



# CHAIR NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT GENEVA CHAPTER



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## DECLARATION OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT LABOUR MINISTERS

Geneva, 17 June 2019  
Palais des Nations, Room XI

We, the Ministers of Labour of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), having met at the 108<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), held in Geneva on June 2019, and having deliberated over several issues of interest and shared concerns in the world of work,

Affirm our unwavering support to the consolidation and strengthening of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to preserve its legacy and historical relevance and, thus, guarantee its strength and cohesion based on unity in diversity and the solidarity amongst its Member States.

Consider that it is the right time to reflect the progress made regarding the fundamental labour principles and rights, taking into consideration the centenary of International Labour Organization (ILO) and in the context of important changes in the world of work.

Take note of the ILO Centenary outcome document and the Draft Declaration for the consideration of the International Labour Conference, which is the product of various consultations held with the three constituents groups. The declaration should address the structure of the governance of the ILO, so that the next centenary reflects the democratization and inclusion in the Governing Body of Member States of all regions. The debate should lead to a final negotiated version, including a follow-up mechanism.

Look forward to the outcome of the work of the Standard Setting Committee on “Violence and harassment in the world of work”, for standard setting under the double discussion procedure that its second round takes place this year.

Take note of the document on “*World Employment and Social Outlook/Trends 2019*” and note with great concern that global unemployment remains elevated at more than 170 million in the world. In general, the global unemployment rate should remain at roughly the same level during 2019 and 2020. However, the number of people unemployed is projected to increase to reach 174 million by 2020 as a result of the expanding labour force; that the economic and social context have great impact on this situation, affecting



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the right to freedom of association, right to organize and collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced labour, the effective abolition of gender inequality and child labour and the elimination of discrimination in employment. There is a lack of progress in closing the gender gap in labour force participation, wage differences, among others. We also highlight the challenge in the world of work of automation and new technologies. All of which represent a double challenge: repairing the damages caused by the world social and economic crisis and creating quality employment for the tens of millions of people that access the labour market every year; being a source of concern that poor quality employment is the main issue for the global labour market, with millions of people forced to accept inadequate working conditions. Moreover, the progress in reducing unemployment globally is not being reflected in improvements in the quality of work.

Request that the ILO should assist in the following key area: strengthening of labour market institutions, especially relating to labour statistics and technical support on labour market reform in view of the expected aftermath of changes in the world of work, as well as introducing innovative, transparent and accessible service delivery models.

Urge the Director-General to continue the activities carried out to promote the acceptance of the 1986 Instrument of Amendment to the ILO Constitution, and urge the Member States that still haven't ratified this Instrument, to do so. Likewise, we look forward to receive the information that the Office shall provide during next meetings of the Governing Body, regarding the reasons that prevent or delay the aforementioned ratification, taking into consideration that the composition of the Governing Body, must represent the sovereign equality of all the States, as enshrined in the United Nations Charter, nor does it embody an adequate representation of all the regions, mainly the developing countries that are currently under-represented. Underline that according to the decision of the 332<sup>nd</sup> session of the Governing Body (March 2018), this matter is a standing item on the agenda of each March and November Governing Body sessions until the amendment entered into force. A further 16 ratifications are therefore required for the 1986 Amendment to come into force. This must include at least three ratifications from Members of chief industrial importance.

Appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Office to strengthen the ILO Supervisory System. Acknowledge the mandate of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) as expressed in the 2019 Report and underline the importance of independence, objectivity and impartiality in its business. Balance in the list of individual cases in terms of the four Regions and different conventions must be the guiding principle in the case selection before the Committee on the Application of Standards. It is necessary to improve transparency in this process. While the importance of



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fundamental conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining is recognized, the list must be more balanced in terms of fundamental, technical and governance conventions.

Underscore the importance of continuing with the review on the interrelationship, functioning and improvement of the supervisory procedures related to articles 22, 23, 24 and 26 of the ILO Constitution and the complaints mechanism on freedom of association, taking into consideration “The Standards Initiative and the Implementing the work plan for strengthening the supervisory system”. Emphasizing that all procedures must be clear, objective and transparent, in order for the supervisory system to be efficient, of recognized authority and for the elimination of unnecessary duplications.

Welcome the important work of the Tripartite Working Group (TWG) of the Standards Review Mechanism (SRM), in order to ensure that ILO has a clear, robust and up-to-date body of international labour standards to respond to the changing patterns of the world of work and look forward to the next meeting of that Working Group on September 2019.

Recognize the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically Goal 8, which promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, the protection of labour rights and the promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

Recognize that the Right to Development is an inalienable, intrinsic, interrelated and interdependent human right and that its realization could foster achievement of every United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 8.

Underline the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the United Nations Economic and Social Council that every year reviews the progress and challenges towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda; the theme in July 2019 in this Forum will be “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”.

Take note of the Report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work, “*Work for a brighter future*” under the Secretariat of the ILO. This agenda consists of three pillars of action, which in combination would drive growth, equity and sustainability for present and future generations: 1) Increasing investment in people’s capabilities; 2) Increasing investment in the institutions of work; y 3) Increasing Investment in decent and sustainable work.



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Welcome the “*General Survey – Universal social protection for human dignity, social justice and sustainable development*”, on the implementation of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (Nº 202) in national law and practice, which reflects the importance of social protection in the global development agenda and the relevance of the Recommendation in guiding action to combat poverty, inequality and social exclusion, and to achieve universal rights that together ensure life in health and dignity.

Reiterate that unilateral coercive measures seriously jeopardize all human rights, including the right to development and the right to work as agreed in the Baku Declaration. The NAM Ministers oppose and condemn these unilateral coercive measures or laws and their continued application, persevere with efforts to effectively reverse them and urge other States to do likewise, as called for by the UN General Assembly and other United Nations organs, and request, again, to States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately.

Maintain that the need to strengthening multilateralism and refraining from unilateral coercive measures ought to be reflected in the ILO centenary Declaration as it deals with the challenges of the world of work.

Note document GB.334/POL/4, which was widely discussed and the Governing Body took note of in October - November 2018, on the "Enhanced programme of development cooperation for the occupied Arab Territories". This document highlighted the critical and deteriorating situation for workers and their families in Gaza and the West Bank; we request that the ILO continues promoting the Decent Work Agenda and social justice for the Palestinian people.

Condemn the Israeli occupation of occupied Palestinian territories as well as of the occupied Syrian Golan and express their rejection of the Israeli policies and practices in this regard.

Deplore Israel's continuing intransigence and obstruction of peace efforts and entrenchment of its more than fifty-year military occupation via various illegal schemes and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem - the territory that constitutes the State of Palestine, and express grave concern about the consequent human rights crisis and protection crisis being deliberately inflicted on the Palestinian People, and the deepening insecurity and humanitarian and socio-economic suffering they are enduring.



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Appreciate the interest of the Director-General of the ILO on this subject, bearing in mind the second “*Palestinian Decent Work Programme (2018-2020)*” was signed by the ILO, the Government, employers and workers representatives. The Programme sets the framework for joint ILO-Palestinian work and prioritizes promoting employment and livelihoods, strengthening labour market governance and labour rights, and increasing social security and social protection.

Express deep concern taking into account that the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories continues to be marked by the entrenched occupation, a stalled peace process, persistent political instability, and a worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza. Such conditions continue to strain the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, limiting access to economic opportunities and decent work. The economic situation continues to be characterized by high levels of unemployment, underemployment and inequality.

Welcome the Report of the ILO Director-General on the situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories and express their deepest concern over the violation of human rights continuously perpetrated by the occupying power. The predicament of the Palestinian and Syrian workers, employers and their severely constrained economic activities exacerbated by physical and administrative restrictions including Israeli settlement, checkpoints, the Separation Wall, road blocks, trenches and gates and other restrictive measures coupled with a complex controlling permit regime has shown no sign of improvement and systematically limit growth and affect the livelihood of millions of innocent Palestinians and Syrians of the Golan imprisoned in their homeland in clear violation of relevant provisions of international law.

According to that Report, the everyday reality of Palestinian workers continues to be dominated as before by the multitude of obstacles arising directly out of the occupation. The restrictions on movement and economic activity and the overbearing presence of settlements have fragmented the labour market. Gaza continues to be sealed off by land, sea and air, and has witnessed a dramatic increase in joblessness; close to two thirds of women and youth in the labour market are without a job. Skilled women in particular are affected. Nowhere else in the world does the labour market situation of women appear so dire. More than half of wage employees in the private sector are hired without a contract and close to one third receive less than the minimum wage. More than half the inhabitants now live in poverty. Measurable unemployment remains well above 43.2 per cent.



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That Report underlines that unemployment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory has reached the highest in the world. Women continue to be severely disadvantaged in the Palestinian labour market. Gaza continues to live a humanitarian and human-made crisis; its economy is depleted, the labour market crippled. Youth unemployment among Palestinians rose to 50.1 per cent, and for women, to 57.3 per cent. Palestinian men and women should be able to improve their livelihoods in conditions of equality. Prospects for Palestinian workers are grim. The fiscal situation of the Palestinian Authority and the current donor climate make it unlikely that the economy can benefit from any stimulus in the near future. Rather, there are indications that it will descend into deep recession, with dramatic repercussions for the job market and Palestinian livelihoods.

Express their deep concern on the fiscal constraints and resource decline in the Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection and urge ILO Director-General to continue his efforts with international donors to provide financial support to the Fund to contribute to the social and economic progress of the Palestinian people.

Express their support to all efforts aiming at uniting the Palestinian national struggle for the establishment of the independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital, as well as for the achieving of the lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on the International Law and relevant UN resolutions. They also express their support to the Palestinian people in their endeavors to exercise their inalienable rights including the right of self-determination, national independence and sovereignty; and the right to return to their homes.

The NAM Labour Ministers decide to hold the next meeting in the framework of the 109<sup>th</sup> International Labour Conference, to be held in June 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The NAM Labour Ministers express their sincere appreciation to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, for the preparation and success of this meeting in the framework of the 108<sup>th</sup> International Labour Conference.