



REGGENZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

**SPEECH BY THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE CAPTAINS REGENT ON THE OCCASION OF
THE GLOBAL SUMMIT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION ON
COVID-19 AND THE WORLD OF WORK**

(8 JULY 2020)

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Director-General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the occasion of the Centenary Celebrations of the International Labour Organization, its member countries gathered to reflect on issues concerning the world of work and its future.

That meeting resulted in a Declaration that represents the guiding star in a world where technological innovation, globalization, demographic flows and climate and environmental changes seem to constantly question the values and principles deriving from the social dialogue that the International Labour Organization has inspired and encouraged over a century.



REGGENZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

A few months after that solemn moment, we were all hit by a rampant and ruthless pandemic, which indiscriminately took the lives of thousands of people.

This tragic health emergency has been particularly felt in the Republic of San Marino, where the rate of contagion was among the highest in the world.

Regardless of their geographical area and GDP, all countries have been forced to increase their efforts to mitigate the devastating effects of COVID-19 and to promote sustained, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The current global situation, which is also - but not only - determined by the current pandemic, does not allow us to make precise predictions about possible trends and future scenarios. Nevertheless, it is our duty to ask ourselves where we want to start, or where we want to start again, both domestically and internationally.

What do we want to take with us along the difficult path to achieve a fairer and more just world of work and more solid and dynamic economies? What practices and principles? What certainties and challenges for the future?



REGGENZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

A serious and honest survey of our respective national systems will have to reveal why crises such as the one we are experiencing in these months always hit the most disadvantaged groups within our societies more violently.

The policies resulting from social study and debate will have to offer greater protection to vulnerable groups and provide States with the tools and knowledge necessary to assist those most in need.

The data show that women have been at the forefront of the fight against the spread of the virus and have therefore been more affected. Young people were the first to lose their jobs and for those who were unemployed the ambitions to find a job in the near future have vanished. Companies, especially small and medium-sized ones, had to fight for their survival, in some cases without success.

In most cases, people who have lost their lives because of COVID-19 are those who were already suffering from precarious and vulnerable situations.

In this context, a constructive approach to multilateralism and international solidarity will have to give priority to mutual trust over national selfishness, in the



REGGENZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

conviction that the promotion of widespread well-being and prosperity beyond national borders is beneficial to all.

Developing countries have been hit hard by COVID-19 in terms of human lives and economic losses.

Even small countries, such as the Republic of San Marino, which do not have the same resources or infrastructures as larger countries, are facing very serious consequences in order to defeat the virus with their own forces.

Today, unlike 100 years ago, inspired ideas such as those that gave birth to the ILO are no longer sufficient; indeed, courage, knowledge and the capacity for dialogue are needed so that the basic principles of social justice and the affirmation of the right to work and of work can be imposed and prevail over the spread of indecent, unfair and harmful working conditions.

Only a global and sustainable response can restore peace and prosperity for all.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of San Marino pays great attention to the ILO. It recognises its authoritativeness and foresight necessary



REGGENZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

to stimulate effective national policies and guide the community of States towards a future of shared prosperity.

Over the years, the successive Governments of San Marino have benefited much from the contribution of this Organization. On the occasion of the Centenary Celebrations, it was stated that the economic and social progress of the Republic of San Marino was inextricably linked to the achievements of the ILO throughout its history.

Today, with the outbreak of this pandemic, the devastating consequences of inequalities still present in the world have been shown.

Therefore, it is imperative that a tragic event such as the COVID-19 pandemic brings vigour to the action of the international community towards strengthening the instruments of social protection in the world of work.

We welcome with benevolence and enthusiasm this ILO Global Summit aimed at shedding light and bringing new useful responses to the building of a better future of work. In this regard, we take this opportunity to confirm the full and constant support of the Republic of San Marino to the ILO, to tripartite social dialogue and to international solidarity.



REGGENZA DELLA REPUBBLICA

In conclusion, we would like to renew our wishes that the community of States will work together towards the goal of promoting social justice, democracy and peace. As long as this is the objective, the Republic of San Marino will continue to offer its support and contribution.