



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT BY**

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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING TO COMMEMORATE  
THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)**

**11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019  
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Madam President,

Jamaica welcomes the opportunity to join in commemorating the centenary of the International Labour Organization (ILO). We are proud to have partnered with Belgium earlier this year in tabling the resolution calling on the General Assembly to suitably mark this auspicious occasion.

From the outset, I wish to acknowledge and applaud the leadership of ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder, and staff, who have been unflinching in their commitment to the work of the Organization. They continue the fine tradition of countless men and women who have worked with distinction in service of the ILO over the past 100 years.

Madam President,

The International Labour Organization is well deserving of the praise and admiration of the international community as it has risen from its humble beginnings to achieve well-deserved recognition as the standard bearer for global labour issues and staunch proponent of social justice and the prevention of discrimination at the workplace.

Its dedication and hard work were appropriately recognized in 1969 when the ILO was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, joining the elite group of UN entities whose work have been acknowledged in this manner.

With the 187 labour conventions adopted since its establishment, the ILO has been steadfast in its determination to ensure that working conditions and the social rights of workers are constantly improved. The ILO has recorded a long and distinguished record of accomplishment of which it can rightly be proud. Its signal 2001 Code of Practice on HIV and the World of Work, which has been printed and distributed in 30 languages, along with the 2008 revised International Labour Code for setting standards, speak to the responsive nature of the Organisation to contemporary challenges. The same holds true for the Decent Work Country Programmes, through which the ILO provides technical and other support to member nations. The current efforts to strengthen the ILO's technical capacity and improve its policy analysis are welcomed and indeed encouraged by my delegation.

Madam President,

Jamaica is among those with which the ILO has had an enduring relationship since we became a member in December 1962 – a mere 4 months after gaining our independence. Our relationship is characterized by mutual respect and collaboration. Jamaica continues to observe the tenets of decent work. We have maintained very strong Tripartite relations and as a result have made significant advancements in the implementation of the labour codes.

Over the years, Jamaica has ratified thirty-one (31) ILO Conventions and one (1) Protocol, including all eight (8) of the fundamental conventions, namely those concerning forced labour, freedom of association and protection of the right to organize, collective bargaining, equal remuneration, discrimination, minimum age and the worst forms of child labour. Over the past

three (3) years, Jamaica ratified the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC, 2006), becoming the 84<sup>th</sup> Member State of the ILO to do so. In that same year, Jamaica also ratified the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, in keeping with our determination to combat the trafficking in persons and forced labour in all its forms. Our commitment to promote decent work underpinned our decision to ratify, in 2016, the ILO Convention C 189, also known as the Domestic Workers Convention. Our support for and commitment to building an equitable and just society is complimented by the ILO's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, which remains strong and unwavering.

We join the ILO in its celebrations as Jamaica celebrates its own Centenary of the Trade Union Act. We will be marking these two momentous occasions with appropriate activities that include all our stakeholders – workers, employers and Government as well as our international partners, including the ILO.

Madam President,

As the oldest specialised UN agency, the ILO is suitably equipped to help chart the course towards even greater cooperation amongst member states. In an era of increased uncertainty and even questions about the relevance of multilateralism, the ILO stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration about what can be achieved when we work together. Jamaica, therefore, looks forward to the ILO's continued stewardship and leadership as together we tackle the challenges that confront us as part of the international community.

I thank you.