



61st Session of the Commission for Social Development. Agenda item 3(a) and (b): General Discussion

“Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

13 February 2023

Malta Statement

Thank you, Chair.

At the outset Malta wished to express its heartfelt condolences to the people of Türkiye and Syria over the devastating earthquake.

Let me thank you Ambassador Al-Thani, and the Bureau, for preparing this year’s session. Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

This year’s **theme** aptly reflects the aspirations that we put forward in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At its heart, **productive employment** and **decent work** are about putting people and the planet at the centre. This will require creating more inclusive and equitable labour markets; reducing gender and social inequalities; and expanding educational and work opportunities in the emerging green and digital economies.



Malta remains committed to achieving full and productive employment and decent work at all levels, for everyone, and at all stages in life. We will continue to work towards creating more inclusive, equitable and adaptable labour markets by promoting fair, sustainable, and inclusive growth.

Meeting these aspirations will require new approaches to enable present and future generations to reap the opportunities of the green and digital transition, and to put in place innovative policy frameworks that address the obstacles limiting the full and fair participation of young people and older workers.

Creating new job opportunities that meet the needs of **young people** in terms of pay, security and prospects in a fair and inclusive labour market must be a priority. The findings in the report of the UN Secretary-General speak for themselves: an estimated 75 per cent of young people around the world work in the informal sector. Failing to realise the full potential of our youth will have a negative multiplier effect on family well-being, the health of national economies, and societies at large.

It is also imperative that our governments support **older workers** to adapt to the changing labour market. Confronted by an ageing world population, social protection and labour policies need to value older people's skills and knowledge, combat age discrimination, and foster intergenerational transfer of knowledge. In this regard, we must aspire towards high-quality and equitable **educational**



and vocational opportunities that are accessible and provide lifelong learning opportunities to all.

Women disproportionately face discrimination and harmful socio-cultural practices that limit their educational and employment opportunities and achievements. Forced and early marriage often mean that girls drop out of school and public life, placing them at greater risk of exploitation, and limiting their educational and work opportunities.

The promotion of equal rights, equal treatment, and equal opportunities for women, while strengthening the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, must remain at the heart of our policies. We encourage all Member States to prioritise gender-responsive social protection policies that recognise the disproportionate care burdens that women assume. We further call for quality education, training, and employment policies that facilitate the recruitment, promotion, and retention of women in the work force, eliminate sexual harassment and discriminatory hiring and employment practices.

The right to decent work is a prerequisite for a more just and equal society. Malta is committed to creating labour markets that promote full and productive employment and decent work for all. We stand ready to engage with all Member States, civil society organisations and relevant stakeholders during this 61st session of the Commission on Social Development and look forward to



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working on concrete and action-oriented proposals that deliver better and more decent work opportunities for all.

I thank you.