

110th plenary session of ILC

Intervention of Hon. Soodesh CALLICHURN,

Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development & Training,

Minister of Commerce & Consumer Protection.

Mr President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me, from the very outset, to express my sincere gratitude to the outgoing Director-General, Mr. Guy Ryder who has been instrumental in the promotion of the decent work agenda and on reflexions on the challenges underpinning the future of work.

I would like to warmly congratulate Mr. Gilbert Houngbo of Togo on his election as the Director-General of the ILO. It is with pride that Mauritius acknowledges the election of an African at the helm of the organisation.

Mr President,

In relation to the items placed on the agenda of the conference, I would like to start by welcoming the proposal of the ILO to start discussions with a view to

coming up with a legal instrument regarding Quality Apprenticeships, rights at work and health insurance.

I wish also to express my appreciation for the laudable initiative of the inclusion of *safe and healthy working conditions* in the ILO's framework of fundamental principles and rights at work.

Regarding the reinforcement of labour standards, Mauritius has, during the 41st Session of the Human Rights Council held in 2019 in Geneva, co-sponsored the resolution presented by Canada on "*accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls*". I am proud to state that Mauritius has, in July 2021, ratified *Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No190)*. The numerous benefits derived from the ratification of the convention, such as more protection for women at work and less gender-based disparity, has led to more countries to follow suit.

Mr President,

Covid-19 has impacted the livelihood of workers worldwide, especially those who live in least developed countries. Whilst some economists had predicted a return

to normal following two years of economic contraction due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the conflict between Ukraine and Russia has now further worsened the situation... leading to dramatic consequences such as erosion of the purchasing power of the working class and workers worldwide being engulfed in the poverty trap.

If the situations persists, unemployment across the world will know unprecedented heights leading to a social crisis in many countries.

Mr President,

Mauritius makes a solemn call for the world organisations to work hand in hand for an immediate solution to the problem the world is facing right now. We sincerely hope and pray for ceasefire at the earliest between Ukraine and Russia.

I thank you for your attention.

The video can be downloaded at the following link:
<https://we.tl/t-CHnhbBflpd>