

Intervención Ministro Moroni – Sesión Inaugural XXI CIMT- OEA

Jueves 23/09: 10 a 11 hora Buenos Aires

ENGLISH VERSION

Septiembre 2021/ Dirección de Asuntos
Internacionales



Ministerio de Trabajo,
Empleo y Seguridad Social
Argentina

Dear Mr. Secretary General of the Organization of American States; Mr. Director of the International Labor Organization, Mr. Minister of Labor of Barbados, Technical Secretariat of the OAS, authorities of the IACML and representatives of the Ministries of Labor, COSATE, CEATAL and international organizations and forums:

It is an honor for our Ministry to lead and contribute to the organization of the Twenty-first Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, which represents an important process of regional dialogue and cooperation.

Together, we have come a long way to arrive at this point. In December 2019, we met in Quito and began this process of exchanges and consensus building in preparation for the ministerial conference.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic forced us to review the priorities to be addressed, at the same time we had to postpone the date of the Conference for almost a year and even change the way in which it was to be held.

The degree of injustice in many of our societies affects coexistence. Reality demands the need for a path of human-centered, sustainable development that includes a dynamic of growth with social justice. For this reason, it is important that we get used to the fact that, in the future, our Conferences will have an integrated approach to education, health and economy within the framework of policies for the development of labor relations that ensure quality work for all.

Before the pandemic, our outlook was already discouraging. The crisis exacerbated structural problems in our region, such as job insecurity, unemployment, informality, poverty, inequality, lack of social dialogue and deficiencies in labor administration. We were faced with the painful reality that the Americas is the continent with the greatest inequality.

Stagnation consolidates privileges and perpetuates elitist models that affect workers and employers alike. If we do not commit ourselves to inclusive and sustainable development, this situation of stagnation will continue to discourage individual initiative and entrepreneurial development and will affect workers with more job precarization.

The Declaration we will adopt is a relevant instrument of change. The content of the proposal ensures a roadmap towards a more egalitarian model of society, of work and production, that allows integral human development and reinforces democratic coexistence and respect for human rights.

Beginning to consider policies that will reverse the current trend requires efforts from all of us at three levels:

The first, in that we are responsible for designing, developing and implementing policies. Therefore, we need to continue strengthening the role of our Ministries of Labor and improving our information systems, and redouble our efforts to promote active policies and labor and

employment strategies focused on people and based on the respect and promotion of fundamental principles and rights at work, social justice, decent work, inclusion, full and productive employment and sustainable development.

In this context, the creation and formalization of employment, the effective inclusion of the most vulnerable populations such as women and young people, universal social protection, the promotion of co-responsibility, health and safety at work and the protection and guarantee of human and labor rights of migrants are fundamental objectives, and issues that will be part of our discussion.

To achieve them, we need to build bridges between labor policies and economic, educational and health policies, improving the articulation and coordination with the institutions and organizations in charge of them, as well as a reorganization of the international financial system oriented to support the productive and labor sectors of the economy. Without these communicating vessels, it will be impossible to implement policies that address the problems of most of the countries in the region.

It is important, therefore, that the Buenos Aires Declaration should have emphasized this because development issues involve labor, political, economic, social and cultural dimensions.

The second level is linked to the importance of promoting spaces and instances of institutionalized, broad and participatory social dialogue and the valuable contributions of the world of work to recover from the crisis, close gaps and achieve a future of work with social justice and sustainable development.

I am absolutely convinced that the socioeconomic recovery from the crisis is a matter for all of us, and that is why each voice has value and must be heard.

We need the cooperation of governments, workers and employers and their organizations to reach consensus and responses to the challenges posed by the pandemic; to formulate and implement policies and address pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities as well as the challenges of new forms of work such as digital labor platforms, teleworking and the alternation between workplace and remote work.

We need an effective institutional and political social dialogue. We must empower our actors in the world of work with sufficient political capacity to propose, promote, produce changes and resolve labor conflicts in our societies, and become an efficient instrument to eradicate all types of social, economic and political violence. To this end, it is essential that we act with respect, honor our commitments achieved through consensus, be participatory, understand others beyond our differences and respect human rights.

Institutionalized social dialogue is the instrument for the strengthening of democratic processes, a broad aspiration in our Declaration. We can never lose sight of the fact that this is the basis for building more just, inclusive, free and sovereign societies.



Third, today more than ever, we must reaffirm our commitment to reinforce the processes of regional cooperation and integration. This last of the three levels I have listed is based on the importance of solidarity among our countries in contexts such as the current one. I believe that it is in these spaces of regional convergence and exchange that we can collectively find the answers to overcome the social, economic and health impacts of the pandemic. In this effort, we already have a valuable tool: the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL), created within this Conference 15 years ago, which is a dynamic example of cooperation and solidarity among our Ministries.

Whatever we may call them, they must also be spaces of opportunity for growth and development, for job, production and investment opportunities. We must value and prioritize their labor dimension. These cannot be detached from our domestic policies; they must be part of them and we must take them into account in our national development objectives.

Overcoming the crisis calls for unity and the invigoration of these regional areas, some of which have been forgotten in recent years.

Thank you all for your participation and valuable contributions. I am sure that throughout these days of meetings we will do a great job together, up to the responsibility that the current circumstances demand of us, which will allow us to continue moving towards a more resilient world of work with social justice, inclusion, decent work and sustainable development.

Thank you very much!