

**Address to the 18th UIL Confederal CONGRESS 2022**

**by FEDUSA President Mr. Godfrey Selematsela**

**13-15 October 2022**

**General Secretary Mr. PierPaolo Bombardieri**

**General secretary and deputy generals**

**Presidents and CEOs**

**All protocols observed**

It is an honour to be part of such an important event. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

Ladies and gentlemen…In line with the theme of the congress, it breaks my heart that we still have a long way to go as a society. Our people are still facing inequalities, the richer are getting richer and the poorer are getting poorer.

It is disappointing that with all the resources, skills, capabilities, and most importantly basic human rights... We are still suffering for inequalities from all directions.

According to the United Nations, since the 1990s total global inequality which is the inequality across all individuals in the world, declined for the first time since the 1820s.

UN said to reinforcing this trend, we have mostly seen income inequality between countries decline.

Yet income inequality within countries has risen, this is the form of inequality people feel daily.

We recently celebrated World Day for decent work and this year’s theme was seeking wage justice.

Good people... Low earning employees are still struggling to get paid minimum wage. Companies and/or individuals are making money, but their employees continue to be stuck in a cycle of modern-day slavery.

Companies or individuals please pay your workers well, the cost of living is expensive. People cannot continue to survive from hand to mouth yet they are working.

They are leaving in poverty, where are the basic human rights?

According to Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 23… Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests…

Then we have the Article 25 which says Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

With all these basic rights, inequalities still pile up especially in under-developed and developing countries.

There are so many inequalities in the world, the gender inequality has seen men getting paid more than females but are doing the same job.

What makes men special? Why not pay female the same? I mean they do a good and a better job also?

In some parts of the world, women are still oppressed. Not so long ago, a young woman in Iran was brutally beaten by law enforcement until she lost her life.

All because she was not wearing a Hijab the way it is required. It is a sad situation that women in these modern times cannot make their own decisions about what to wear or how to wear clothing.

MEN ARE STILL CONTROLLING WOMEN ON WHAT TO WEAR AND THAT SHOULD STOP. Women deserve equal rights as men and those rights should not be violated.

Ladies and gentlemen…We need to speak out about these injustices, let women be free and do what they want to do.

In conclusion… inequalities are not only driven and measured by income, but are determined by other factors - gender, age, origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, class, and religion. These factors determine inequalities of opportunity which continue to persist, within and between countries. In some parts of the world, these divides are becoming more pronounced.

VIVA UIL… VIVA!

I thank you.