

**Intervention of Arsen TOROSYAN, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs,
Armenia**

WSSD2 High-Level Round Table

Strengthening the three pillars of social development: poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion

Honorable President,

Excellences, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

In recent years, our world has faced a convergence of crises — economic uncertainty, climate threats, and rapid technological transformation. In this challenging context, the eradication of poverty, the promotion of decent work, and the advancement of social inclusion must not be seen as separate goals, but as integral components of one unified strategy — a strategy centered on ensuring every individual's right to a dignified life.

Armenia firmly believes that genuine economic participation cannot be achieved without employment; that employment cannot be truly inclusive without social cohesion; and that neither can be sustainable without eradicating poverty. Progress in one pillar reinforces the others — and failure in one undermines them all.

For this reason, Armenia's approach to social development is holistic and human-centered. We continue to strengthen the coherence between social and economic policies by investing in education, healthcare, and social protection — the true foundations of sustainable and equitable growth.

Let me highlight several key national initiatives that reflect this integrated vision.

Within the framework of *Employment Strategy 2025–2031*, Armenia is creating the conditions for productive and decent employment. The strategy focuses on developing a skilled and competitive workforce and expanding high-productivity jobs, especially for vulnerable groups — including regional population, youth not

in education or employment, and women seeking sustainable economic opportunities.

A major innovation is the *digitalization of employment contracts*, which strengthens state oversight, ensures compliance with labor rights, and promotes transparency. This reform will become mandatory in 2026, marking a new stage in the protection of workers' rights.

To eradicate poverty and strengthen the social safety net, Armenia is introducing a *new family vulnerability assessment system* in 2026. This hybrid means-testing approach targets extreme poverty with precision, guaranteeing families an income above the national minimum food basket and linking social benefits to activation and employment participation. Through this, we ensure that social protection promotes both dignity and opportunity.

Gender equality remains a cornerstone of our policy agenda. The *Gender Policy Implementation Strategy 2025–2028* aims to secure equal rights and opportunities for women and men, and to strengthen social cohesion through inclusion and empowerment.

Excellences,

Sustainable development requires coherence — between economic ambition and social justice, between growth and inclusion. Only through integrated, people-centered policies and shared solidarity we can fulfill on the promises of Copenhagen and Doha, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Thank you for your attention.