DECLARATION OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
LABOUR MINISTERS
Adopted
Geneva, Tuesday 13 June 2017
Palais des Nations, Room XI

We, the Ministers of Labour of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), having met at the 106th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), held in Geneva in June 2017, 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 committee on Employment and decent work for peace and resilience.

Take note of the Report on “Fundamental principles and rights at work: From challenges to opportunities”, as well as the document on “World Employment and Social Outlook” and note with great concern that in 2017 there will be more than 201 million unemployed people in the world, 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 the forms of vulnerable employment that will reach 42 per cent of the total employment, namely 1,400 million people in the world in 2017.
Request that the ILO should assist in the following key area: strengthen 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 at 331st meeting of the Governing Body, on November 2017, 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.

Appreciate the efforts undertaken by the Office to strengthen the ILO. Acknowledge the mandate of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) as expressed in the 2017 Report and underline the importance of independence, objectivity and impartiality in its business. Balance in the list of individual cases in terms of Regions as well as subject matter must be the guiding principle in the case selection before the Committee on the Application of Standards. While the importance of fundamental conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining is recognized, the list must be more balanced in terms of technical and fundamental 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 follow-up of the Joint Report of the Chairperson of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations and the Chairperson of the Committee on Freedom of Association. 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 duplications.

Welcome the important work of the Tripartite Working Group 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 2017.

Take note of the recommendations made by that Tripartite Group, which has allowed this Conference to take the decision on the abrogation of four conventions: the Night Work (Women) Convention No. 4; the Minimum Age (Trimmers and Stokers) Convention No. 15; the Protection against Accidents (Dockers) Convention No. 28; the Night Work (Women) (Revised) Convention No. 41; and the withdrawal of two conventions: the Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment) (Revised) Convention No. 60; and the Hours of Work and Rest Periods (Road Transport) Convention No. 67. This abrogation and withdrawal is due to the fact that the
aforementioned conventions 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.

Welcome the “General Survey on the occupational safety and health instruments concerning the promotional framework, construction, mines and agriculture”, which are hazardous sectors for nature and record high rates of accidents and death. Expressing concern on ILO estimates indicating that a worker dies from work-related accident or disease every 15 seconds.

Welcome the ILO Report on “Addressing governance challenges in a changing labour migration landscape”, which examines ILO’s role and its constituents in attaining a fair and effective governance of labour migration that benefits societies of origin and destination, protects the rights of migrant workers and their families and enhances social cohesion.

Recognize that decent work will be a fundamental element of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, and call upon the ILO to showcase its comparative advantage through its historic heritage, its experience and its legal framework.

Consider that it is necessary to strengthen ILO’s work and its repercussion in labour migration, in order to increase the capacity of labour ministries and employers’ and workers’ organizations to influence policy formulation and implementation and engage in the promotion of fair migration.

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.

Underline the importance of Climate Change in the world of work, in order to mitigate its adverse impact and carry out adaptation efforts as required, to reduce industrial impact on the environment and attaching great importance to the Green Initiative, considered as the theme for the report of the Director General to the present ILC, to realize transition to a greener economy.
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.

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.

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 107th International Labour Conference, to be held in June, 2018 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 106th International Labour Conference.