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L20 Reaction to the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration

Dear Sisters/Brothers

Namaste!

It is with great pleasure that Labour 20 welcomes the statement adopted by the G20 leaders summit on September 09, 2023 under the Indian presidency and heartily congratulates hon'ble Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi; Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Sh. S. Jaishankar and Sherpa Sh. Amitabh Kant for the rigorous and tactical work they have put in to build consensus at an uncertain juncture when a multipolar world is taking shape and most of the countries are facing an unprecedented lack of negotiation power.

The Labour 20 made important recommendations concerning the global working population in the statement adopted during its summit held in Patna in June. It is a matter of great pleasure for us and the working people across the G20 countries that the leaders' summit in its declaration has adopted all our recommendations on the following key issues:

- Universalisation of social security that pitches for an all covering social security net taking into account workers in the informal economy and new forms of work like Gig and Platform workers.
- Portability of Social Security Funds: A concurrent issue that was taken up for discussion by the Labour 20 as India and countries in the global South are manpower sending states.

These people work for years in different countries but their social security benefits lapse as soon as they come back to their native country to shift elsewhere, which is a loss of accumulation of a lifetime of work at times.

- Human led Development; Regulation of Artificial Intelligence; Skill Mapping: The world of Work (WoW) is changing very rapidly and automation is taking up larger industrial space. Artificial Intelligence is further speeding up the process. While Research and Development in the field of Artificial Intelligence may continue while keeping in mind the ethical concerns, its adoption must be regulated by consistent and stringent policies.

In these evolving circumstances it is necessary to ensure that humans stay at the center of the developmental process, otherwise all this growth will be meaningless. One of the most important things to do in this regard is to make sure that the workforce is employable. The skill gap needs to be mapped i.e. The skills that are needed for employment in the changing WoW and the skills that people possess followed by upskilling and reskilling of people.

- A Women Led Economy: Entry of women into the workforce holds immense potential for GDP growth and Gender Equality. Equal pay for equal work has been adopted de jure in almost all the countries and the world is already discussing monetisation of care work. Under these circumstances a Women-led economy that caters to the specific needs of the gender must be met. Workplace safety, safe transport etc. are very important for women to enter the workforce.

The G20 Leaders' summit has done well to take into account all of these issues with a promise to the G20 Nations and the world that the voice of workers is being heard and there is definite willingness to act to address these issues.

Once again we thank the leaders of India and the other G20 countries that have agreed to the voice of workers and committed to work on these issues.

With Best Regards!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hiranmay J. Pandya".

Hiranmay J. Pandya

L20 Chair,