

## **Statement of Bahrein on behalf of the Arab Group to the 340th Session of the Governing Body of the ILO (29 October-12 November 2020)**

On behalf of the Arab Group, we extend our appreciation to the Director General, Mr. Guy Ryder, and to the regional office in Beirut and the Office of the International Labor Organization in Jerusalem for their efforts in reducing the suffering of the workers and the people in the occupied Palestinian territories, hoping that these efforts would continue in favor of the labor sector and workers in Palestine.

Chair,

On behalf of the Arab Group, we present this statement regarding the contents of the document GB.340/POL/5 Under item (5) on the agenda of the Governing Body titled “Enhanced Programme of Development Cooperation for the Occupied Arab Territories”.

The document presented before us sheds light on the progress made and the operations of ILO's planned intervention in the context of the development cooperation program in the occupied Arab territories and the activities and programs covered by organization in the Palestinian territories within the second Palestinian decent work program for the period 2018-2022, implemented in partnership with governmental institutions and social partners.

In his annual report on the situation of workers in the occupied Arab territories, the Director General emphasized that the Palestinian labor market presents a bleak picture due to the spread of unemployment, the decline in protection, and the increasing marginalization of youth. With the absence of appropriate solutions to the challenges facing the Palestinian labor market, the unemployment rate will continue to rise affecting disproportionately women and youth.

The document presented before us and the concerns it contains about the collapse of the Palestinian labor market, and to what was stated in the appendix, is caused because the Israeli occupation authorities continue their policies of imposing restrictions on people and goods, which constitutes an obstacle to growth, sustainable development and reducing unemployment rates, causing an obstacle to Palestinian workers' access decent work.

Chair,

Based on the above:

1. The Arab group holds the occupation authorities responsible for the lives of Palestinian workers and their human and economic rights, and calls for ILO and other concerned international organizations for the protection of these rights and for raising their injustice.
2. The Arab Group calls for the discussion of the appendix of the Director General's report submitted to the International Labor Conference on the conditions of Arab workers in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories before the conference in the plenary session or in one of the sessions as an item, and for the report to be translated

into executive steps and programs adopted by the organization for the aim of correcting Conditions of workers in the occupied Palestinian territories.

3. The Arab Group reiterates its call to the Director General of the International Labor Organization and the Governing Body of the International Labor Office and donor States to fulfill their obligations in financial support to revive and activate the Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection , and continue to make efforts coordinating with international agencies and donor countries to pull the financial support necessary to support the demands and development needs, In light of Covid-19 , in coordination with the Arab Labor Organization and the International Labor Organization offices in Beirut and Jerusalem.
4. The Arab Group calls the Governing Body of the International Labor Office to make efforts providing financial resources to support the Palestinian Compensation Fund to help Palestinian workers overcome the Covid-19 pandemic and alleviate their suffering.
5. The Arab Group calls ILO to intervene effectively to restore Palestinian workers ' rights from the occupation authorities since 1970 to date, and to take the necessary procedures to pay wages and entitlements of Palestinian workers in accordance with international labor standards and the Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Right to Work , in light of the difficult financial circumstances faced by the Palestinian National Authority.
6. The Arab Group requests the Director General to include in his periodic report submitted to the Governing Body in March 2021 on the organization's activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, a briefing of the efforts made in this regard in particular, in order for the Governing Body members to be informed by them.

I thank you.