It sounds obvious perhaps in this house but that thought does challenge that strand of conventional wisdom which somehow assumes a trade-off between employment and wages, on the one hand, and investment, economic growth and productivity, on the other.

In fact, the tenor of our Summit today has been that if policies are well designed, these two goals can reinforce each other rather than stand in mutual tension. To quote Professor Nayyar in his address this morning: "... profit-led growth and wage-led growth are complements, not substitutes, and ... what is good for employment is good for economic growth ...". And Minister Schmit from Luxembourg, who took part in the panel, reminded us of the concerns about improving job quality that have emerged recently in advanced economies, as well as those in development processes in emerging economies.

Second lesson. The high-level panel and the subsequent exchanges in the room shed some important light, I think, on major policy levers required to promote quality jobs and thus development as well. So let me just refer, rather telegraphically, to some of these key policy issues as they were raised today.

Several speakers, echoing Professor Nayyar, stressed the need for a greater coherence between employment and macroeconomic goals and that seems to me to call for greater attention to full employment as a part of fiscal and monetary policies. We heard many calls to reinstate the centrality of full and productive employment.

Other speakers, and I think particularly of Minister Navarrete Prida of Mexico, stressed the need to avoid excessive reliance on exports and foreign direct investment as the principal driver of growth because, essential as they are, these factors on their

own can lead to a narrow growth basis and hence widening inequalities. Mr Navarrete pointed to boosting domestic sources of growth and internal reforms, including in respect to education, labour markets, facilitating the transition to formal employment, for example, and taxation, which should, he said, be made more job-friendly.

I think it is worth recognizing that some differing views were expressed about the issue of the labour market and structural reform. The Employer representative on the panel, Mr Erol Kiresepi of Turkey, stressed the role of such reforms for an enabling business environment, and our Worker representative, Ms Sharan Burrow, warned against the social and economic effects of badly crafted labour market flexibility. And she instead urged stronger labour market institutions and collective bargaining.

Now, despite these real differences, I did sense some convergence with respect to at least two points. First, the fact that practical solutions can be found through social dialogue and by involving social partners in a genuine way, not in a purely formal one, in the reform process. And that was an issue which received, I think, very strong support from the Labour Minister of Tunisia, Mr Ahmed Ammar Younbai. And I would say that the other issue around which there was convergence was the need for looking at the possible impacts of reform on both enterprise and macroeconomic developments in general.

Improving the connections between education and labour markets appeared to be a common concern of many speakers. Minister Baldoz from the Philippines emphasized the importance of investing in human resources. She said that in her country the budget for social protection, and for education, was now a great deal higher than the military budget that used to be the largest.

Third, I think that the debate highlighted the role – and this is one of our major objectives – that the ILO itself can and should play in the ongoing development debate. We were told that the ILO could further its research and analysis on policies that work, and you know that is one thing at the centre of our reform agenda. We could contribute to creating a framework for migration that is conducive to win-win solutions, and I will be coming back to that at the end of the plenary debate on my Reports to the Conference.

Finally, the ILO should play a role as a catalyst in putting decent work at the heart of any meaningful development strategy.

So, by making jobs and social protection an explicit and key goal of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, the world economy would have great potential to make progress in achieving shared prosperity and inclusive growth. And this is a voice that the ILO should be raising in the global development debate.

These are some initial reflections on our work today. I want to thank everybody for their participation. I want to thank our honoured guests and our panellists as well. I think we are moving in the right direction in terms of the methods of our work, and in terms of the content, as the President stated, I think we have had a fruitful day's work. Thank you to everyone for that.

(The World of Work Summit adjourned at 5 p.m.)

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