



If you desire peace, cultivate justice

*Address to the 100th session of International Labour Conference
by workers delegate of Nepal Mr Bishnu Rimal*

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Chairperson,

In cricket world, the number '100' has significant meaning! The players receive wide range congratulations and inspiration by their well-wishers as saying-"Guys you did it, congrats for hitting century score!"

Today, let me lend congratulation to the ILO for reaching a score of century; the score of ILC sessions- the 100th session, on behalf of entire Nepali working class, the unions clubbed into our unique platform known as Joint Trade Union Coordination Centre (JTUCC) and my own National Centre, General Federation of Nepalese Trade unions (GEFONT)!

No doubt, the ILO was established on a stormy period of world history. A journey started aiming to address differently the ongoing fierce class-fight between the

Two; the Haves and the Haves-Not, the ILO is completing benchmark of nearly a century. In this period, The World of Work has changed tremendously. An interesting change which shifted the focus of world labour movement visibly, from the developed world to the world of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Converting the global south as a house of overwhelming masses of working population, which is composing with largely young and youth! The youth who survive in a great dream, a future with decent work and if feel their dream is shattered by- dare to revolt anywhere and anyway!

In the inaugural speech, ambassador Somavia mentioned- "as we celebrate our 100th session, our world of work is certainly in turmoil!" He mentioned some figures such as 3,500 million people cannot have the same income as 61 million people! His conclusion- unfair globalization have systematically increased inequality almost everywhere in the last 30 years, definitely reflected in this figure as well. I do firmly second his point.

Bro. Somavia, on your question- "Can we, will we, do we want to make a difference ?" I have mixed response- Yes or No!

Honestly chair, I doubt here looking at the slow delivery of this specialized UN Body!

"Can we address the frustration of our working population caused by social injustice? The injustice which is even against the values of ILO ?" Here I joined with ILO Century Project's theme- "if you desire peace, cultivate justice"

Let us think how to sync our program, the action and the very structure of our own ILO to accommodate the change and the change which looming in near future!!

Chair,

As a worker delegate from one of the least developed countries, we have also similar issues in our menu. The ILC is discussing this year on social protection, extending rights to working domestic worker, issues of undervalued labour administration & the labour inspection, and discrimination.

We are too, discussing on modality and scheme to run newly initiated social security system to all workers. We have done a landmark agreement with the employers' Organizations despite some hue and cry from some quarter of business community. Let me deposit our sincere thanks to the ILO for its cooperation in our exercise for labour legislations reform.

Chair, still we Nepalis are struggling hard to bid goodbye to our prolonged political transition. A Herculean job from institutionalization of the first republic of this century to declaration of a new statute which is friendly to world of work are in progress but slow!

As international community better know, the decade long insurgency has shown road to Nepali youth towards international job market, we are heavily effected by the unsafe job. Majority of our people work the precarious jobs. A size-able numbers are limited only to domestic work.

Thus for us, a domestic work mean- a job waiting to Nepali in home and in aboard. That's why we know what the exploitation mean in this particular sector! The reason why I urge the conference, let mark this 100th session with adopting a new convention for domestic workers without hesitation!

With regards to discrimination, proudly I would like to mention our perfect inclusive legislature parliament. It consists 1/3rd woman representation and inclusive in terms of sociological presence in our society. Theoretically there is no single void left against equality. However we are sorry to record that we are much weaker in implementation effectively! We have also lost balance between

policy and action, male and female, overpower and marginalized section of our society.

Here I acknowledge another agenda of this conference, the labour administration! It makes sense in our case as well, since we are demanding all powerful National Labour Commission for quick monitoring and the justice delivery.

Chair,

I have asked by entire Nepali working masses and their trade unions to extend sincere thanks on their behalf. The workers electoral college has entrusted my national centre and elected my comrade in the ILO GB as one of the Deputies. Let me thank you colleagues, I swear we will not disappoint you! We will try our best!!

Let me wish grand success of the 100th session of international labour conference!

Thank you!

Bishnu Rimal

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