

SPEECH OF THE MINISTER OF EGYPT

In the Name of Allah the most Merciful the most Compassionate

Your Excellences the Ministers:

Mr. Guy Ryder

Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

Mrs. Cynthia Samuel

Director of the ILO Regional Office for Africa

Mrs. Chairperson

Ladies and Gentlemen...

Please allow me at the beginning of my speech to express my appreciation for the ILO's efforts and its unwavering commitment to fulfill its obligations and its pursuit to arrive at the best solutions and practices for the issues and problems facing our world through the promotion of dialogue between the parties to the production process.

May God grant us success in this Global Summit to build a better future for work for the good of every worker and employers, both men and

women, around the world. This comes after the novel Corona pandemic (Covid-19) swept the world of work and caused tremendous human suffering, leaving many millions of workers and enterprises in a situation of great vulnerability, something the world has not witnessed for more than a hundred years. Studies indicate that a contraction in the economic sector will occur worldwide, with a decline in the movement of tourism, aviation, navigation and global trade, along with an expected decrease in the volume of foreign direct investment worldwide.

These forecasts entail burdens on the economies of different countries, whether developed or developing, including Egypt. For this reason, our focus from the beginning has been on the mechanisms for dealing with this unprecedented pandemic, and maintaining the rates achieved by our economy over the past period.

The government has adopted a number of measures and actions to support and assist employers and workers so that they can overcome the challenges posed by the crisis and address its impact. The Egyptian government has provided several facilities for employers to ensure the continuation of work, and has linked obtaining these privileges and facilities with preserving workers' rights and respecting national and international labour standards. His Excellency the President of the Republic launched an initiative to disburse a financial grant for irregular employment, as well as the payment of the salaries for regular

employment in the tourism sector, which has been the most affected by the pandemic, as well as other sectors.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Before the Corona pandemic, the Egyptian economy was widely praised by various economic institutions, underlining that Egypt was on the right path and making great strides in the path towards progress and development.

I would like to emphasize that although the Corona virus crisis has negatively affected a number of economic areas, Egypt is expected to witness positive growth during the coming period based on the estimates of a number of international institutions regarding the economic forecasts beyond the current fiscal year. The directives of the Egyptian political leadership, represented by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, called for the need to have a clear vision and implement plans to deal with the repercussions of this crisis during the coming stage and strive to emerge from the crisis with the least negative impact on the Egyptian economy. This is in line with Egypt's Vision "2030", which aims to enable Egypt during the 10 coming years to become the best in various aspects of economic, social, environmental, developmental and administrative life.

The Egyptian state will work with all its agencies to implement these plans in order to reach the desired goal, keeping in mind the long and

medium-term plans, as well as working to implement short-term plans related to the targets to be implemented during the next few years. This would ensure that the Egyptian economy is not affected by the exceptional and severe conditions of the Corona virus crisis.

In conclusion, I can only express my sincere gratitude to the staff of the ILO Regional Office in Africa for the efforts made to organize this important event, hoping that this Summit will achieve its goals in addressing the economic and social impacts of the Corona pandemic, and coordinate efforts to arrive at the best policies to build the post-pandemic phase.

I also cannot fail to extend my sincere condolences and sympathy to the victims of this dreaded epidemic, hoping that God will grant their loved ones patience and solace and that He may heal all those who are afflicted.

May the peace and blessing of God be upon you.