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Mr. Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great honor to address the 114th International Labour Conference on behalf of AICESIS, the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions. Today's discussion on social dialogue and tripartism offers an important opportunity to reaffirm the vital role of governments, employers, and workers in shaping labour policies. At the same time, it invites us to reflect on how broader participatory institutions can contribute to more inclusive, effective, and trusted governance.

From the perspective of AICESIS, which brings together institutions from around 70 countries, social dialogue is much more than a mechanism for labour relations. It is a cornerstone of democratic governance, social cohesion, and the peaceful management of change in rapidly evolving societies.

The success of social dialogue depends not only on formal consultation mechanisms, but on the existence of genuine and continuous engagement between public authorities and organized civil society. Participation must be meaningful, and the recommendations emerging from consultation processes should have a real impact on public policies and labour outcomes.

In this regard, Economic and Social Councils and similar institutions play a unique and complementary role. By bringing together employers, workers, farmers, cooperatives, social economy actors, professionals, youth and women's organizations, academics, and many other representatives of civil society, they broaden participation, encourage consensus-building, and strengthen the link between governments and citizens.

This diversity is particularly valuable in times of increasing polarization and declining trust in public institutions. Through evidence-based dialogue and constructive debate, these bodies help rebuild confidence, counter misinformation, and reinforce democratic legitimacy. They promote a culture in which different perspectives are seen not as threats, but as essential contributions to a shared democratic conversation.

At the same time, the world of work is undergoing profound transformations. Digitalization, artificial intelligence, demographic shifts, environmental transition, persistent inequalities, labour informality, and geopolitical instability are reshaping labour markets at an unprecedented pace.

These challenges remind us that while the principles of tripartism remain fully relevant, their implementation must evolve. Many workers and economic actors do not feel adequately represented within traditional structures. Informal workers, platform workers, women in the care economy, young people, and organizations advocating social and environmental justice are often underrepresented in existing dialogue mechanisms.

For this reason, AICESIS advocates a more inclusive and dynamic approach to social dialogue. Such an approach should remain grounded in freedom of association and collective bargaining while ensuring broader participation for vulnerable and underrepresented groups. It should also strengthen the connections between economic, social, and environmental policies.

Inclusion, however, requires more than opening the door to participation. It also requires providing the technical expertise and institutional support necessary for all participants to contribute effectively and on equal footing.

This is especially important in relation to two major transitions of our time: the digital transformation and the climate and energy transition. Social dialogue must help ensure that innovation goes hand in hand with social protection, and that the move toward low-carbon economies is guided by principles of fairness and justice.

Ultimately, effective social dialogue depends on political will, representativeness, transparency, technical capacity, and above all, mutual trust. Formal institutions alone cannot succeed if people do not believe that their voices matter.

AICESIS therefore believes that social dialogue should not be viewed merely as a tool for managing crises. It should become a permanent culture of governance—one capable of anticipating change, supporting just transitions, and strengthening democratic resilience.

In an increasingly fragmented world, in a world where even international organizations tend to become representatives of bureaucratic procedures, we must stand together—united and in solidarity—and fight to preserve what we have achieved through effort and sacrifice over the past decades. All labor conquests and the rights of employers and workers are not simply tools of labor governance, they are above all a democratic necessity.

AICESIS remains committed to working alongside the International Labour Organization and all its constituents to promote inclusive governance, social justice, decent work, and the peaceful management of economic and social transformation.

Thank you for your attention.