

**Statement by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC)  
114th International Labour Conference (2026)**

Delivered by Ms. Christine Nathan, President of ICMC, on Tuesday, 9 June 2026

***The human person in a disrupted world of work***

Mr. President,

The International Catholic Migration Commission is honoured to address this Conference, especially as we mark 75 years of service to migrants and refugees worldwide. We thank the ILO and its tripartite constituents for their continued commitment to social justice and decent work.

Today, we find ourselves at what the ILO Director-General has described as a moment of choice.<sup>1</sup> Rapid advances in artificial intelligence and digitalization are reshaping the world of work at a speed that governance systems, social dialogue, and protections struggle to match. This is not merely a period of transformation; it is a moment of profound disruption, one that calls for renewed ethical discernment and collective responsibility.

From the perspective of the ICMC-coordinated initiative, *The Future of Work, Labour after Laudato Si' (FOWLS)*, this moment confirms a fundamental insight: technological progress, if detached from social justice, risks deepening inequality rather than advancing human dignity.

Too often, the prevailing technocratic paradigm prioritizes efficiency and control, while risking the reduction of workers to data points. As Pope Leo XIV reminds us, the challenge before us is not merely technological, but anthropological. As highlighted in

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<sup>1</sup> ILO Director-General Report, International Labour Conference, 114th Session (2026).

*Magnifica Humanitas*, when power is concentrated in the hands of a few, it risks creating new forms of exclusion, inequality, and dependency. The future of work must not be determined solely by technological capacity or market forces, but by ethical responsibility, social dialogue, and the primacy of human dignity.

In this context, the discussion on decent work in the platform economy is both timely and essential. Platform work has opened new opportunities, but it has also deepened informality, shifted risks onto workers, and concentrated power in the hands of a few. This is not only a regulatory issue - it is a question of justice. Labour must never be reduced to a commodity, and a possible Convention or normative framework on platform work would represent a critical step toward realigning technological change with social justice.

Migrants are often at the center of these transformations, yet remain largely invisible within them. Overrepresented in platform-based, care, and essential services, they face compounded vulnerabilities while making indispensable contributions to our societies. Migration must be recognized not as an emergency, but as a structural dimension of global labour markets.

At this moment of choice, ICMC remains committed to building bridges between ethical reflection and multilateral action, so that innovation serves the common good.

In this time of disruption, we must reaffirm a simple principle:

The human person must remain at the centre of work.

Thank you.