

Intervention of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection of Greece Mr. Dimitrios Kontos at the 96th Session of the International Labour Conference

Let me start Mr. President, by addressing to you my warmest congratulations for your election to this high office. My congratulations go also to the three Vice-Presidents of the Conference.

Mr. President,

The Report of the Director General should be commended for encompassing key issues in promoting **decent work for sustainable development**.

The advancement of ILO' s goal **Decent Work for all**, both as a vital part of the international development agenda and as an essential element in shaping a fair globalization, requires, indeed, a **strengthened tripartism, in the international and national levels alike**.

We agree that social protection and economic and environmental development are the cornerstones of an effective sustainable development. Hence, an integrated international and national policy and cooperation in these sectors is necessary in order to tackle distortions that a hasty and without limits globalization could produce.

Consequently, the debate in the Conference concerning the **promotion of sustainable enterprises** comes at the right time. The sustainability of enterprises presupposes the development of **coherent policies for investment, growth and employment** and the intensification of national efforts in reducing unemployment through the **creation not simply of more but mainly of better jobs**.

In social terms, a direct and frank dialogue with and between our social partners, ensures, within a **generally agreed public framework, unhindered, equal and equitable treatment** for all working women and men

irrespective of their race, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS status and disability.

Mr. President,

The priorities and policies of Greece aim at permitting us to stay on the path of sustainable development. We have planned and we are currently implementing with success **a comprehensive Reform Programme** which aims to promote sustainable economic growth, more and better jobs and strengthened social cohesion.

Through modernizing labour law and social protection systems, disseminating active labour market policies, securing of healthy workplaces and collective bargaining, we try to achieve a balanced **mix of flexibility and security**, which will stimulate competition of enterprises and will also lead to increased opportunities for all and mainly for those in the fringes of the labour market. Such policies are basic elements of the **European Social model**, which should be an example of combining market growth with assurances for employment and occupational security for all employees and workers.

Moreover, active **solidarity** at the **international level**, and **active involvement** of our social partners at **the national level**, will contribute to a fair distribution of the benefits of globalization to a broader part of our citizens.

Mr. President,

The **United Nations Reform** is a work in progress. We are confident that the Director's

General commitment to the Reform combined with the necessary cautiousness in pursuing

the relevant adjustments for the ILO, will result in the enhancement of country delivery,

in the strengthening of the whole multilateral system and in the reinforcement of our

common values.

ILO's unique tripartite and standard-setting identity, in conjunction with the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda and its four strategic objectives, namely the promotion of rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue, and its main delivery mechanism through the Decent Work **Country Programmes**, will be decisive in making a reality the ultimate aim: **a fair globalization**.

Finally, **Mr. President**, we believe that **modernization and strengthening of the ILO governance and management** will play a major role in order to secure in the future an equitable and inclusive globalization both for States and for social partners and adapt the Organization to the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Thank you Mr. President.