

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

المجلس الوطني الاقتصادي والاجتماعي والبيئي
National Economic Social and Environmental Council



Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of my country and myself for inviting me to participate in this symposium of the National Council for Economic Development and Labour of South Africa (NEDLAC) on advancing social dialogue, coinciding with the celebration of his 30 years. As such, please receive our sincere congratulations and best wishes for greater success in what you undertake.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we meet to exchange our experiences and discuss a key issue: social dialogue, a crucial issue and an important lever for the socio-economic development of each country and especially in Africa.

Indeed, it is a guarantee of success of public policies and a sure way of the promotion of effective democracy, built on dialogue and consultation with the different actors of society, In particular when it comes to aspects affecting the citizen's environment and living conditions. Social dialogue is an effective governance tool for social progress, promoting participation and giving priority to consultation and the search for consensus, as wide as possible of the parties. This tool is made available to the economic and social partners for consultation, prevention and settlement of collective labour disputes, among other things.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Algeria, has made dialogue and social consultation with the economic and social partners a fundamental way and principle of conduct of socio-economic policies in the country but also to prevent and settle collective labour disputes, social rights and their promotion.

To this end, it should be recalled that my country has always sought to work towards the establishment of a culture of social dialogue by providing institutions whose main role is to promote it. This has been reflected in the expansion of social dialogue spaces beyond the traditional partners to the social dialogue, through the recent creation and consolidation of some of these institutions. In this sense, it is worth mentioning in particular:

- **The creation and establishment of the National Observatory of Civil Society:** Following the 2020 constitutional revision, this advisory body aims to promote national values, democratic & citizenship practices and to collaborate with other institutions to achieve national development goals.
- **The creation and establishment of the Higher Council for Youth:** This body is tasked with fostering the spirit of citizenship, volunteerism and youth engagement in society, aiming to encourage youth participation in public and political life.
- **Missions' consolidation of the National Economic, Social and Environmental Council,** related to organizing and facilitating social dialogue and national consultation on development policies, with the establishment of these bodies. This point will be discussed in more details later.

Additionally, social dialogue with civil society actors and various partners is deeply embedded in the practices of public institutions, through spaces that allow for expression and consultation, such as:

- **The National Human Rights Council**, of which half of its permanent members are representatives of associations and trade unions and professional organizations.
- **The Body for the Protection and Promotion of Childhood**, which regularly includes civil society representatives who are active in children's rights alongside representatives of government sectors.
- **The High Authority for Transparency, Prevention and Fight against Corruption**, which includes civil society personalities and independents.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Social dialogue has also been promoted in local governance, which is closer to the citizens. ; since In this capacity, the Communal People's Assemblies, with a number of 1541 which are the territorial communities of the State, may consult any local figure and/or representative of a local association who is able to make any useful contribution to the work of the assembly or its committees.

Additionally, the creation of cultural, sports, leisure and youth infrastructures, as well as the protection and preservation of historical heritage at the wilaya level, is carried out in coordination with associations active in these fields, in accordance with the law on wilayas.

It is also worth noting that the sessions of the communal popular assembly are public and open to citizens of the community and wilaya and to any citizen concerned with the deliberation subject. This right to attend sessions allows citizens to be informed and actively participate in decision-making that affects their daily lives, thereby strengthening local development and building mutual trust. This active citizen participation is a strong sign of institutional social dialogue at the local level and reflects democratic engagement and respect for citizens' rights.

Dear Participants,

Regarding the world of work, Algeria has consistently prioritized social dialogue practices. This is evidenced by the ratification of several texts related to social dialogue and trade union freedoms, including 60 ILO conventions. Algeria has ratified all fundamental conventions (8/8) and 3 out of 4 governance (priority) conventions.

Algeria's international commitments are reflected in a national legal framework that facilitates social dialogue through the enactment of several laws and texts, notably:

- Law N° 90-11 of April 21th, 1990, on labour relations.
- Law N° 23-02 of April 25th, 2023, on the exercise of trade union rights.
- Law N° 23-08 on the prevention, settlement of collective labour disputes and the exercise of the right to strike.

These texts have established mechanisms to operationalize social dialogue through:

- **Collective negotiations**, a preferred method allowing social partners and representative unions to negotiate and formalize results through **collective conventions or agreements**. These written **conventions/agreements** aim to complement labour legislation with provisions on occupational safety and health specific to a given scope.
- **Bipartite or tripartite meetings**, where the most representative national trade unions participate in consultations and discussions organized by the government. Several bipartite (government and trade union representatives) and tripartite (government, trade union representatives and employers) meetings have taken place, addressing various issues, particularly strategic questions related to the country's development, emphasizing economic and social regulation and strengthening social peace through a consensual framework based on mutual commitments and a participatory approach.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now, I will discuss the role of the Council I preside over in advancing social dialogue in Algeria and the efforts undertaken in this regard.

First, it is important to note that the supreme text of the Algerian Nation, the Constitution, presents the NESEC as a framework for dialogue, consultation, proposals, foresight and analysis in the economic, social and environmental fields.

The Council is entrusted with providing a **platform for participation and consultation with civil society** on economic, social and environmental development policies within the framework of sustainable development, **ensuring continuous dialogue and consultation among national economic and social partners** (Article 210 of the Constitution).

These missions are facilitated by the diverse representation within the Council, comprising a total of 200 members representing various involved parties:

- **The economic, social and environmental sectors** with seventy-five (75) members (including employers and trade unions);
- **Civil society** with sixty (60) members;
- *Intuitu personae* with twenty (20) members;
- **State administrations and institutions** represented by forty-five (45) members.

Following the 2020 constitutional revision, the NESEC has experienced a new dynamic with the establishment of its bodies, notably the General Assembly and the seven permanent commissions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I remain convinced that the Council, as a tool for supporting public decision-making and promoting economic, collective and individual freedoms, as well as informing public opinion to encourage greater adherence for public policies, is more than ever the ideal forum to promote social dialogue as an instrument of

good governance and to organize exchanges and consultations among various involved parties. This is also reflected in the Council's other missions, which are carried out in a way to boost dialogue and participation.

To this end, it is worth noting that the Council has undertaken several initiatives to ensure a listening space for various societal forces, including:

- **Organizing the national civil society conference**, which saw the participation of over 1 000 representatives from, among others, associations, trade unions, employers' organizations, socio-professional groups and the Algerian community abroad. This conference culminated in a common final declaration and the signing of a national charter.
- **Holding a series of consultation meetings across the national territory on the theme of local development**, inviting local actors to express their views on ways to improve their living conditions.
- **Participating in tripartite meetings**, notably during the signing of the "National Economic and Social Growth Pact" between the Government and economic and social partners.

The Council's experience is also used at the highest level of the state, since it is regularly requested by the country's high authorities to issue opinions on public policies, Opinions enhanced by the diversity and plurality of actors present within it. It should be noted that the Council is characterized by the search and construction of consensus and the approximation of opinions on

major issues that agitate the economic, social and environmental landscape of the country, as well as on issues related to its external environment.

The various opinions issued by the Council, covering different areas such as education, public service, social security, energy transition, climate, economic governance, local development, sustainable agriculture,... have the characteristic of being carried by the various social partners mentioned above, who with their cross-sectional views enrich the subject and allow different positions and reflections to be observed and different opinions expressed. Beyond consensus, the Council remains a place of expression for all the living forces of the nation.

The Council's work thus fully aligns with an approach that makes dialogue a preferred means for building inclusive and sustainable development, with the participation of all involved parties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would say that since its inception, the Council has continuously promoted the culture of dialogue by bringing the involved parties closer together, gathering institutional bodies and various societal actors, thereby establishing a climate of trust and transparency. Additionally, its work has helped anticipate social and economic tensions by recommending effective solutions to certain issues, thus enhancing social stability.

Finally, I would like to remind you that the Council is often invited to participate in international events, such as the one we are attending today, to share its experience and Algeria's experience in various fields, particularly social dialogue.

Thank you.