

► **Ms. Amber Barth**

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8 April 2020

Excellency,

In addition to the threat to public health, the world of work is being profoundly impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Economic and social disruptions are threatening the long-term livelihoods and wellbeing of millions, with significant reductions in working hours and earnings.

To provide you with the latest data and policy guidance from the ILO, I am pleased to share with you a new report, "[ILO Monitor 2nd edition: COVID-19 and the world of work](#)". The report offers a number of new labour market projections and policy responses aimed at mitigating the immediate impacts of the crisis as well as measure to help facilitate a strong recovery.

Key findings include:

- More than 4 out of 5 people (81 per cent) in the global workforce of 3.3 billion are affected by full or partial workplace closures;
- 6.7 per cent of working hours will be eliminated globally in the second quarter of 2020 - equivalent to 195 million full-time workers;
- Huge losses expected across income groups, but especially in upper-middle income countries (7.0 per cent decline in working hours, equivalent to 85 million full-time workers), far exceeding the effects of the 2008-9 financial crisis;
- 1.25 billion workers employed in high risk sectors, with the proportion of "at risk" sectors varying by region - from 26 per cent in Africa to 43 per cent in the Americas;
- End-of-year unemployment figures may be significantly higher than the initial ILO projections of 25 million;

The ILO is calling for large-scale integrated, policy measures focusing on four pillars: supporting enterprises, employment and incomes, stimulating the economy and jobs, protecting workers in the workplace and using social dialogue to find solutions.

With the right policy measures we can limit the economic and social impact of this pandemic and ensure a more resilient future. The ILO stands ready to support your efforts.

For further information and updates, please visit [www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus)

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amber Barth', with a stylized, cursive script.

Amber Barth  
Officer-in-Charge