



**Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN
Geneva**

**Meeting of NAM Labour Ministers
on the sidelines of 111th session of the International Labour Conference**

**Statement by Ms. Shaza Fatima Khwaja, SAPM on Youth Affairs,
(7 June 2023)**

**Honourable Chair,
Ministers and Excellencies,**

On behalf of the Pakistani delegation, I thank Azerbaijan for hosting this Ministerial meeting.

We find ourselves in a time of unparalleled challenges compounded by the multifaceted impacts of the pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine, and the changing climate. While the effects have been felt worldwide, the people of developing countries have been hit the hardest.

Inequality within and between nations has worsened, and rising fuel and food prices have hindered economic recovery from the pandemic. Developing countries also grapple with systemic issues stemming from the global economic, financial, and taxation structures, which impede progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a result, many developing countries are burdened with escalating debt, limited fiscal space, and reduced liquidity. Consequently, millions of workers, particularly those in sectors with high rates of informality, have lost their jobs and incomes.

Despite various calls and initiatives to address these challenges, the impact of steps taken so far has been limited, at best. It is therefore imperative to

urgently operationalize the Global Call to Action for Human-centered Recovery and to align it with the Global Fund for Social Protection and the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection.

The ILO must recalibrate its role in prioritizing capacity building for Member States, particularly those in the developing world. Innovative approaches are needed to mitigate the devastating impacts of the pandemic, the Ukraine conflicts and the changing climate.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan has taken numerous measures to alleviate the effects of these challenges, including implementing social protection programs and providing budgetary support for workers and small businesses. Despite several challenges, the Government of Pakistan remains committed to promoting people-centered development, with a special focus on the rights and well-being of our 72 million-strong workforce. The federal and provincial governments continue to prioritize strengthening tripartite cooperation, enacting laws and policies that safeguard labor rights, promote social dialogue, and protect collective bargaining.

However, our national efforts require an international environment conducive to our objectives. For this, it is vital to minimize disruptions in trade and supply chains, augment domestic resource mobilization through increased availability of international public finance for achievement of the SDGs and climate goals, and to establish adequate safeguards to shield workers in developing countries from escalating energy and food prices.

Thank you.
