



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

Statement

349th Session of the Governing Body of ILO

Agenda Item GB.349/POL/1

**Review of progress made regarding the follow-up of the Youth
Employment Action Plan (YEAP) for the period 2020–30**

**Statement delivered by Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmad, Ministry of Overseas
Pakistanis and Human Resource Development**

(2 November 2023)

Honorable Chairperson,

We appreciate the Office for providing a review of the progress made in implementing the follow-up Youth Employment Action Plan for the period from January 2020 to November 2023.

As highlighted in the document, in Asia and the Pacific, we acknowledge a notable and commendable effort by governments, employers' organizations, and workers' organizations in the region to tackle critical labor market issues. These issues encompass the shift from informal to formal economies, reducing gender disparities, and advancing productivity growth and skills development, with a specific emphasis on digital transformation.

Nonetheless, it is imperative to acknowledge that there is significant work yet to be accomplished in these domains. As the document very rightly highlights, youth employment rates in developing countries still lag behind pre-pandemic levels, necessitating a more concerted and sustained effort for improvement.

The Government of Pakistan is dedicated to creating employment opportunities for the country's youth. Two key initiatives working toward this goal are the Prime Minister Youth Employment Programme and the National Youth Employment Policy. The Prime Minister Youth Employment Programme focuses on the four "Es": education, employment, participation, and environment. The National Youth Employment Policy aims to offer two million job opportunities to Pakistan's youth. The government's primary areas of focus for youth empowerment, contributing to the government's ambition to increase gender parity in education and in the world of work, include "Girls Learn Girls Earn," "Blue Collar Jobs," and providing promising career prospects. We firmly believe that the youth represent not only the future but also the present, and with the right opportunities, they can become invaluable assets to the nation.

We support the proposed course of action outlined in paragraphs 39 to 43 of the document, and thus, we endorse the draft decision presented in paragraph 44 of the document.

I thank you.

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