

Intervention 30 January 2024

Partnership Forum

Shea Gopaul, IOE Permanent Representative to the UN and co-chair of the Business and Industry Major Group

Morning session Partnership Forum - Major Group Interventions on "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions."

297 words

Thank you. Excellencies, Distinguished Guests

I am Shea Gopaul, IOE Permanent Representative to the UN and co-chair of the B&I major group.

Business remains committed to the SDGs however, they are concerned about the backward movement with a mere 12% of SDG's currently on track to meet the 2030 deadline.

In line with the theme of eradicating poverty- according to a recent UNDP report 73 out of 93 countries mentioned that job creation is the solution to eradicating poverty.

90 % of jobs are created by the private sector. With this in mind, we participated in the recent ECOSOC Future of Work meeting in Chile exceptionally organized by ELAC and ECOSOC President Paula Navaez. The purpose of the meeting was to have an open dialogue with many partners on finding solutions to the decent work agenda. During the 2 day event we focused on decent work and the need for economic growth. The current trends of increased remote hybrid work, increased informality, high inflation, supply chains, skills shortage, geopolitical instability, and increased automation including AI were some of the factors hindering stable job growth. But there were solutions- but they are dependent on governments, social partners, private sector, international organizations working together in partnership, on effective and efficient public policies, good governance, easily implementable legislation and regulation, with a focus on SMEs and movement from the informal to formal sector and digital transformation for all.

But we must work together and act. IOE along with UN DCO and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung acted yesterday and launched a playbook around collaboration at the local level between the private sector, employers' organizations, and Resident Coordinators. Following the playbook -we hope together they will plan, develop and implement innovative solutions to enhance job growth and deliver on the 2030 agenda.