



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

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MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES  
ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

**105<sup>th</sup> Session of the**  
**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE**  
**PLENARY SESSION**

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**Statement by Hon. Soodesh S. CALLICHURN**  
**Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations,**  
**Employment and Training**  
**Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Mauritius**

Geneva, 02 June 2016

**Mr. Chair  
Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates**

**Allow me at the very outset to congratulate you and the Vice-Presidents on your elections. There is no doubt, Mr. Chair, that under your enlightened leadership and wealth of experience, you will steer the deliberations of this Session to their meaningful conclusions.**

**I also seize the opportunity to commend the Director-General for his report entitled: “The End to Poverty Initiative: The ILO and the 2030 Agenda”, which examines the responsibilities and opportunities of the ILO and its constituents in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

**Mr. Chair, I also wish to assure that “the End to Poverty Initiative” which is one of the seven centenary initiatives adopted by the ILO in the framework of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 has the full support of the Republic of Mauritius.**

**Mauritius, being fully committed to the decent work agenda, has already embarked on the elaboration of its second generation Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP). The Programme is aligned to the Vision 2030 of the Mauritian Government and also reflects our national priorities which are themselves in line with the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the ILO’s priorities.**

**Being a strong proponent of the ideals of ILO, we believe in an inclusive society where our people remain at the heart of the economic and social development of the country. Our Government has recently taken the bold challenge to introduce the national minimum wage legislation. With its implementation, we are making a paradigm shift and setting the foundation of a new welfare model.**

**Mr. Chair,**

**It is only by reconciling social justice to economic development strategies that we will be able to tackle the problem of social exclusion and structural unemployment in a sustainable manner. With this aim in mind, reduction of poverty and promotion of shared prosperity will be a critical pillar of our socio-economic agenda.**

**The promotion of sustainable productivity growth, competitiveness and job creation is a key priority for realizing decent work and reducing poverty. A key requirement for accelerating productivity growth is an environment that allows enterprises to improve productivity and remain competitive. Policies, institutions and regulations that provide such an environment for enterprises can make a substantial contribution to employment creation.**

**Mr. Chair,**

**Given that unemployment rate is more profound among the youth and women, our Government has implemented 3 training programmes namely the Youth Employment Programme, the Back to Work Programme and the Dual Training Programme. This is vivid testimony of the Government's commitment to bring down the unemployment rate to 4% by the year 2020.**

***"Decent work and a conflict-free workplace for all workers in the Republic of Mauritius"* is the vision of the Mauritian Government.**

**With a view to better protecting the fundamental rights of workers at work, existing labour legislations, namely, the Employment Rights Act and Employment Relations Act are in the process of being reviewed. To that effect, a consultative process with all relevant stakeholders has already been initiated.**

**Furthermore, a medium to long term Marshall Plan has been elaborated by our Government and is being finalized with a view to combating poverty and social exclusion.**

**Related institutional restructuring will be effected for a more proactive and improved service delivery to the poor.**

**Mr. Chair,**

**On a concluding note, inspired by the Vision 2030 of our Right Honourable Prime Minister, Government is determined to make Mauritius a high-income economy. Accordingly, we have taken a pledge for our people, a pledge to help shape a future where there is equality, justice and liberty for everyone - liberty to live a life without hardships, without sufferings and without adversity and insecurity. The pledge is, therefore, to do everything in our power to realise these ultimate objectives with a view to improving the quality of life of the people of Mauritius.**

**Thank you all for your kind attention.**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY