



**REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
MINISTRY OF LABOUR**

**STATEMENT BY
THE HONOURABLE STEPHEN MC CLASHIE,
MINISTER OF LABOUR**

**110th SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION**

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Mr. President,

I am pleased to bring greetings from the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to this year's ILC. The pandemic has exacerbated several existing inequalities among and between countries with Least Developed Countries being particularly impacted. To this end, I thank the ILO Office for preparing a very comprehensive and insightful Report.

The challenges faced by LDCs are not dissimilar to those which plague small island developing states, such as Trinidad and Tobago. Most notably, heavy reliance on trade and tourism, the over representation of women in certain forms of work, vulnerability to climate change and high levels of informality in the labour market are all familiar pathways which can lead to situations of fragility.

We advocate therefore for a high-level discussion among social partners on the needs and realities of LDCs and on an appropriate ILO strategy focused on assisting the most disadvantaged economies in the aftermath of the crisis. We must take decisive action to ensure economic and social recovery from the crisis that is fully inclusive, sustainable and resilient.

The ability of LDCs to recover is restricted in light of limited financial and non-financial resources. As the Report of the Director-General sets out, addressing structural transformation in this context of future of work is key to building resilience in the face of multiple crises. In this regard, I am pleased to inform the Conference of two initiatives being pursued by this country which we envision

will promote structural transformation, thereby facilitating recovery from the multiple crises and addressing challenges related to the future of work:

1. The first initiative is the **Community Recovery Committee (CRC)**: This Committee was established in July 2020 and is tasked with the responsibility of developing and implementing “sustainable working solutions” that address issues affecting at-risk communities; and
2. Second, the **post-COVID-19 Roadmap to Recovery for Trinidad and Tobago**: This Roadmap was developed by a Committee which was established in April 2020 to guide the Government’s actions as the country navigates changing global, regional and national circumstances and a new “normal”. We are currently in Phase 2 of our Road to Recovery Programme.

Government, in collaboration with social partners, must continue to focus on the welfare of the working population, as we remain aware of the impact of labour on families, communities and countries.

I take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Guy Ryder for the work accomplished as ILO Director General over the past decade. We wish him the very best in his future endeavours. In this vein, I also wish to congratulate the incoming Director General Mr. Gilbert Houngbo on his election. Trinidad and Tobago sincerely looks forward to the continued collaboration with the ILO under Mr. Houngbo’s leadership.

I thank you.