



Restoring Dignity,
Inspiring Change.

Statement by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) at the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference, prepared by Ignacio Alonso Alasino.

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[“The Centrality of Work”](#)

Mr. President, the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) is pleased to deliver this statement at the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), in response to the report of the Director-General.

ICMC is a Church-inspired, non-profit organization, providing direct humanitarian and other services to uprooted people throughout the world, advocating for and with them for just and equitable migration policies, and networking with other faith-based organizations sharing similar values and actions, including the efforts of “The Future of Work – Labour after *Laudato si’*” Project, in which we have engaged collaboratively with ILO, the Vatican and a wide range of CSOs.

ICMC puts respect for human dignity and protection of refugees’ and migrants’ human rights at the heart of its work and our mission is to protect and serve refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people, survivors of human trafficking, and other migrants - regardless of faith, race, ethnicity, or nationality.

As the world continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, refugees and migrants remain uniquely vulnerable not only to the pandemic’s impacts but also because of the devastating consequences of military conflicts across the globe. In the context of the ILC, ICMC wishes to focus attention on the following aspects to be of particular relevance:

1. Regarding the present situation and the world of work, we believe that the pandemic still exacerbates inequality, contributing to the so-called “throwaway” culture frequently denounced by Pope Francis, by favoring the privileged few but leaving most people on the margins and peripheries, without access to basic human needs and rights, including decent work. With the aim of ensuring protection of the most vulnerable, in particular for those living in the least developed countries, a human-centred approach is essential to an effective response to this global tragedy and, moreover, it is vital to promote and reaffirm “the centrality of work” in the transformation toward a more socially and environmentally sustainable economy. In line with this transformation, the

discussion on Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and the inclusion of safe and healthy working conditions as a fundamental principle and right at work, comes at a crucial time to explore solutions on the creation of decent jobs.

2. Today, as we face significant geopolitical tension with the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and which presents a range of complex challenges, we need to convene efforts and carry out responses in a collaborative way to the largest situation of refugees and displaced people in Europe since World War II. ICMC and other Catholic-inspired organizations are engaged in providing immediate assistance both within Ukraine and in neighboring countries receiving so many refugees, to ensure food, sanitation, clean water, warm winter clothes and heating, and are also advocating at international level for humanitarian action and an end to the conflict.
3. We are currently living at a time of unsteady commitment to multilateralism, in which a positive cooperation among states, civil society organizations and other stakeholders is very much needed. ICMC believes that a global institution like the ILO is well equipped to play a key role to defend the dignity of workers and in the promotion of social dialogue between governments, workers', and employers' associations. From our end, ICMC does its part advocating with faith-based organizations and others in processes like the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which is the primary intergovernmental global platform to discuss and share progress on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

To end this statement, ICMC would like to share with you the following message and our organization stands ready to respond to Pope Francis' call:

*In today's interconnected and complex world, we need to highlight the importance of good, inclusive, and decent work. It is part of our human identity, necessary for our human development, and vital for the future of the planet. (...) We need people and institutions that defend the dignity of workers, the dignity of everyone's work, and the wellbeing of the earth, our common home!*¹

Let us join forces and advance together to a future in which no one is left behind.

Thank you, Mr. President.

¹ Pope Francis, 2019. A Message of His Holiness Pope Francis to Participants in the 108th Session of the International Labour Conference, 10 June 2019.
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2019/documents/papa-francesco_20190610_messaggio-labourconference.html