DECLARATION OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT LABOUR MINISTERS
Geneva, 05 June 2018
Palais des Nations, Room XI

Adopted

We, the Ministers of Labour of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), having met at the 107th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), held in Geneva in June 2018, and having deliberated over a number of issues of interest and 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 on the basis of 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 upcoming centenary of International Labour Organization (ILO) and in the context of important changes in the world of work.

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.

Take note of the Report on “Social dialogue and tripartism” (recurrent discussion), under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008. The report reviews the global trends and challenges that are shaping social dialogue and describes the actions taken by members States and ILO constituents, identifying good practices, gaps and needs; and examines the role of tripartism and social dialogue in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Take note the document on “World Employment and Social Outlook/Trends 2018” and note with great concern that the global unemployment remains elevated at more than 192 million in the world. In 2019, the global unemployment rate is expected to remain essentially unchanged, whereas the number of unemployment is projected to grow by 1.3 million since the growth rate of labour force is greater than that of job creation; that the economic and social context have great impact on this situation, affecting 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. 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 the number of workers in vulnerable forms of employment (own-account workers and contributing family workers) is likely to increase in the years to come; the current projection suggests that the number of people in this situation will increase by 17 million per year in 2018 and 2019.

Request that the ILO should assist in the following key area: strengthening of labour market institutions, especially on labour statistics, technical support on labour market reform in view of the expected aftermath of changes in the world of work.

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 the decision of the 332nd session of the Governing Body (March, 2018), this matter should become a standing item on the agenda of subsequent March and November Governing Body sessions until the amendment entered into force.

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 2018 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 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 workplan 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 in September 2018.

Take note of the recommendations made by TWG, which has allowed this Conference to take the decision on the abrogation of six conventions: Convention Nº 21 on the Inspection of Emigrants, Convention Nº 50 on the Recruiting of
Indigenous Workers, Convention No. 64 on the Contracts of Employment (Indigenous Workers), Convention No. 65 on the penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers), Convention No. 86 on the Contracts of the Employment (Indigenous Workers), Convention No. 104 on the Abolition of Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers); and the withdrawal of three Recommendations: Recommendation No. 7 on the Hours of Work (Fishing), Recommendation No. 61 on the Migration for Employment and Recommendation No. 62 on the Migration for Employment (Co-operation between States). This abrogation and withdrawal is due to the fact that the aforementioned conventions and recommendations have lost their purpose or no longer make a useful contribution to attaining the objectives of the ILO.

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, on 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 2018 in this Forum will be “transformation toward sustainable and resilient societies”.

Take note of the Report “Toward 2030: Effective development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals”. It reaffirms that the Decent Work Agenda is the key to Sustainable Development Goals. The ILO must therefore offer development cooperation relevant to all country setting and tailored to constituents’ demands and needs in order to maximize its impact.

Welcome the “General Survey - Ensuring decent working time for the future”, concerning to the instruments on working time, taking into account that the number of hours worked, the length and number of rest periods and how they are organized in a day, week, month or year, have important consequences for both workers and employers.

Reiterate that unilateral coercive measures seriously jeopardize all human rights including the right to development and the right to work. 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 States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately.

Take note of the “Report of the Director- I (A) – ILO programme implementation 2016–17”, and underscore in this regard the global challenges faced by the countries hosting large numbers of refugees at all levels, and more specifically in their labour markets, and call, in this respect, on the Office and the International community to increase the support and assistance provided to those countries in line with the principle of sharing burden and responsibility.
Take note that this year the report of the Director General will address the theme of women at work; and its Appendix on the situation of workers of occupied Arab territories.

According to the report on “The Women at Work initiative: The push for equality”, women’s contribution to national economies is apparent in rich and emerging economies alike, and attracting and retaining more women in the labour market is considered to be “smart economies”. The decent work can contribute significantly in the push for gender equality at work.

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

Welcome the recent visit by the Director- General of the ILO to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is the first visit by an ILO Director General in two decades. During the visit the new “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 a recent press release from the ILO: 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, check points, 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 imprisoned in their own 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. Measurable unemployment remains well above 40 per cent.

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 is fast approaching the 50 per cent mark. Palestinian men and women should be able to improve their livelihoods in conditions of equality.

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 on the basis of 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 108th International Labour Conference, to be held in June, 2019 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 107th International Labour Conference.