Please check against delivery

Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva

Statement

113th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC)

National Statement delivered by Chaudhry Salik Hussain,
Minister of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development,
Government of Pakistan
(4 June 2025)

Mr. President,
Excellencies & Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to speak at the 113th International Labour Conference today.

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to thank the Director General ILO for his report as well as for his leadership for promoting social justice in the world of work.

Pakistan is committed to support the ILO in realizing better implementation of labour standards worldwide.

At home, our growing partnership with the ILO is a matter of pride and satisfaction for us. We have achieved results working together and I will be pleased to reflect on these briefly today.

Mr. President,

This year, we marked a historic milestone in our labour reform journey. In March 2025, Pakistan ratified three significant ILO instruments: the Maritime Labour Convention, and Convention on Labour Statistics and the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention. These ratifications underscore our resolve to end forced labour, protect our seafarers, and build a data-driven labour governance system for a workforce of over 75 million people.

We are advancing toward ratifying further key conventions—on Occupational Safety and Health (C155, C187, C176), and the Violence and Harassment Convention, C190. Pakistan's Supreme Court has explicitly endorsed C190 as essential to safeguarding the rights of women and vulnerable workers.

Another landmark in our national efforts was the Tripartite Labour Conference, held in November 2024 after a gap of 15 years. Government, employers, and workers came together to recommit to occupational safety, gender-sensitive policies, and stronger labour institutions.

It was a powerful display of unity and political will.

Mr. President,

Social protection remains at the heart of our development strategy. The Benazir Income Support Programme and Ehsaas collectively serve over 9 million families. The Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI), with assets exceeding USD 2 billion approximately, supports over 400,000 pensioners, while the Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) has granted over 50,000 scholarships alongside housing and welfare support.

To protect migrant workers, Pakistan is embracing digital innovation. The upcoming Pak-Tok App will serve 800,000 emigrants annually, connecting 12 million diaspora members to essential services. Our Emigration Management Framework will digitize overseas employment to ensure transparency and ethical recruitment.

To prepare for the future of work, Pakistan is investing in youth and skills. Under the Decent Work Country Programme, NAVTTC and TEVTAs are aligning training with industry needs. We are piloting legal migration pathways with the European Union and establishing training institutes focused on green jobs and digital skills.

Pakistan is proud to be the first ILO Member where government, employers, and workers collectively joined the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

We are also strengthening our cooperation with international social partners.

Through partnerships with IndustriALL Global Union, we are strengthening workplace safety in energy and mining sectors. The recent visit of Secretary General of ITUC reaffirmed our shared values of democracy, equality, and freedom of association.

Mr. President,

Finally, the Director-General's report on the situation in Palestine lays bare the human and economic toll: widespread joblessness, mass displacement, and the destruction of livelihoods. The killing of children and women, the bombing on hospitals and schools, the blockade of food and supplies. We reiterate our collective call—there can be no peace without justice, and no justice without decent work.

In conclusion, Pakistan stands ready to work with all partners to uphold the ILO's values, protect every worker, and build a future defined by dignity, fairness, and shared prosperity.

Thank you.

Word Count: 564