

Statement of
SECRETARY ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Department of Labor and Employment
Philippines

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**FUTURE OF WORK AGENDA: MORE DECENT JOBS, LESS
POVERTY**

Madam President, on behalf of the Philippines, I congratulate you for your esteemed leadership of this Conference.

I commend Director General Guy Ryder for his comprehensive report on “The End to Poverty Initiative” highlighting ILO’s strategic role in charting the future of work towards attaining the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth.

We appreciate the ILO’s recognition of the Philippines as one of the eight countries that achieved fifteen or more decent work programme results, which are concrete outcomes of the tripartite supported Labor and Employment Plan on Decent Work under the Aquino Administration, the

first in the history of labor governance in the Philippines since ILO introduced the Agenda in 1999.

The Global Child Labor Report has included the Philippines for the last three years in the top ten countries with significant progress in implementing measures towards the elimination of the worst form of child labor, another first for the Philippines. Our new Labor Law Compliance System with developmental and regulatory approaches, covering all labor laws and regulations including those that curb abuses on contractualization and benefitting all workers, has been recognized by the ILO as first and unique to the Philippines.

Our two tier wage system with fixed minimum and flexible productivity pay has resulted in minimum wage higher than poverty threshold, plus increase in tax exempt income. We experience for the first time stable and sustainable industrial peace based on social justice using mandatory conciliation of labor complaints that are root causes of labor strikes, and effectively reduced strike incidence to single digit annually with least government intervention.

The labor market efficiency index of the 2016 WEF Global Competitiveness Report has rated the Philippines significantly high on

cooperative labor- management relations, pay and productivity, reliance on professional managers, and capacity to attract and to retain talents. We linked compliance with core labor standards with trade agreements.

Our social protection program has substantially reduced vulnerable employment. Gaps in its implementation have been identified using the ILO ABND process and the ILO Recommended Social Protection Floor, with corrective actions. Our labor migration system has been recognized by the UN Committee on Migrant Workers as model of workers' protection for labor sending countries. We welcome the ILO launch of the Fair Migration Agenda and its Chairmanship of the UN Migration Group in 2014 resulting in the inclusion of migration in the 2030 UN SDGs.

The effects of the decent work reforms contribute to improved employment situation, lesser vulnerable employment, lower youth unemployment, acceleration of poverty reduction, and deceleration in inflation, such that the country's extreme poverty reflected sustained downtrend, posting single digit rate.

Our decent work program benefits from the ILO Technical Cooperation Program on Freedom of Association, with substantial progress in our compliance on administrative law and practice, but urgent reforms on

criminal justice are needed to address issues of impunity. The legislative bills to close gaps in law should be pursued more vigorously. On the recommended direct contact, we made reservation in deference to the incoming administration and suggested that the ILO directly communicates the matter to the new leadership for its consideration,

We concluded the series of ILO assisted multi-sectoral consultations on the ILO Future of Work Initiatives, in relation to the 2030 UN SDGs, national program on Climate Change and Green Jobs, and Human Resource Plans for Services, Industry and Agriculture Roadmaps to Growth. We integrated the results using Decent Work framework for a draft 2016-22 Labor and Employment Plan to be adopted by the National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (NTIPC), in time for its indorsement to the incoming administration.

Through the NTIPC, as an institutionalized and highly credible body for social dialogue, the tripartite partners ensure the continuity and sustainability of all the decent work reforms and will pursue new ones to meet the challenges of the ILO Future of Work and End of Poverty Initiatives. Clearly, the Agenda: More Decent Jobs, Less Poverty.

Thank you, Chair. God bless.

