



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

Statement

**Meeting of the NAM Labour Ministers
on the Sidelines of 109th Session of the International Labour Conference**

**Statement by Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource
Development of Pakistan**

(04 June 2021)

(1300-1500 hours-CET/1600-1800 hours-PST)

Honourable Chair, Ministers and Excellencies,

It is indeed an honour to join this august gathering of NAM Labour Ministers under the able stewardship of Azerbaijan.

We appreciate the ILO Director General for his report apprising us about multifaceted impacts of COVID-19 pandemic in the world of work.

Mr. Chairman,

The COVID-19 pandemic caused gravework related consequences in terms of output decline, increase in unemployment, job loss that seriously affected workers in the informal sectors resulting in rise in inequality and poverty.

However, the Government of Pakistan adopted a comprehensive policy to save the lives and the livelihood by keeping a balance between precautionary measures and economic activities through smart lockdowns.

The Constitution of Pakistan pledges a range of provisions to safeguard labour rights and prohibits all forms of slavery, forced and child labour, grants the freedom of association, ensures equality and non-discrimination makes provision for securing just and humane conditions of work especially for women. Pakistan being an active member of ILO is fully determined to apply International Labour Standards in the country and has consistently worked to improve labour related legislation in line with spirit of its Constitution and SDG Framework.

Mr. Chairman,

To address the labour issues at grass root level, legislation and enforcement of labour laws were devolved to the provinces in 2010. The Provincial governments are working diligently to ensure safe and decent working conditions for all. Government of Pakistan has prioritized to expand the role of women in all walks of life, participation of women in trade unions and tripartite committees has increased, resulting in narrowing down of gender disparity.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to meet challenges arising out of COVID 19, the Government has initiated the EHSAAAS programme- a poverty Alleviation initiative that provided Cash benefits to millions of families. The World Bank has recognized Ehsaas Cash Assistance Programme amongst the best social protection intervention globally in terms of numbers of people covered.

Government of Pakistan also announced fiscal stimulus packages of Rs.300 billion to support daily wagers, small businesses and the agriculture sector. In addition Government has already rolled out programmes to provide 5 million houses for workers.

Our Government remains focused on people-centered development and economic growth, with a special attention towards our 65.5 million workforce and around 7.5 million migrant diaspora.

Mr. Chair,

We endorse that multilateral cooperation is essential to ensure equitable, timely and affordable access to vaccines, all over the world. The world of work requires deeper tripartite cooperation and social dialogue for a fairer future for all, and, we support the call for a human centered recovery from pandemic, through enhanced International cooperation.

Thank you