

347th Session of the Governing Body of ILO

Agenda Item INS/7

Proposals and road map for the review of the global strategy on occupational safety and health

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

Honorable Chairperson,

The Government of Pakistan fully supports the proposal to review the 2003 Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) strategy in light of recent developments, such as the inclusion of two OSH Conventions as Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

Pakistan recognizes the importance of OSH measures not only for workers but also for the overall well-being of enterprises. In order to fulfill its national obligations and comply with the requirements of GSP Plus, Pakistan is committed to adopting ILO guidelines on OSH and strengthening legal frameworks and policies at the federal and provincial levels.

It is encouraging to note that provincial governments are taking steps to build the capacities of their labour inspection machinery in specific sectors such as construction, textiles, and shipyards. Effective enforcement of these policies will be crucial in ensuring compliance with international labour standards. As the country progresses towards digitalization, the labour inspection system is also being modernized. In the province of Punjab, the labour inspection mechanism has undergone a significant transformation, with a move towards a real-time inspection system through the use of IT gadgets.

OSH is a priority for the government not only in the formal sectors of textiles, garments, and construction but also in informal sectors such as sanitation, cotton supply chains, and mining. Furthermore, Pakistan has prioritized the ratification of two up-to-date Conventions on OSH (C-155 and C-187) in 2023-24, reflecting its commitment to promoting the safety and well-being of workers.

Pakistan recognizes the importance of OSH measures and is taking concrete steps towards ensuring a safe and healthy working environment for its workers, while fulfilling its international obligations.

I thank you.

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