

**Speech by Mr Chandra Prasad Dhakal, Chairman - Employers Council
Vice President- Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI),
31 May, 2018, Geneva**

Honourable Chairperson,

Excellences, distinguished delegates and participants

It is indeed a great honour for me to address on behalf of Nepalese Employers in this plenary session of the International Labour Conference here in Geneva.

Let me begin with congratulating Mr Chairperson and also express my great appreciation to the ILO Director General for his important report. This year we have several encouraging aspects that will definitely contribute to promote employment, industrial relation and productivity for national economic growth in Nepal.

Honourable Chairperson,

It is exciting to share that we have newly elected government in place at federal, provincial and local levels. It is a great sign of political stability after long stating political transition in Nepal.

Legal reform for labour market governance is another significant achievement that we made recently in our common consensus. We have revised Labour Act and developed contributory based Social Security Act which are key milestone for industrial relation and workplace cooperation.

We believe social dialogue is a key mechanism for industrial relation, there is a provision of Central Labour Advisory Committee with tripartite representation which we would like replicate in provincial and local levels to promote culture of social dialogue in all levels.

Employment promotion and inclusive economic growth is our main priority in Nepal but I believe sustainability of enterprises and their extension is very important both for jobs creation and economic growth in the country. It is hard fact that growth alone cannot materialise social justice unless share of growth reaches to the gross root level. Therefore, sustainable enterprise growth and appropriate policy measures are crucial for social transformation. We are strongly committed to contribute in

global agendas on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly on decent work and economic growth also because Nepal aims to graduate in middle income country by 2022.

Honourable Chairperson,

Capacity building for employers organisation and it's member enterprises is very important, particularly for women entrepreneurs to bring them in business leadership. We want gender equality and free from any type of harassment in our organisations and workplaces.

We are also restructuring our federation in line with new governance system in Nepal, in which will need further capacity to address industrial relation, enterprise promotion and job creation. In order to address skill mismatching, we would like to provide market based training for our young people entering into the labour market. Responsible business conduct is our strong commitment for social cause. ILO's technical and financial support in this area would be a great support for us in Nepal.

Honourable Chairperson,

I am proud to share that overall business environment is significantly encouraging in Nepal followed by political stability and legal reform. Therefore, I would like take advantage of this important gathering to appeal all international business community to explore for possibility of new project investment in Nepal. We have several potential areas such as tourism, agriculture, infrastructure development, information technology, hydropower including production and services sectors. Our federation will be happy to offer necessary support and collaboration in this regard.

Finally, we are exciting to celebrate 100 years of ILO establishment in next year. Let us consider sustainable enterprise for employment promotion is one of the key aspects for our centenary celebration.

Thank you