



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva**

Statement

**112th Session of the International Labour Conference of ILO
Agenda Item I (B)
Report of the Director-General: Towards a renewed social contract
Statement delivered by Dr. Arshad Mahmood
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Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum and a very good morning!

Allow me to extend warm greetings and heartfelt wishes from the people of Pakistan.

We deeply appreciate the insights presented by the Director-General ILO in his report at the Conference. These insights resonate with Pakistan's socio-economic landscape, emphasizing the imperative of a revitalized social contract to combat contemporary challenges of inequality, insecurity, and injustice.

Pakistan stands at the forefront of a transformative journey towards comprehensive socio-economic development. With a dedicated focus on inclusive growth and sustainability, we navigate the challenges of climate change, remain unwavering in our commitment to fortify social safety nets, protect vulnerable segments of society, and strengthen economic resilience.

At the heart of our endeavors lies the expansion of social protection schemes, ensuring a robust safety net for the most vulnerable among us. By prioritizing

health, education, and financial support, particularly for marginalized communities, we strive to mitigate the adverse impacts of crises and foster resilience. The largest national social safety net program, BISP, has been evaluated as an effective and successful model.

The Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) and the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) support private-sector workers' welfare. EOBI offers pensions and lump-sum grants funded by employer and employee contributions, while WWF provides housing, education, health facilities, and supports building hospitals and schools through industrial establishment contributions. Both institutions ensure better social security and living conditions for workers and their families.

Our recent endeavor of consolidating and simplifying labour laws and enhancing their scope to cover excluded groups has ensured coverage to domestic workers and others who until now have been denied of their fundamental rights.

Recognizing small traders and SMEs as the backbone of our economy, we embark on a journey to incentivize their growth. By facilitating access to credit, providing technical assistance, and simplifying regulatory frameworks, we catalyze entrepreneurship and innovation, propelling job creation and economic robustness.

Our tax reforms, aimed at creating a level playing field, entail broadening the tax base, reducing evasion, and ensuring equitable contribution from all sectors. These reforms fuel revenue generation, paving the way for substantial investments in public welfare and social programs.

Investments in skill development programs are pivotal, equipping our workforce with the requisite skills for international labor markets. Through collaborations with international organizations and host countries, we ensure

our workers are well-prepared and supported, facilitating fair recruitment and safe migration.

Through significant legislative and policy measures, we align our national legislation with international labor standards, underscoring our commitment to upholding workers' rights and fostering harmonious industrial relations.

Our recent convening of the Federal Tripartite Consultation Committee exemplifies our commitment to social dialogue. Endorsing six new ratifications for 2024-25, including crucial conventions on forced labor and maritime labor, Pakistan reaffirms its dedication to enshrining workers' rights within international labor standards.

Despite the unfortunate postponement of the National Tripartite Labour Conference, slated for May 22nd, due to unforeseen circumstances, we eagerly anticipate its rescheduling. With a focus on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), we envision meaningful stakeholder participation, culminating in actionable outcomes that enhance OSH conditions across various sectors.

Pakistan's leadership is demonstrated through our active participation in the Global Coalition for Social Justice. As the first ILO member state where all three constituents – government, employers, and workers – joined the Global Coalition, we underscore our commitment to advancing social justice. The launch of a national coalition for social justice further solidifies our dedication, and we eagerly anticipate contributing to and benefiting from the Global Coalition's inaugural forum, slated for June 13.

Pakistan remains steadfast in its pursuit of just transitions, emphasizing job creation, social protection, human capital development, and the upholding of fundamental labor standards. Aligned in our objectives, we look forward to collective efforts with the Director-General of the ILO to further the goals of social justice for all.

I thank you.