

Statement

347th Session of the Governing Body of ILO

Agenda Item PFA/1

Programme and Budget proposals for 2024-25

**Statement delivered by Mr. Muhammad Wishaq, Joint Secretary, Ministry
of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development
(13 March 2023)**

Honorable Chairperson,

We align ourselves with the OIC group statement on this agenda item.

We take note of the Director General's Programme and Budget proposals for the years 2024-25. We reiterate our concerns that such technical documents should avoid bringing in the matters of political nature and avoid using language which does not enjoy universal consensus. We however look forward to a consensus-based approach in this matter.

The P&B document has rightly emphasized the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups. The pandemic has led to increased unemployment, underemployment, and poverty, especially in developing countries. These challenges underscore the urgent need for a global response to address the challenges faced by workers and employers alike.

The successful engagement with donors, multilateral partners, and the U.N. system at the International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan in Geneva on 9th January 2023 was a significant step in initiating a discourse on collective action to address climate change.

We thank the ILO Country Office for promptly implementing Cash for Work Projects in Sindh and Baluchistan Provinces. Moreover, as well as for providing support in developing a comprehensive World of Work Strategy to respond to the crisis. We hope that this strategy will guide us in bringing jobs and employment to the forefront of our efforts towards achieving social justice.

In the recent years, the Government of Pakistan has increased its social protection expenditure, gradually expanding the fiscal space to achieve Universal coverage.

We believe that a strong social consensus on the pathways to sustainability is essential. We are making efforts to ensure that tripartite social dialogue between governments and representative organizations of employers and workers is an integral part of the institutional framework for policymaking and implementation at all levels.

Pakistan is one of the pioneering countries where the Decent Work Country Programme was developed in 2005. We are pleased to share that the fourth generation of the DWCP policy, which is ready for signing, is a result-oriented framework aligned with the global priorities of ILO. The proposed enablers, such as enhanced knowledge, innovation, cooperation, and communication, can help maximize the impact of the proposed policy outcomes and leverage partnerships to achieve the desired results.

I thank you.

Time: 4 Minutes

Word count: 361