



Statement by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)
at the 113th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC)

Delivered by Ms. Christine Nathan, President of ICMC, on Tuesday, 10 June 2025

*Building Bridges for the present and the future of work:
Advancing dignity, dialogue and decent work*

The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) welcomes the opportunity to contribute once again to this year's ILC. We extend our appreciation to the ILO and its tripartite constituents for their continued commitment to the promotion of social justice and decent work for all.

Since its founding in 1951, the ICMC has worked globally to protect and serve migrants and refugees, particularly those most vulnerable. Drawing on a trusted network of national Catholic Bishops Conferences, faith-based organizations, and civil society partners, ICMC engages in international advocacy and delivers field-based humanitarian assistance, protection, and resettlement support. At the heart of our mission is an unwavering commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of every person, regardless of faith, race, gender, ethnicity or nationality.

This year's Conference takes place during a significant moment for the global Catholic community and for humanity at large. In May 2024, Pope Francis welcomed a delegation from "The Future of Work, Labour after *Laudato si'*"¹ (FOWLS) initiative, coordinated by ICMC. In his address, he affirmed: "Care is work, work is care."² This simple yet powerful message encapsulates the heart of Catholic Social Teaching, which recognizes the dignity of labour, the necessity of care in all forms of work, and the moral obligation to uphold the rights of workers, migrants, refugees, and the most vulnerable in our societies.

¹ [The Future of Work, Labour After Laudato Si](#)

² [Audience with participants in the Consultation "Care is work, work is care" of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#)

Pope Francis' legacy has been one of unwavering advocacy for inclusive multilateralism and for a just transition that leaves no one behind. His regular messages to this Conference have reminded us that labour is not a commodity, and that decent work is essential to peace, human dignity, and integral development.

This year also marks the beginning of a new chapter, with the election of Pope Leo. His choice of name evokes *Rerum Novarum*, the foundational encyclical of modern Catholic social teaching which emphasizes the dignity of work and the dignity of workers. In his early remarks to the diplomatic corps³, Pope Leo highlighted the urgent need for ethical reflection on artificial intelligence and its impact on labour. He called for a renewed commitment to peace grounded in social justice and for global institutions to play their role in safeguarding human dignity in the face of technological transformation.

In this Jubilee Year, ICMC is actively engaged in the Church's initiatives to accompany those most affected by injustice and exclusion. Through the Jubilee of Workers and Jubilee of Migrants, we are lifting up the voices of those at the margins and working to connect faith-based actors with multilateral platforms like the ILO to build common agendas for change.

We welcome the ILC 2025 agenda and wish to highlight three critical areas that align with ICMC's global work and advocacy. First, we underscore the importance of advancing decent work in the platform economy, particularly in light of growing concerns over algorithmic management and the protection of digital labour rights. Second, we support continued dialogue on facilitating a just transition from the informal to the formal economy, ensuring social protection and labour standards for all workers, especially migrants and those in vulnerable employment. Third, we recognize the significance of the upcoming Second World Summit for Social Development and its potential to promote global solidarity and multilateral responses to social inequalities.

Finally, ICMC, through the FOWLS project, remains committed to building bridges between faith-based networks, the ILO, and multilateral institutions. We stand ready to accompany the ongoing dialogue between the Holy See, the ILO, and global workers and employers to ensure that labour policies protect the dignity of every human being.

Thank you.

³ [To Members of the Diplomatic Corps \(16 May 2025\) | LEO XIV](#)