



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
OFFICE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by: Mr. Paul Tacon,
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Chair,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, representatives of ILO constituents and stakeholders,

My comments will focus on GCM objective 22, on portable social security entitlements and earned benefits.

Despite progress on this objective, many migrant workers remain among the 4.1 billion people worldwide living without access to social protection benefits.

The COVID-19 pandemic threw a harsh spotlight on the consequences of this exclusion. Unable to work during lockdowns, many migrant workers were denied social protection offered to nationals, leaving them dependent on informal work, indebted or forced to return without any support structures in place.

This situation benefits no one.

This is not simply about maximizing the benefits of social protection for sustainable development – though these benefits are significant.

Rather, social protection for migrant workers is a right, enshrined *inter alia* in multiple international labour standards, including the ILO Equality of Treatment (Social Security) Convention, 1962 (No. 118), highlighted in the GCM. Ratification and implementation of these standards is a critical step towards closing existing gaps.

Extending the coverage of social protection to all is central to ILO's mandate. Policy options have been successfully implemented to achieve this goal, including the conclusion of social security agreements based on the principle of equality of treatment.

The ILO assists the implementation of these policy options. The recent publication *Extending social protection to migrant workers, refugees and their families: A guide for policymakers and practitioners*, based on international labour standards and good practices, can support reforms towards full inclusion of migrants in social protection systems.

The ILO stands ready to work with its constituents – member States, employers' and workers' organizations – as well as UN agencies and other stakeholders, including through the UN Network on Migration, to assist in the extension of portable social protection to all migrant workers, as a central commitment to achievement of GCM objective 22, and the GCM as a whole.

Thank you.