# Asia-Pacific Statistics Week 2024 (9 – 13 December)

ILO Statements

**Wednesday, 11 December 2024**

*High-level segment*

**14:00-17:00**

**Agenda 2: Harnessing the power of data to leave no one behind**

The ILO highly appreciate the work of the Asia and the Pacific Committee on Statistics, and would like to extend its gratitude to member States and other partners for the continued collaboration with the ILO.

The ILO would like to highlight again the international standards setting mechanism on labour statistics, through the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS). The ICLS is the labour statistics setting mechanisms for governments, employers' and workers' organizations, and it happens every 5 years since 1923. The body celebrated 100 years of its work last year, during the 21th ICLS of October 2023.

In the recent past 11 years key labour statistics standards were adopted through the ICLS. The landmark "***Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization***" was adopted in October 2013 during the 19th ICLS. This resolution revised the boundaries of how to define employment and other forms of work. The 19th ICLS allowed better comparable measurements on employment and labour underutilization, while at the same time shedding light on other forms of work such as own-use production of goods and services providing more comprehensive coverage of women's work in particular.

The new definition of employment formed the basis of subsequent standards on work relationships and statistics of informality in the 20th and 21st ICLS respectively. The 20th ICLS "***Resolution concerning statistics on work relationships***" of October 2018 shed light on non-standards forms of work, particularly with the new concept of dependent contractors. The 21st ICLS "***Resolution concerning statistics on the informal economy***" of October 2023 confirmed the criteria for informality for all types of workers both in employment, own-use production work as well as other forms of work. Together, these three resolutions provide an excellent base to monitor the labour market, the world of work and how they are changing over time.

ILO has been actively advocating and supporting member States in the implementation of these standards, and many countries in the Region have either implemented or are in the path of implementing these resolutions. We highly commend these countries.

Unfortunately we still have a number of countries in the Asia and Pacific region that have not implemented any of these standards, and some significantly important countries in both economic terms and the size of their labour force, and this hampers producing reliable labour statistics at regional or sub-regional levels. We urge member States to support the initiatives of implementing these latest statistical standards, in order to enhance coherent labour statistics in the Region. The ILO remains committed and ready to offer active support to these countries.

Thank you Madam/Mister Chair.