



Statement by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) at the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference.

Delivered by Ms. Christine Nathan, President of ICMC, on Thursday, 8 June 2023

*“Common and shared values rooted in social justice”*

Mr. President, the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) is pleased to deliver this statement at the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), in response to the report of the Director-General.

Since 1951, ICMC has served migrants and refugees throughout the world, both through its extensive network of Catholic Bishops Conferences and other Catholic-inspired and civil society partners, global advocacy, and direct humanitarian and resettlement programming in countries with complex migration and refugee-related issues. We put respect for the rights and dignity of our beneficiaries at the center of our efforts and do so regardless of faith, race, ethnicity, or nationality.

More recently, our organization has been supporting local Catholic Church services in Ukraine serving millions of internally displaced persons with emergency, mental health, and psychosocial support, and there we have observed firsthand the impact of this crisis on work and workers.

Our organization is keenly aware that the present session of the ILC takes place at a crucial moment in economic and social history, in which the world of work has been confronted with profound and wide-ranging challenges, including the long-range impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic crises, and both more recent and ongoing, but often ignored and forgotten, conflicts, wars, persecutions, inequalities and injustices, in every region of the world. There also is no doubt that the heaviest burdens are shouldered by those who are most vulnerable, including forced migrant, refugee, and informal workers. At the same time, we wish to point out the strengths and resilience of these same populations as well as their much-needed contributions to the societies in which they are welcomed, protected, promoted, and integrated.

Thus, ICMC wishes to bring the following observations and commitments to the attention of this esteemed gathering:

1. In the context of today's global labour market, the consumerist economic model and the aim to attain maximized profits, are pursued at direct expense to workers and constitute an affront to their human dignity and rights. Common efforts, guided by common values, must constitute the driving force toward sustainable development.
2. For the past six years, ICMC has engaged in close collaboration with the ILO in promoting social justice, decent and dignified work, with fair wages. We have undertaken such efforts in close association with the Holy See Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, and with an extensive global network of Catholic-inspired organizations and other faith actors and grass-rooted organizations in all parts of the world. This latter effort is known as "The Future of Work, Labour after *Laudato Si*" and was initiated in support of the ILO Centenary celebration.
3. ICMC welcomes the future launch of the Global Coalition for Social Justice and pledges its support for, and engagement in this endeavor.

In conclusion, allow me to remind ourselves that migration is a universal phenomenon that has existed since time immemorial and is inseparable from the labor issue. Thus, both should be approached from perspective and actions rooted in Social Justice.

Thank you, Mr. President.