



*International Association of Economic and Social Councils and
Similar Institutions
(AICESIS)*

Address by drs. R.J. Henriquez, representing the

Presiding Council of AICESIS

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Mr. President, Director-General, Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

We convene at a critical juncture defined by profound economic upheavals, intricate geopolitical dynamics, and escalating climate emergencies. Each of these challenges amplifies existing inequalities and poses significant threats to global stability and peace. The necessity for resolute, coordinated international action has seldom been clearer or more urgent.

Recent analyses from the World Meteorological Organization, the WMO, warn, with high confidence, that global temperatures are likely to surpass unprecedented thresholds within the next five years, intensifying the consequences of climate change.

Concurrently, the International Monetary Fund, the IMF, anticipates considerable deceleration in global economic growth, revealing persistent vulnerabilities and heightening uncertainty across interconnected economies. These stark realities compel us towards immediate and collective action.

Central to our response must be an unwavering commitment to decent work, as articulated by the International Labour Organization. Decent work—grounded in dignity, equity, security, and respect for fundamental rights—is not only a moral imperative but also a foundational element necessary for resilient societies and sustainable economic prosperity.

Economic and Social Councils (ESCs), represented globally by the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS), are indispensable instruments in addressing these multifaceted challenges. Economic and Social Councils exemplify inclusive, participatory governance, fostering essential dialogue among governments, employers, workers, and civil society. Through consensus-based approaches, ESCs transform policy intentions into actionable strategies, uniquely positioning us to embed social justice within economic frameworks, address climate challenges effectively, manage digital transformations

responsibly, and comprehensively support vulnerable communities.

Renowned economist Mariana Mazzucato aptly observes, [and I quote] *"We need to move from market fixing to market shaping, and from market value to public value."* [end quote] ESCs embody precisely this transformative ethos, ensuring policies are inclusive, participatory, and aligned with long-term societal progress. Through the inclusive and participatory governance model—anchored in a commitment to public value—ESCs can play a tangible role in steering the just transition and in promoting decent work as a cornerstone of sustainable and equitable development.

In this context, we strongly urge all member states of the International Labour Organization to fully acknowledge, actively engage with, and substantially support the essential role of ESCs within national and international policy frameworks. By strengthening these councils, we significantly enhance our collective ability to navigate complex transitions, champion sustainable development, and ensure inclusive growth that guarantees equitable opportunities and benefits for all.

Echoing the urgent call of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, [I quote] "The climate emergency is a race we are losing, but it is a race we can win," [end quote] let us today reaffirm our collective commitment

to leveraging the exceptional capacities of ESCs to guide global economies towards equity, environmental stewardship, and shared prosperity.

Through reinforced dialogue and resolute collaboration, let us seize this defining moment to build a just, sustainable, and enduring legacy for future generations.

Thank you.