



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

**STATEMENT BY**

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

*Agenda Item 14: Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to  
the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the  
economic, social and related fields*

**Presentation of draft resolution A/73/L.73**

**15<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Madam President,**

I have the honour to introduce under agenda Item 14 the draft resolution contained in document A/73/L.73, entitled “Commemoration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the International Labour Organization”, on behalf of the Permanent Mission of Belgium and my own government, via the Permanent Mission of Jamaica.

Emerging from the ashes of World War I, the ILO was founded on the belief that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace. Indeed, its work affects us all – the hours we work, our entitlements to holiday and maternity pay, the fight against discrimination in the workplace – the ILO’s international labour standards and activities address all such issues affecting the conditions of labour that give meaning to our lives and imbue our work with dignity.

Through the Treaty of Versailles which ended the Great War, it was recognized that an international organization dealing with labour issues was needed to promote and preserve world peace. The novel idea to ensure a place for governments, workers’ and employers’ representatives to come together to forge solutions to labour issues has become a lasting and central pillar of the ILO – known as tripartism. Surviving two world wars and numerous other crises, the ILO, as a key member of our UN family stands at the cusp of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This milestone reaffirms the strength and resilience of multilateralism. Moreover, it provides an

inspiration to the entire UN system as we address modern challenges including the future of work and actions required to achieve the SDGs. In this spirit, I wish to draw the Assembly's attention to the draft resolution before it.

The draft resolution recalls the ILO's establishment in 1919 and subsequently its membership as the first specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946. The draft resolution congratulates the ILO on its centenary and notes with satisfaction its contribution to promoting social justice. It further decides to devote a one day meeting to be held within existing resources, to commemorate the ILO's centenary under the overall theme, "The Future of Work". The draft resolution sets out the modalities of the meeting, including the convening of a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and designates that the Director-General of the International Labour Organization and the representatives of the ILO social partners, comprising the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation and the President of the International Organization of Employers, address the commemorative plenary meeting. Bearing in mind that the overall theme of the meeting is to focus on the future of work, the draft resolution also establishes that a youth representative address the commemorative plenary meeting. In addition to the half-day commemorative plenary meeting, two interactive panel discussions would be convened that same afternoon from 3-4:25 p.m. and from 4:30-5:55 p.m., also to be held within existing resources. The draft resolution further instructs the President of the General Assembly, with support from the International Labour Organization, to finalize the

organizational arrangements in a transparent manner, including the identification of sub-themes and panellists with due regard to gender balance and equitable geographical distribution. The draft resolution requests the President of the General Assembly to prepare and bring to the attention of Member States a summary of the panel discussions and transmit the summary to the High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council to be held in 2019. I reiterate that the said meeting will not bear any programme budget implications and will therefore, take place within existing resources.

Finally, I wish to draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 6 of the draft resolution in order to make a minor revision. Rather than the "Secretary-General" of the International Organisation of Employers, it should read, "President" of the International Organisation of Employers.

**Madam President,**

On behalf of Ambassador Marc Pecsteen and myself, we encourage unanimous adoption of the resolution before you today and would further welcome delegations high level attendance in April.

I thank you.