Thank you for this opportunity.

As we all know too well, fragility, unemployment and decent work deficits often trigger conflicts. Over many years, protracted conflicts halt and reverse economic growth and erode development gains. As a result, poverty concentrates in fragile settings, generating a continuum of disappointment, frustration, anger and militancy, thus feeding a vicious cycle.

In the reintegration phase, one key solution to break this cycle is to provide ex-combatants and affected populations with decent employment and appropriate skill ing opportunities to uproot themselves from the conflict. Efforts can then focus on reconstruction and recovery and on strengthening local institutions for the development of an inclusive economy that will have positive multipliers. The ILO supports governments to address some of the root causes of conflict through economic, social and environmental transformative actions based on jobs, inclusivity and productivity. This includes actions promoting the reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups, eliminating unacceptable forms of child exploitation and preventing child recruitment.

After the adoption in 2017 of the landmark Recommendation (N. 205) on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience, the ILO launched the Jobs for Peace and Resilience (JPR) global flagship programme to contribute to more peaceful and resilient societies through decent employment and social dialogue. The programme has thus far been operationalized in over 30 countries. In addition, the ILO and the UN PBSO, jointly with the WB and UNDP, developed an analytical framework and principles for action to strengthen the peacebuilding impact of employment interventions. This cooperation also resulted in an ILO and PBSO programme, funded by Switzerland, to sustain peace and foster development through employment creation in conflict situations.

The ILO Centenary Declaration on the Future of Work, adopted by our 187 member states this past June, called for intensified engagement and cooperation within the multilateral system with a view to strengthening policy coherence. This was in line with the recognition that decent work is key to sustainable development, addressing income inequality and ending poverty, paying special attention to areas affected by conflict, disaster and other humanitarian emergencies.

Through its instruments and services across several technical areas, the ILO is committed to contribute to the implementation of the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS) jointly with our national stakeholders and with the members of the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR.

We hope to give youth “hope, hope for a better life and better alternatives”.

Let me conclude by recognizing the excellent work of the Inter-Agency Working Group in developing the revised version of the IDDRS. Congratulations also on organizing the successful launch of the module today! A lot of hard work has gone into this endeavour, and has paid off with a solid inter-agency product – a good example of the benefits of multilateralism.

Thank you for your attention.
Members of the IAWG on DDR in Geneva

Ms. Tsukamoto, ILO