

## International Labour Organization

### Statement to the G-24 Ministers and Governors Meeting

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Recovery in the world economy remains uncertain and uneven as new vulnerabilities and multiple crises are eroding prospects for greater social justice. In 2023 the global unemployment rate reached 5.1 per cent, a modest improvement from 2022. However, in 2024 an extra two million workers are expected to be looking for jobs, raising the global unemployment rate back to 5.2 per cent. Indeed, a slowdown of the economies is likely to force more workers to accept lower quality, poorly paid jobs which lack employment security and social protection, accentuating inequalities.

In the past years, macroeconomic and environmental challenges have been affecting developing countries and Emerging Market Developing Economies disproportionately. Many have been pushed to unsustainable fiscal, financial conditions and debt levels, and progress made to the 2030 Agenda could be further slowed down and, with that, also the realization of social justice.

“Poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere”, as the Declaration of Philadelphia adopted by the General Conference of the ILO in 1944 states, and “lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice”. Poverty, inequality, and unequal development opportunities are therefore among the biggest obstacles to realise peace through social justice.<sup>1</sup> Exactly 80 years ago, the Declaration of Philadelphia by setting “the aims and purposes of the ILO” was extremely farsighted in acknowledging the links between the financing

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<sup>1</sup> [ILO's Declaration of Philadelphia: Declaration concerning the aims and purposes of the International Labour Organisation, 1944.](#)

and the social dimensions of development, which are so prominent in the current critical juncture.

Social justice makes societies and economies function more cohesively and productively by reducing poverty and hunger, inequalities, and social tensions. Given its central importance to inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development, social justice is one of the cornerstones of the renewed multilateralism that is required to overcome current challenges - a rallying point as well as an organizing principle for a more efficient and coherent multilateral system that supports national efforts across a range of policy areas and interventions.

The quest for social justice goes beyond the world of work. It cannot be an endeavour for the ILO alone and requires the involvement of the multilateral system. Accordingly, the ILO has launched a Global Coalition for Social Justice that will act as a platform to elevate the political debate on social justice.

In this context and based on these shared objectives, the ILO is fully committed to work together with all partners - the G24, other developed and developing countries, the IMF and the WB, other IFIs and MDBs and the UN System - to expand the mix of technical and financial assistance that helps them filling infrastructural and skills gaps, helping provide social protection and supporting just transitions globally.

I thank you.