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PRESS RELEASE

LABOUR-20 CALLS FOR G20 TO ENABLE SOCIAL SECURITY PORTABILITY AND PLUGGING GENDER GAP IN GLOBAL WORK FORCE

Adopts two Joint Statements on Universalisation of Social Security & Women and Future of Work as outcome of two-day L20 inception meet.

Amritsar (Punjab), March 20, 2023: The Labour20 (L20) engagement group's inception meet, as part of India's G20 presidency, today adopted two Joint Statements as the final outcome of the two-day deliberations, one calling for resolving the question of portability of social security among G20 nations, as a first step towards universalisation of social security, and another for plugging the gender gap in the global work force.

Trade union leaders, labour studies experts and delegates from 20 nations at the Labour20 inception meeting under India's G20 presidency had deliberated the Universalisation of Social Security on the first day, and the last day of the event witnessed productive discussion on Women and Future of Work, in dedicated sessions to thrash out issues and concerns.

The Joint Statement on Universalisation of Social Security stated that the question of portability of benefits within the G20 nations is a low hanging fruit, which could be addressed by the grouping at no time, and pointed out to the BRICS deliberations for an intra-group arrangement in this regard. Incidentally, BRICS nations are members of G20.

The Joint Statement on Women and the Future of Work called for upskilling of women workforce globally to meet the emerging challenges of tech-intensive industry and the post-pandemic job market, and asked the governments and employers to shoulder this responsibility. It also called for recalibrating how women in the informal sector, and in family-raising roles, contribute to global economy, and asked for valuing that contribution.

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During the dinner on March 19th, Union Minister for Labour and Employment Shri Bhupender Yadav addressed the delegates from a virtual platform, when he said the world had resolved to recover together post-pandemic, and to make the recovery a human centric process, for which there was a need to collectively ensure that workers were equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the dynamic environment.

Shri Yadav agreed that universal social security and its portability across the world is an important issue that G20 and L20 must focus on. He said the informal sector must be brought under the ambit of social security. “There has to be sustainable mix of social insurance and social assistance schemes for social security,” he added.

Keeping in line with vision of ‘Nari shakti’ or ‘Women Power’ of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the minister said women’s participation in labour force has to be enhanced which would in turn lead to creation of equitable, inclusive and developed society.

Before the 2-day meet ended, representatives from Russia, India, Australia, Nepal and Bangladesh shared their national experiences on wages and its various dimensions, particularly the impact on livelihoods. The speakers included Sushri Natalia Klimova from FNPR of Russia; Shri Abhishek from Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers Education of India; Prof. Anis Chowdhary of Western Sydney University of Australia; Shri Govind Paudel from National Labour Union of Nepal; Smt. Pragana Parande, advisor at VVG National Labour Institute; Shri Dewan Quedou, President of Mauritius Trade Union Congress; and Shri Kanak Kumar Barman of Jaitya Shramik Jote of Bangladesh.

In the session on women workers and the concerns of future of work, the speakers were Dr Aditi N. Paswan from Delhi University of India; Sushri Vani Manoraj, managing director of Chetna Conscience of Women from India; Dr Elina Samantary from VVG National Labour Institute of India; Prof. Alakh N. Sharma, Director of IHD from India; Shri Shyamati Ranaraja from University of Peradeniya of Sri Lanka; Shri Evgeny Makarov from FNPR of Russia; and Shri Jian Zhang from ACFTU of China.

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Note to Editors:

G20: The Group of Twenty, is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues. India holds the Presidency in 2023. For more information: <https://www.g20.org/en/>.

L20: Labour20 is one of the 10 Engagement Groups of the G20, which is led by the non-government efforts. L20 discuss the concerns and issues of labour and employment, apart from deliberating on the latest trends in labour globally. For more information: <https://www.l20india.org/>.

BMS: Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh is India's largest labour union and is the Chair of the Labour20 (L20) engagement group, which is one of the 10 groups. For more information: <https://bms.org.in/>.

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