

Second World Summit for Social Development

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ADDRESS BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS H.E. **MR.
ANDREAS S. KAKOURIS**

AMBASSADOR AND SPECIAL ENVOY ON MULTILATERALISM

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TIME LIMIT:

5 MINUTES

Secretary-General,
Heads of State,
(Prime Ministers),
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are living in a period of profound transformation and uncertainty. From geopolitical tensions to climate change and technological disruption, the pressures on workers, enterprises, and institutions are intensifying. What is at stake is not only economic growth but also social cohesion, environmental sustainability, and the legitimacy of our democratic institutions.

There is a widening gap between economic growth and the creation of quality, sustainable employment. Growth alone is insufficient unless it translates into decent work, safeguards labour rights, and expands opportunities for all. This calls for a renewed commitment to strengthen the interconnection between jobs, rights, and sustainable growth—a dynamic triangle that must underpin just, inclusive, and environmentally responsible progress.

In this context, Cyprus has remained steadfastly committed to promoting decent work, inclusive growth, and robust social dialogue. Our national experience demonstrates what is possible when governments, employers, and workers collaborate with vision and determination.

Over the past two years, Cyprus has achieved historic employment levels, approaching 80%, while unemployment has fallen below 5%, the lowest since 2008, achieving 5 years earlier the relevant target **which was set to be reached by 2030**. Youth unemployment decreased by 6.2 percentage points—the largest reduction among all EU Member States—representing

nearly a 40% drop. At the same time, Cyprus has maintained one of the fastest economic growth rates in the EU, while successfully reducing public debt.

Cyprus, is also strongly committed to advancing integrated social policies that improve people's lives. One of the key pillars of our social policy is the Minimum Guaranteed Income, a tangible expression of our commitment to social justice and equality. This policy ensures that every person legally residing in the Republic of Cyprus can enjoy a minimum socially acceptable standard of living. It provides vital financial support and services to those whose income and resources fall short of covering their basic and special needs, reinforcing our pledge that no one is left behind.

In addition, Cyprus is advancing key national strategies that reflect our shared global priorities: a Strategy for Active Ageing that empowers older persons to participate fully in society; the European Child Guarantee, which strengthens our efforts to eliminate child poverty; and a revised Disability Strategy that upholds the rights, inclusion, and dignity of persons with disabilities throughout their lives.

In conclusion, Cyprus reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the Doha Declaration and its global vision for inclusive and sustainable development. We stand ready to work hand in hand with our international partners to promote decent work, reduce inequalities, and shape a future of work that is just, sustainable, and leaves no one behind. We stand ready to help create a future that embodies the spirit and ambition of the Second World Summit on Social Development.

Thank you.

(453 words)