Employers’ Intervention for 2017 ILC General Discussion on Labour Migration

Closing Statement
16 June 2017

Gabriella Herzog

Mr. President, your Excellencies, Distinguished Chair and Worker Vice Chair, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate, on behalf of the employers, the Committee on the successful work done in allowing us to adopt this Conclusion today.

Labour migration is a necessary and important phenomenon. It can help fulfil personal aspirations, balance labour supply and demand, spark innovation, and develop and transfer skills. But for workers to be able to move of their own volition, where and when their labour is needed and valued, and with their rights protected, governments must have clear, transparent and efficient migration policies.

Sadly, we live in a world where the current political debate surrounding labour migration is often based on misperceptions about the relationship between migration, jobs and development. The ILO has a role to play in ensuring that labour migration policies are grounded in sound facts, thus assisting governments to devise and implement them in ways that work for Employers and Workers alike. The work plan suggested by the Conclusions adopted today can help equip the ILO and its Constituents in this regard.

Let me thank the Committee for a focused and concise set of Conclusions that will greatly position the ILO on an issue of such great importance.