

***Jyotsna Shrestha Subba**
Employers' Delegate, Nepal

Respected Chair

Excellency/Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I would like to extend my warm greetings to you all.

I am very much pleased having this opportunity to speak in this plenary sitting of the 111th session of the International Labour Conference.

It is significant that we have been attending this conference physically after three years. We experienced the painful times of COVID pandemic that severely affected the socio-economic activities and human life in the past three years. We all have been facing the shocks of economic recession that has pushed the development process behind.

We acknowledge the report, presented by the ILO Director General which has analyzed the current global situation, labour market realities and pointed out various challenges affecting the process of social transformation. We appreciate the idea of global coalition and action to be taken from all stakeholders to advance social justices. We would like to thank the Director General for preparing such a comprehensive report.

The interdependence within our globalized economy is an undeniable reality. Economic crisis and market instability, wherever they arise, have far-reaching effects on socio-economic activities worldwide. It is crucial for all of us to acknowledge this fact and work together in partnership. We firmly believe that stability, peace, and mutual cooperation are crucial in creating shared values.

Technological innovation, climate change, and globalization have shaped the labor market. Economic transformation is replacing jobs with skilled workers, and leading to increased inequality. Sustainable business, reducing inequality, and promoting social justice are major challenges, particularly countries like Nepal.

Respected Chair,

We, in Nepal, were expecting quick recovery of the loss caused by the COVID pandemic. But now we have been experiencing the situation beyond our expectations. Economic activities have slowed down and major economic indicators have shown gloomy picture of economy. Economic growth of this year is expected to 2.16 whereas the growth of previous year was 5.26 percent. This has affected to carry out planned activities and achieving development goals.

*Speech delivered by MS Jyotsna Shrestha Subba (Vice president and chairperson, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry -employers' council, FNCCI-EC) employers delegate of Nepal to the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva Switzerland, 5-16 June 2023.

Nevertheless, despite these obstacles, private sector of Nepal remains committed to pursuing business growth, creation of decent jobs, enhancing social security system, promoting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and formalization of businesses.

We understand the importance of industrial peace and making efforts to improve labour relations. Labour Act and Contribution Based Social Security Act were enacted in 2017. Now contribution based social security schemes are being implemented. The provisions of New Labour Act are applicable to all workers and will be instrumental improving better working conditions, creating decent employment.

We actively involved in the consultation process in developing current National Master Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour and Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP).Employers' organization has been closely working with all stakeholders to eliminate the all forms of child labour.

Currently, our priority is to contribute to overcoming the current economic hardships by advocating for policy reforms, fostering skill development, promotion of occupational safety and health and improving the quality of working life.

Recognizing the importance of human centered sustainable growth we have aligned all our activities with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We actively collaborate with the government and trade unions through social dialogue to achieve these goals.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to the ILO to develop programs and strategies aimed at enhancing collaboration that can drive social transformation.

In conclusion, I urge everyone to unite in collective action and strive towards advancing social justice. Let us join hands in this endeavor.

I wish the conference a great success.

Thank you

13 June, 2023,

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