

**ASPAG MINISTERIAL MEETING**

**National Statement of Pakistan to be delivered by Mr. Zulfiquar Haider,  
Federal Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource  
Development–Geneva, June 13, 2023**

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Distinguished Ministers and Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum (peace be upon you)!

On behalf of the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I extend my warm greetings to all the esteemed participants gathered here for the Asia Pacific Meeting of Labour Ministers. We appreciate the International Labour Organization (ILO) for organizing this significant event on the sidelines of the 111<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference.

Pakistan attaches great importance to the Asia Pacific region as it represents a diverse and dynamic group of nations, each facing its unique challenges and opportunities. This meeting provides an excellent platform for us to exchange ideas, share experiences, and collaborate on crucial issues pertaining to labor and employment.

We firmly believe that decent work and social justice are fundamental pillars of sustainable development. Pakistan's vision aligns with the goals and principles set forth by the DG ILO in his report presented at the Conference. We have made significant strides in promoting decent work, social protection, and inclusive growth, guided by our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Despite the formidable challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan has remained steadfast in its efforts to protect the rights and well-being of its workers. We have taken comprehensive measures to ensure occupational safety, strengthen social protection mechanisms, and promote employment generation. Recognizing the importance of social dialogue, we have fostered strong partnerships with workers' and employers' organizations to achieve equitable and sustainable outcomes.

In line with our commitment to gender equality, Pakistan has actively pursued policies to enhance women's labor force participation, eliminate gender-based wage gaps, and promote safe and enabling working environments for women. We believe that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a key driver of inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Pakistan is keenly aware of the transformative potential of technology and automation in shaping the world of work. We remain committed to facilitating a just transition for our workers. We are investing in skills development, retraining, and upskilling initiatives to equip our workforce with the necessary competencies to thrive in the digital age.

Distinguished participants, Pakistan is deeply committed to fostering regional cooperation and collaboration. We firmly believe that through collective efforts, we can address common labor challenges, promote fair and decent work, and create an enabling environment for sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region.

I thank you all for your attention, and I wish you a successful and productive meeting.

Shukriya (thank you) and Khuda Hafiz (May God protect you)

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