

**XXII World Congress on Safety and Health at Work
Special Virtual Sessions: COVID-19 & OSH**

**ILO session (October 5th 2020, 5:00 p.m. CEST)
Duration: 50 minutes**

Resilient and sustainable workplaces in light of the COVID-19 pandemic through good governance and social dialogue

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically affected the world of work everywhere. According to the latest [ILO estimates](#) during the first quarter of 2020, 5.4% of global working hours were lost relative to the same period in 2019 (the equivalent to 155 million full-time jobs). Figures could reach 14% in the second quarter of the year. To address this concerning scenario, the ILO has framed its action in four [policy pillars](#) covering employment and economic stimulus; support to enterprises, jobs and incomes; protection of workers in the workplace; and social dialogue, the later being recognized as more important than ever to address the current crisis.

Safety and health at work is also more than ever crucial for decent work, productivity and resilience, and experience has shown that governance options for building back better are stronger when involving the different segments of public administration in coordinated efforts, as well as involving to the full extent employers' and workers' Organizations on decision-making and practical implementation at workplace level.¹

The session will address the impacts of COVID-19 on workers and businesses. It will ask participants to express their knowledge and views of what has worked well and what needs to be improved for a better governance of the crisis and be prepared for other potential threats to health and economic growth. The roundtable discussion will bring together representatives from the ILO, government, employers, workers, and a research institution to engage on a dialogue focused around key questions (the following are examples to be discussed with panelists):

- a) What type of action is required from all to better address the still on-going pandemic, how can we build better into the future we want, and what have we learned from this experience that we should not repeat?
- b) How will this influence the future of prevention?
- c) Where should we focus as a priority for being able to forecast and prepare for health and safety emergencies that can affect us all globally or in a given a region? What are the major challenges and obstacles that we need to consider?
- d) What advice would you give to our audience on how to build and make the best use of synergies between tripartite actors in diverse national environments? What are the most difficult obstacles for this to happen?

Programme

5:00 – 5:10 p.m.

Opening

*Mr. Roberto Suárez Santos, Secretary-General, International Organization of Employers
Mr. Owen Tudor, Deputy General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation
Mr. Andrew Gavrielatos, SafeWork New South Wales, Australia*

¹ See: ILO, [A Safe and healthy return to work during the COVID-19 pandemic](#); see also: [Social dialogue on occupational safety and health in the Covid-19 context. Ensuring a safe return to work: practical examples.](#)

5:10 – 5:45 p.m.

From policy to action: addressing the pandemic and recovery through strong social dialogue and good governance (panel discussion)

Ms. *Salima Admi*, Director of Labour, Ministry of Labour and Professional Insertion, Morocco

Mr. *John Beckett*, Canadian Employers' Council

Ms. *Tara Peels*, Canadian Labour Congress, National Coordinator Health, Safety and Environment

Ms. *Elke Schneider*, Senior Project Manager, Prevention and Research Unit, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

Mr. *Youcef Ghellab*, Head, Social Dialogue Unit, ILO (tbc)

Q&A

5:45 – 5:50 p.m.

Closing

ILO

Chair: Joaquim Pintado Nunes, Chief, Labour Administration, Labour Inspection Branch, ILO