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

Statement

352nd Session of the Governing Body of ILO

Statement on behalf of OIC Group

Agenda Item: GB.352/PFA/2

**Preview of the Programme and Budget proposals for 2026–27
(28 October 2024)**

Thank you, Chair!

I speak on behalf of the OIC Group of countries*, we align with the statement of the Arab Group. The OIC Group appreciates the Office for preparing a comprehensive document.

We acknowledge the detailed discussions on various aspects of the budgetary proposals and support the overall framework, with particular emphasis on promoting decent work and equitable economic opportunities globally. While we extend our support for the draft in general, we wish to place on record the following comments:

First, we appreciate & support ILO's commitment and work to addressing discrimination. Given its importance, we stress that this work requires uncontested support of all member states, which can only happen if the work

* except Albania

is delineated without stirring known controversies, and by operating in well understood legal normative limits. This work must adhere to the universally agreed forms of discrimination—such as those based on race, sex, color, language, and religion. Introducing controversial or divisive notions risks undermining the consensus necessary for the effective work of the ILO in this area.

Second, we are disappointed at the inclusion of references to certain controversial categories of groups and individuals in **paragraph 113 under output 5.1** of the draft document. The listing and highlighting of such categories, which lack international consensus, is inadvisable.

Third, the OIC Group reiterates the importance of ensuring that all programmes and budget proposals reflect universally recognized human rights principles. We emphasize that any language or concepts lacking international consensus should be avoided to preserve the integrity and inclusivity of the ILO's work. The ILO acknowledges that there is no consensus and there are ongoing consultations with the Government Group.

In this regard the formulation used in the paragraph 23(e) of the resolution adopted in December 2021 concerning “inequalities and the world of work” sufficiently covers all forms of discrimination and represents an updated consensus on this point.

In addition, we fear that unilaterally inventing new grounds of discrimination risks undermining the Convention-111 of 1958 on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation). This convention has allowed the member states, at national levels, to determine other distinctions, exclusion or preferences in the area of discrimination. Such a determination neither binds other member states of the ILO nor, in our view, provides an overarching global mandate to the ILO in the absence of an explicit intergovernmental

consensus. However, imposing new grounds of discrimination on member states without national consensus or in absence of a legal commitment renders this consensus path devised under C.111 as useless.

The OIC member states would support the decision point in the 353rd GB in March 2025 only if the language in para 113 is revised in a manner that the principles of universality, equality, and impartiality are upheld.

I thank you!

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