

STATEMENT BY YANG BERHORMAT PEHIN UDANA KHATIB DATO PADUKA SERI SETIA USTAZ HAJI AWANG
BADARUDDIN BIN PENGARAH DATO PADUKA HAJI OTHMAN, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM
AT THE 100TH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE
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OTHMAN MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim

Assalamualaikum-warahmatullahi-wabarakatuh

Mr. President
Chairperson and Members of the Governing Body
Director-General of the International Labour Office
Honourable Ministers
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to you all.

First of all, I would like to convey my sincere congratulations on your election as President of the 100th Session of the International Labour Conference. I am confident that under your wise guidance, this Conference will achieve its objectives and promising results and outcomes.

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Mr President,

We are now living in unpredictable environment. We face challenges such as disaster and economic crisis. We experienced and faced global financial crisis in 2008 that has left a strong, resounding impact on economies around the world. Although the severe economic downturn has forced many of us to calculate our losses, I'm sure our distinguished delegates would agree, that the crisis also has a very human face and a very social dimension.

Recovery is still ahead of us, but unemployment in most countries still too significant and far from recovery. The financial crisis thought us that prevention is better than cure. It is not a time for complacency and we cannot afford to forget that lesson. Nevertheless International Labour Organisation related to labour issues continues to promote decent work and the importance of social protection for all types of workers and not forgetting domestic workers.

Mr. President,

This year's **Global Report on the elimination of discrimination in the world of work** is important to all of us. Brunei Darussalam supports all efforts to eliminate any sorts of discrimination around the international labour market arena. Being said that, every

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opportunity to access any employment, or even development and undertakings, should be made available regardless of race, gender or even the religion.

In Brunei Darussalam, our **Employment Order 2009** includes the protection of basic rights and wages, and does not create any distinctive differences between our national workforce and the migrant workers – all individuals have equal rights to work in an environment that is fair and safe with no discriminations.

As one of this year Conference's agenda which is the **second Discussion on Decent Work for domestic workers**, we see the importance to pursue this intensively. As we all know working in household is vital to daily preservation of the economy. Therefore, we are pleased to know that, International Labour Organization is pursuing this to their fullest commitments.

Also in the Agenda, we have arrived at this year's **recurrent discussion on social protection**. We also look forward to learn more from all Member countries here today, the good practices towards a better social protection system or scheme. Recently, Brunei Darussalam has taken two major steps towards ensuring a better future of our retired citizens. The first step was the raising of mandatory retirement age from 55 to 60 years.

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The second was the establishment of a new Supplemental Contributory Pension Scheme which helps to ensure the continued welfare of the people by maintaining equitable standard of living after retirement. Not only that, the scheme covers those who are working in the formal sector that provides an additional social safety net when they reach their mandatory retirement age.

Mr. President,

We foresee the worthwhile exchange of views and opinions on various Agenda items. Thus, the cooperative dialogue between us and the social partners is instrumental to the development of our international communities. I believe the 100th International Labour Conference will bring viable and positive developments that will further strengthen our awareness on workers needs.

In conclusion, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to recognise and express my gratitude to the International Labour Organization for their achievements, and for their continuous support in the betterment of the quality of working life. We look forward to an auspicious Conference.

Thank you Mr. President.