



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

346th Session of the ILO Governing Body, October-November 2022
Follow-up to the resolution concerning the third recurrent discussion on
employment (GB.346/INS/3/1)

Statement delivered by Mr. Zulfiqar Haider, Secretary, Ministry of
Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development on behalf of
ASPAG

Thank you, Chair. I am speaking on behalf of ASPAG.

We thank the Office for presenting the comprehensive Plan of Action on employment pursuant to resolution IV adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 110th Session in June 2022.

The ASPAG takes note of the Plan of Action along with its six important components and risks and assumptions.

Many ASPAG countries have been seriously impacted by economic and social consequences arising from the series of crises including COVID-19 pandemic, followed by the compounding effects of geopolitical tensions, inflation, financial turmoil, high debt burdens and global supply chain disruptions. Some countries in the world including in our region, especially advanced economies, have performed better in protecting labour markets in recent years. However, these exogenous shocks have exacerbated inequalities within and between groups of workers, enterprises and countries. Many ASPAG members are operating in an environment of reduced fiscal space than before and face major constraints in stimulating job creation.

At the same time, protracted labour market challenges persist in terms of both quantity and quality of employment, as evidenced by high informality, skills mismatches, persistent and rising poverty, uneven and mostly weak real

wage growth, low productivity, lack of social protection coverage, labour rights violations in global supply chains and labour market inequalities.

As the largest representative region of the world of work and of the developing countries, ASPAG welcomes technical support and capacitybuilding on request, to help develop policies for human centered recovery and job creation. Building an enabling business environment for sustainable enterprises while tackling inequality and ensuring quality of employment, remains an important policy priority. We request the Office to conduct evidence-based research and assessment including good practices sharing on developing tools and programmes to help alleviate rising inequalities and support debt stressed countries.

We encourage social partners to engage constructively to implement this Plan of Action.

The ASPAG looks forward to actively contributing to this process.

We support the decision point.

Thank you, Chair.