

Dear Mr. Director General, Dear Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished participants

- Please let me – on behalf of the Czech government - first express my gratitude to the International Labour Organization for all the hard work on this 105th Session of the International Labour Conference and for the useful reports.
- The International Labour Organization with its unique tripartite structure can connect knowledge and views of the government, employers and workers representatives. The ILO also hears the opinions of industrialized and developing countries alike. Therefore, the ILO output is balanced, useful and sustainable.
- Three years from now, we celebrate 100 years of International Labour Organization. This alone is a proof that the ILO activities have been relevant for all the existence of the organization. It also demonstrates that social justice is a permanent crucial value to the society.
- With that on mind, I would like to appreciate and endorse the Initiative of ILO Director General on the Future of Work. It will provide a guidance to face the current dynamic changes in the world of work.
- The issues of *Future of Work* within globalized economy can't be dealt only at the national level. Today more than ever, market of goods, services and capital knows no borders.
- We need international approach to the future of work. And who else is better suited to lead the way than the ILO? It has the expertise and nearly a century of experience.
- The Czech Republic has been one of the very first countries to hold their national Future of Work event. On 15th February, we held our national conference on the future of work. Representatives of social partners, government institutions as well as the academia, research institutions and non-governmental organizations exchanged their views and came out with an interesting outputs.

- The Czech Republic also prepares an international conference on the future of work. The conference will take place in Prague on 25th November this year. I am very glad and grateful that Director General Ryder accepted our invitation to take part in the event.
- So far, the discussion in the Czech Republic revealed that one of the main challenges ahead is the weakening of traditional forms of employment. At the same time, more flexible forms of employment will become more popular. One of the results will be that fewer employees would join the trade unions. This will create pressure on the collective bargaining.
- The future of work is not only a challenge. It is also an opportunity. We must try thinking “outside the box”. We also must be ready to embrace new forms of work. The very meaning of the term “work” – or rather “labour” – has to be thought over again. One of the messages of the Czech national conference on future of work was to acknowledge unpaid care as work, too.
- Information and communication technologies open possibilities for new services that are now outside the formal economy (Airbnb, Uber). Such development only highlights the ILO relevance – last year, the International Labour Conference adopted Recommendation number 204 on Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy.
- One of the guiding principles for us policy makers must be to always seek ways to reduce inequalities. Special emphasis is to be put on gender equality. I am hopeful in this regard. Technological change and the rise of employment in services sector create many opportunities to narrow the gaps between men in women.
- I firmly believe that our joint efforts in the Future of Work initiative will make the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development truly sustainable. Together, we have the power to create a world which we would like to live in.

Thank you for your attention.