



The International Labour Organization  
Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean  
*in collaboration with*  
The Government of Jamaica



*Caribbean*

# **FUTURE OF WORK FORUM**

## **Opening Ceremony Programme**

Talk of the Town room, Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica  
13.00 - 14.00, Wednesday 22 February 2017

**Mrs Norma Brown-Bell**  
Master of Ceremonies

National Anthem of Jamaica

Prayer

Welcome and  
Opening Remarks:

**Mrs Colette Roberts Riden**  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS)  
Jamaica

Greetings:

**Mr Wayne Chen**  
President  
Caribbean Employers' Confederation (CEC)

Greetings:

**Ms Jennifer Issacs-Dotson**  
President  
Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL)

Cultural Item:

**Energy Plus Folk Band**

Remarks:

**Mr Guy Ryder**  
Director-General  
International Labour Organization (ILO)

Remarks:

**Hon. Shahine Robinson, MP**  
Minister, MLSS Jamaica

Closing Remarks:

**Mr Damian Cox**  
Chief Technical Director  
Labour Division  
MLSS, Jamaica





The Most Hon.  
Andrew Holness, ON, MP  
Prime Minister, Jamaica

On behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, I extend a warm Jamaican welcome to the Director General of the ILO, Mr. Guy Ryder, and all our overseas guests. I wish you successful deliberations at the Caribbean Future of Work Forum. We must develop effective and sustainable policy responses to ensure decent jobs for all, including our youth. The future of work is not pre-determined and we must ensure that our solutions as social partners are guided by the principles of social justice as societies manage the inevitable changes of this technological age. We are confident that the outcomes of this Forum will enrich the ILO's efforts to respond proactively to the challenges emerging from the transformation of the world of work.



Hon. Shahine Robinson,  
MP, Minister, Ministry  
of Labour and Social  
Security, Jamaica

The empowerment of our people through the provisions of decent work is central to the realization of sustainable development goals. Globally, through the efforts of the ILO, the debate continues on the future of work and how to implement a coordinated approach to fulfill our commitments. The Caribbean must develop effective and sustainable policy responses that ensure decent jobs for all through capacity building and a strengthened institutional framework. As social partners we must be guided by the principle of social justice as our societies manage inevitable changes through technology, global geo-politics and a dynamic global economy. As a Region we are confident that this Forum will enrich our efforts at responding proactively to the challenges as they emerge.



Guy Ryder  
ILO Director-General

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development SDGs commit us to attaining full employment and decent work for all. The world of work is undergoing a major and rapid change. Ahead of us is a world in transformation in which globalization, new technologies, climate change and demographic dynamics pose important challenges. Yet with the right mix of policies, they can be opportunities. The Future of Work initiative of the ILO blends theory, practice and national experiences to understand upcoming trends and take appropriate action accordingly. As we design the future of work, our values of social justice will be as instrumental to peace as they were 100 years ago. Let's have an inspiring Forum and shape the future world of work in the Caribbean.



Wayne Chen  
President, (CEC)

Promoting an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises is critical to addressing socio-economic regional challenges. CEC advocates for a conducive regulatory environment that promotes the ease of doing business; encourage foreign investment; supports SME growth and access to financial capital; removes barriers to trade and encourage economic diversification. CEC also focuses on improving productivity and competitiveness that lead to better wages and economic growth. Investments in skills and education should drive business re-engineering for a better and efficient response to the changing world of work.



Jennifer Isaacs-Dotson  
President, (CCL)

Caribbean countries have for decades been confronted with various economic, social and environmental challenges having direct impact on the quality of life of its peoples and their survival. In a world of rapid technological change and work reorganization, the Caribbean workforce faces either a future of uncertainties or a future of great potential. The question that workers need answered is whether Governments are ready to put in place the policies and measures required to create a path that leads to a just and prosperous Caribbean Community for all, where each citizen and every resident will have a secure future with decent productive work.