

Statement by Mr. Khila Nath Dahal, President of Joint Trade Union Coordination Centre (JTUCC), President of Nepal Trade Union Congress (NTUC) and workers delegate from Nepal, at the plenary session of the 105th International Labour Conference, 6 June 2016, Geneva

Respected chairperson

Distinguished Delegates

Sisters and Brothers participating here all over the world

I would like to extend warm greetings to all delegates on behalf of Nepalese workers, the Joint Trade Union Coordination Centre (JTUCC) and Nepal Trade Union Congress (NTUC). It's my pleasure and an honour to speak at this International Labour Conference (ILC) and at such an important time; a time when countries and citizens around the globe are still struggling to overcome the effects of the various economic crisis, financial capitalization and unfair globalization.

First of all, I would like to thank the ILO and International Trade Union movement for your kind support to restore democracy and declare new constitution through constituent assembly in Nepal.

We entered from unitary to federal structure of state, monarchy to democratic republican order and inclusive democratic proportionate representation electoral system. The new constitution has ensured the

right to establish the trade union, right to organize and bargain collectively and right to social security including contributory social security right. We are expecting that constitutional labour commission; workers representation at different level and right to vote at workplace will be included.

The year 2015 was very crucial and critical for us, when a mega earthquake hit us and devastated many lives and infrastructures. We lost around 6 billion US dollar in National economy and nearly 9 thousands of people lost their lives. I heartily thank ILO, ITUC, ITUC-AP, International Trade Unions, international trade union solidarity support organization (TUSSO) and international community who supported us in this most devastating situation. We have to rebuild Nepal again and the reconstruction process is going on. There is no doubt trade Union is constructive forces; we have set an example here regarding the involvement of Trade Unions in Rebuilding Nepal. We have signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding with Government, Trade Unions and Employers to create decent jobs, provide appropriate skill development training to workers during the reconstruction process.

In Nepal, recently, there was revision of minimum wage in the formal sector which is around US\$ 89 per month that is not real wage. This wage

is not implemented yet in formal sector too. Almost 96% informal workers are depriving from getting even this minimum wage. Provisions of Social security for all workers is another major issue where trade unions are lobbying to introduce new social security act that can establish contributory social security mechanism to cover at least health insurance, workplace accident, maternity benefit and unemployment benefit. The issue of right to organize is our major concern and we continue joint campaign, through the Joint Trade Union Coordination Committee (JTUCC), for the ratification of ILO Convention 87 and other important Conventions 189, 102, 177 and 183.

Mr. Chairperson,  
Nepal has been effortful in creating an enabling environment for decent work, particularly developed a labour policy and amending some legislation. We are introducing contributory social security act and labour law amendment process. We are highly enthusiastic about the implementation of Decent Work Country programme in collaboration with the ILO in Nepal.

I strongly support the issues raised during the opening session by the Director General and contribute in obtaining good outcomes and welcome the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ILO's 'End to Poverty' Initiative. We welcome the ILO initiative on the Future of Work

and the ILO action on Supply Chains, to end poverty & hunger, combat inequality, build just and inclusive societies, gender equality, the protection of our planet's natural resources. Build inclusive growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, especially for the less protected and included ones, manage fair transition to green and digital economy, fight against social and labour exploitation. These are ambitions that are at the heart, and origin, of the trade union movement all over the world. When we have realized that workers are suppressed and exploited we had long argued and fought for these goals.

We are at a juncture, where we need to fight to increase the living condition of working men and women in National Level and in other hand we have to stand together to set universal standards to protect workers through ILO instruments. Now it is urgent, and about too late to set standards for the workers who works for the Global Supply Chain. We will support the UN and the ILO in working to achieve all these objectives.

We have been struggling to protect our migrant workers in the destination countries. They could not entertain right to organize and bargain collectively, they are not getting minimum wage, lack of social protection

and poor OHS provisions in the destination countries where our Nepalese migrant workers are dying every day.

Mr. Chairperson

To conclude, I would like to state that we need to develop and implement coherent labour policies and labour laws in order to create decent working environment as Nepal is set to enter into the phase of fast economic growth. We recognize that there are challenges to address many issues including unemployment, under employment, social security and migration, but we are confident that our continuous dialogue will lead us to the attainment of objectives that we have set together with the Government and employers.

Thank you very much