



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

Statement

114th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC)

Statement Delivered by H.E. Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Federal Minister for
Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development
(3 June 2026)

**Vice President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

The 114th Session of the International Labour Conference is meeting at a time of deep global uncertainty. Ongoing conflicts, economic pressures, rapid technological change and climate impacts are affecting economies, labour markets and livelihoods worldwide, leaving millions of workers facing growing insecurity.

We also recognize that the ILO itself is passing through a difficult period financially. Pakistan appreciates Director-General for his leadership in initiating and steering the reform process at a challenging time for the Organization.

However, reform must not only be about budgets and structures. Reform must also be about fairness and inclusivity.

From Pakistan's perspective, no reform of the ILO can be complete without greater democratization of its governance structures. This year marks four decades since the adoption of the 1986 Constitutional Amendment. More than two-thirds of the membership has already ratified it, demonstrating the collective

will of the international community. Yet its implementation continues to be held back by only a handful of countries.

This situation does not reflect the democratic spirit on which multilateralism should stand.

Mr. Vice-President,

We welcome the Director-General's report on harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) for decent work. We particularly value its emphasis on addressing the widening digital divides and inequalities through international cooperation and capacity-building.

Pakistan adopted its National AI Policy last year. We have one of the world's largest platform workforce with nearly 3 million freelancers. The recently adopted Punjab Labour Code 2026 extends greater labour protections to platform workers, including freedom of association and collective bargaining.

I am also pleased to inform that after ratifying three ILO instruments last year, we are actively working to further strengthen our occupational safety and health (OSH) framework.

Excellencies,

As we discuss the future of work, we cannot ignore the suffering of workers trapped in situations of conflict and occupation.

The Director-General's Report on the situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories presents a deeply alarming picture. The report notes that over 72,000 fatalities had been reported in Gaza as of April 2026, while unemployment in Gaza has reached 85.1 per cent, with more than 250,000 jobs lost since the beginning of the conflict. We are also deeply concerned by the devastating

humanitarian and economic impact of the continuing Israeli attacks on Lebanon, including displacement, loss of livelihoods and destruction affecting workers and enterprises.

Behind these numbers are workers, families, children, and communities whose livelihoods and futures have been shattered. Pakistan believes that peace, dignity, and justice are essential for decent work to exist anywhere in the world. We support all efforts aimed at restoring livelihoods, protecting civilians, rebuilding institutions, and creating conditions for lasting peace and hope for the Palestinian people.

Mr. Vice-President,

The rapid expansion of the platform economy presents important opportunities and challenges. For the ILC's Standard Setting Committee on Platform Economy, we advise balanced and flexible approach that safeguard decent work in the platform economy, while respecting national circumstances of countries that are at different levels of digital and institutional development.

Mr. Vice-President,

The founders of the ILO understood a simple truth: lasting peace cannot exist without social justice. That message remains just as relevant today. Pakistan remains committed to working with all partners to strengthen the ILO, defend multilateralism, and build a future of work that is fair, inclusive, and humane.

I thank you.

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