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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Tuesday, 16 July 2019

Address of the ILO Director-General Guy Ryder to the HLPF

Madam President of ECOSOC,

Ministers, Ambassadors,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very proud to share with the High-Level Political Forum the main outcomes of the ILO Centenary International Labour Conference that took place in Geneva on 10–21 June 2019. We can all be proud that it lived up to everybody's ambitions and rose to the historic significance of the moment.

The Conference has a historical significance as it marked the 100th anniversary of the ILO and was exceptional in respect of participation and the concrete results achieved. We received the visits of 34 Heads of State and Government representing countries at all stages of development, and the President of the UN General Assembly. They took the time to come not only to celebrate but also to reaffirm the importance and relevance of the ILO and its mandate today and in the future and to set out their expectations of the Organization in its second century. It is well worth reading the statements of each one of them. Taken together they are tremendous expressions of political support for what we do and must do.

In addition to this, it was fitting that on the last day we had the visit of the UN Secretary-General who spoke out strongly for multilateralism and the importance of a vibrant ILO and its constituents.

When it comes to the substantive outcomes, the Conference met all its objectives with the adoption of the *Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, a Convention and Recommendation on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work*,

We were very honoured to formally transmit the *Centenary Declaration* to ECOSOC President this morning. The is a short but crucial statement that looks at the major challenges and opportunities for the future of work, ranging from technology to climate change, from demographic shifts to the need for new skills. It provides guidance for dealing with these pressing issues and a platform for cooperation with other organizations in the international system. It is also a strong reaffirmation of the social justice mandate we were given 100 years ago, and the critical role of social dialogue and international labour standards. In short, the Declaration acknowledges our successes, recognizes where we are now, and most importantly looks at where we need to go in the future in line with the sustainable development agenda.

With the adoption of the *Convention and Recommendation on violence and harassment in the world of work*, the standard-setting function of the ILC was reaffirmed and truly important and ground-breaking steps taken to bring an end to widespread and severe abuses. The new instruments provide a clear framework for action and an opportunity to shape a future of work based on dignity and respect, free from violence and harassment. The right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment has never before been clearly articulated in an international treaty. It also recognizes that such behaviours can constitute a human rights violation or abuse.

The International Labor Conference also included a number of *thematic fora* covering such topics as child labour, freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, jobs and skills, securing sustainable transitions over the life course, technological pathways for decent work, multilateralism for an equitable future of work, and business for decent work. They were stimulating and well-attended with varied, high-level participation including a number of heads of UN agencies, the IMF and the WTO as well as high-level representatives from employers' organizations, workers' organizations and business.

We are confident that both the ILO Centenary Declaration and the new international standards on violence and harassment in the workplace will constitute powerful instruments to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond and the ILO stands ready to keep supporting member on delivering on the SDGs.

Thank you.