



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

Statement

**Meeting of the NAM Labour Ministers
on the Sidelines of 110th Session of the International Labour Conference**

**Statement by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi,
Permanent Representative of Pakistan**

**(30 May 2022)
(1300-1500 hours CET)**

Honourable Chair, Ministers and Excellencies,

It is a pleasure to be part of this Session and address this honorable NAM Meeting of Labour Ministers under the stewardship of Azerbaijan.

The format of this meeting itself contextualises the effect of complex crises that the world in general and the developing countries in particular have been hit with. The multiple challenges posed by COVID, climate change and food and energy crises affect the world of work the most. We have seen workers losing jobs in millions since the outset of the pandemic, especially the informal economy.

The ILO needs to recalibrate its role from normative to capacity building of Member States especially the developing countries. There is a need for innovative approaches and collective efforts to offset the impact of pandemic and ancillary challenges. The fiscal space of States has shrunk due to the pandemic and mobilization of domestic resources needs to be augmented by international public financial institutions without additional burden. The States facing default should be assisted on immediate basis.

The ongoing pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in the world of work. We believe Global Call to Action for Human-centred Recovery needs to be translated into action and aligned with the Global Fund for Social Protection and the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection to help world of work

We share concerns of all Member States resulting in serious challenges and call upon strengthening of social dialogue among the stakeholders to improve the livelihoods of workers especially the sectors adversely hit by the pandemic.

We believe social dialogue, freedom of association and collective bargaining is a prerequisite for decent work and human-centered economic development. The Government of Pakistan believes in promotion of decent work through a coordinated approach to achieve employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights at work.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan is a home to a brilliant and capable workforce and the Government of Pakistan is fully committed to safeguard the rights of the workers and create decent working conditions for all. The Government of Pakistan has ratified 36 ILO Conventions including all eight Fundamental Conventions. To address issues at grass root level and enhance responsiveness, labour issues are being dealt at the Provincial level in Pakistan. Accordingly, the Provincial Governments are working diligently on labour legislation and its implementation in line with International Labour Standards and best practices. The Federal Government under the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) is responsible to ensure implementation of International Labour Standards (ILS) at Provincial level and reporting to ILO.

Mr. Chairman,

Our Government remains focused on people-centered development with a special attention towards our 72 million workforce and protection for the rights of women and children. It is our priority to support deeper tripartite cooperation, therefore, tripartite forums have been created at the Federal and Provincial level, with fair representation of all segments of workers, employers and Government.

It is our prime obligation to respect, promote and realize, the fundamental principles and rights at work by ensuring updated labour legislation and implementation in shape of institutional, judicial and administrative setup, for promotion of social dialogue and collective bargaining.

Mr. Chairman,

Our government is firmly committed to eliminate child labour in all forms through targeted interventions and provision of quality education. Pakistan has also made progress over the years to eradicate forced labour through effective implementation of institutional obligations and organization of District Vigilance Committees (DVCs), having representation of all segments of the stakeholders. We are steadfast in our efforts to eliminate poverty and inequalities, promote social protection and head towards a peaceful and better future for all, through our enhanced cooperative efforts.

Thank you
