

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE CALLS FOR GOVERNMENTS FORSWEAR UNILATERAL PROTECTIONIST MEASURES AND MULTILATERAL AGENCIES IN ADDITION TO SHARING THEIR EXPERTISE, SUPPORT THE NATIONALLY DETERMINED MODELS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE 15TH ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING (APRM) AT KYOTO

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"While there is no one-size fits all approach to employment and social policy issues, the full benefits of the globalized economy will only be realized if governments forswear unilateral protectionist measures and multilateral agencies in addition to sharing their expertise, support the nationally determined models of development." This was emphasized by Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Union Minister for Labour & Employment during his address to the Plenary Session of 15th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM), at Kyoto, on the DG Report Building a sustainable future with decent work in Asia and the Pacific Japan today.

Shri Kharge shared the grief and suffering of those affected by the recent Tsunami in Japan and the floods in Thailand. He underlined the need for Asia and the Pacific Region for taking leadership role in the international fora. He appreciated the suggestions for Coordinated Policies to achieve inclusive and balanced growth.

The LEM emphasized the need for generation of Productive Employment and decent working conditions to achieve inclusive growth through skill development, promoting sustainable enterprises and skill portability. On Social protection floor, he reiterated that it should be nationally determined and as per stage of development, affordability and requirement of each country. He pointed out that Social Protection Floor or any labour standard should not be used as a non-tariff barrier. He also told that socially responsible behavior on part of Multinational Enterprises should go beyond the realm of legal obligation. He further told that ensuring the compliance of ILO labour standards is a sovereign function of governments.

Shri Kharge also underlined the need to address the challenges of climatic changes in accordance with the principles of equity and fairness. He stated that a country-driven approach will be effective in creation of green jobs and a just transition. He reminded that India has a deep respect for Rights at Work and social dialogue. He stressed that respect for Fundamental Rights goes much beyond ratification and India is committed to implementation of these principles at the ground level and it should not be linked with trade in any form.

Shri Kharge also stated that care should be taken to improve the working conditions and welfare of migrant worker by destination countries and migrant labour should be ensured safety and protection to their life by destination countries

LEM concluded that the dynamism of Asia and the Pacific Region is an asset in tackling the various challenges of the fragile global economy and once again cautioned that our endeavour will be incomplete if we do not promote the spirit of Decent Work For All.

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