

# Committee of Experts on Public Administration



## **22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration**

### **Written statement by International Labour Office**

*Agenda item 3: Institutional aspects of the 2023 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.*

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The theme of this 22nd Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration is of high relevance to the International Labour Organization. The paper presented under Item 3 of the agenda gives an accurate picture of the multiple crisis affecting the world.

These crises have deeply affected the world of work and require sound participatory governance processes, capable and resilient institutions of work to be adequately addressed. Most countries have not yet returned to the levels of employment and hours worked before the outbreak of COVID-19. The global jobs gap stood at 473 million people in 2022. Also in 2022, around 2 billion workers were in informal employment globally and an estimated 214 million workers were living in extreme poverty. Gender gaps persist in all areas of the world of work, and young people continue to face many challenges. On the other hand, population is ageing in almost all advanced and many emerging countries causing a depression of labour supply unlikely to be offset by migration.

When thinking of fundamental rights at work, the scenario is equally disturbing. There are 27.6 million people in situations of forced labour, corresponding to an increase of 2.7 million between 2016 and 2021. The latest global estimates indicate a rise of child labour to 160 million worldwide – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years. 1.88 million people continue to die every year due to exposure to 19 occupational risk factors alone, with diseases being responsible for more than 80 per cent of deaths.

While we concur with the recommendations provided by the paper, we feel that the concerns and expectations of the world of work are not fully reflected. Institutions of work, namely labour administrations, employers and workers' organizations need to be involved at large in public administration efforts to address immediate and longer-term societal and economic needs.

We would like to suggest to:

- consider the need for social dialogue to be part of participatory governance in the different forms that it may take.
- take into full account the labour dimension in whole-of-government approaches addressing crises and formulating policies for the implementation of the SDGs.

Beyond protecting labour rights, social dialogue fills in labour protection gaps, tackles inequalities, facilitates wage determination, shapes national employment policies and policies on vocational education and training and on skills enhancement, and promotes an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises and job creation, including through safe and productive workplaces.

Labour Administration and its role in forecasting and addressing labour market needs, promoting social peace and meeting the needs of workers and employers is a critical public function that needs to be included in broader policymaking to achieve the vision and goals of the 2030 agenda.

As we continue advancing decent work, social justice, and a human-centred approach for the future of work we look forward to working with this committee.