

ILO STATEMENT

TICAD 7 – Plenary 5 “Strengthening Peace and Stability”

- Considerable efforts and progress have been made by the countries, the African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the international community, notably in the Horn of Africa, in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in promoting peace, security and good governance.
- Nevertheless, today more than 2 billion people are still living in fragile and conflict affected situations, where poverty and inequality are increasingly concentrated. The majority of fragile context are situated in Sub-Saharan Africa. Given the risks posed by a changing climate, scarce natural resources, protracted conflict and rather low levels of human development, this number is unfortunately likely to rise unless communities work together for the consolidation of peace.
- Conflicts have severe implications for the world of work, while poverty, unemployment and decent work deficits can themselves become triggers of vulnerability and fragility.
- Increasing the employment content of public and private investments in the creation, rehabilitation and maintenance of existing public assets and public services can address structural imbalances and lead not only to increased productivity and livelihoods, but at the same time could protect existing natural resources.
- This year, marks the 100th anniversary of the ILO’s foundation, as part of the Treaty of Versailles which ended World War I. Carved into the foundation of its first headquarters are the words “*si vis pacem, cole justitiam*” - “If you desire peace, cultivate justice”. It is on this principle that the ILO is founded.
- It is no less certain today than in 1919 that lasting peace and stability must be built on a foundation of sustainable development and social justice.
- The adoption by the Governments and social partners in 2017 of the **Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience** represents a unique normative framework, a milestone, for the world of work in conflict and disaster settings. The Recommendation stressed the enabling role of employment and decent work for peace and social cohesion, preventing crises, strengthening preparedness, enabling recovery, building resilience and disaster risk reduction measures.

- Last June, during the centenary International Labour Conference, the **ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work** was adopted. The declaration recognizes that *“persistent poverty, inequalities and injustices, conflict, disasters and other humanitarian emergencies in many parts of the world constitute a threat to those advances and to securing shared prosperity and decent work for all.”*
- After a century of ILO’s existence, addressing peacebuilding and social justice through the world of work has proved to be a powerful approach and continues to remain very central to human security, recovery and prevention measures in fragile, conflict and disaster settings, particularly in Africa.
- My simple message today is that we all have to work together, the international community, regional organizations, national and local governments, social partners and non-governmental organizations, in order to build stable and effective institutions in Africa, to allow them to develop Decent Work policies and programmes that address human security, conflicts and disasters. We should all aim to provide both tangible peace dividends leaving no one behind, including refugees, displaced persons and host communities, while reinforcing longer-term investment in the world of work for promoting an enabling environment for sustainable socio-economic reintegration and crisis prevention.