Thank you Chair,

- Given the dramatic impact of the pandemic, the SDGs are more relevant today than ever to build a human-centred recovery.

- SDG 8 is particularly key. Through its targets on workers protection, decent work, social protection, inclusive growth, and environmental preservation, SDG 8 has a strong leverage effect on other goals.

- For example employment levels, wages and social protection coverage are key to fight poverty and hunger, that we also discuss today. SDG 8 also aims at decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, thus fighting climate change.

- That is why we call for an SDG 8 driven recovery and resilience:
  1) It means first of all INVESTMENTS IN CLIMATE-FRIENDLY JOBS, with Just Transition measures negotiated with social partners.
  2) Secondly, scaling up SOCIAL PROTECTION to reach universal coverage, also by establishing a Social Protection Fund for the least wealthy countries.
  3) Thirdly, EQUALITY, by promoting employment opportunities for women and youth, investments in care, equal pay for work of equal value, minimum living wages, and eliminating gender-based violence in the world of work.
  4) Four, FINANCING these policies requires strengthened development cooperation, debt relief, progressive taxation, as well as ending tax evasion and illicit financial flows.
  5) Lastly, we need a new model of global GOVERNANCE: only an inclusive multilateral system - with social partners on board- will pave the way to global resilience. Right now, the moral imperative of global governance is to ensure universal access to COVID-19 vaccines.
We call on UN Member States to lead the way in making the **NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT** a reality. The international Trade Union movement will keep engaging with you to live up to the challenge.

Thank you,