

## **Session 5**

### **Policy coherence among international organizations**

Concluding Remarks by Mr. Sha  
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#### Final session

We had a constructive debate to explore ways and means to further strengthen policy coherence among international organizations. Among the key points resulting from our engagement, I would like to highlight the following points, which are not a full summary of our session, but convey, I believe, the mood and spirit of the session:

- 1) Policy coherence on its own is rather meaningless. One should ask policy coherence for what? What are the objectives one wants to achieve by having better coherent policies?
- 2) There is a political consensus on productive employment and decent work and we need a coherent policy framework to implement it.
- 3) Most felt that such a framework and that the tools to implement this were available, but some wanted to see this further developed into a new policy paradigm for employment and decent work.
- 4) Most speakers indicated the need for a new development paradigm to guide policy coherence, or at least the need to acknowledge that there are different policy paradigms implying different policy solutions.
- 5) Some called for new thinking in development, beyond GDP growth target to focus more on employment and production.
- 6) Policy coherence starts at home. This implies that meaning full coherence at national and international level requires a true social dialogue and transparency.
- 7) The capacity of those who participate in such dialogues needs to be improved. The poor and excluded should also be included as actors of development and in striving for a decent life.
- 8) To achieve better policy coherence, it is important to reach agreements on global governance.
- 9) The initiatives taken by the ILO on policy coherence were well appreciated, although the final objective of productive employment and decent work for all was far from achieved.

- 10) Various speakers gave examples where policy coherence for productive employment and decent work is absent or where one can observe contradictory policies of different agencies.
- 11) In order to proceed on Policy Coherence on employment and decent work it is important to single out a few areas of central concern: such as the destabilizing effects of global imbalance on the economies of many countries, the creation of sustainable enterprises, and capacity of developing countries to participate meaningfully in international trade negotiations.
- 12) Policy coherence at international level does not mean a one-size-fits-all policy approach. It is a platform where the effects of one agency's policies on those of others are discussed, analyzed and solutions to apparent inconsistencies are found.

These points, and several others ,which I can not mention because of time constraint, underscore :

- that we have a political consensus on productive employment and decent work ;
- that what we need is a coherent policy framework for implementation,
- and that we have tools to achieve policy coherence for employment and decent work - the Toolkit being one example.

(That I am in favour of policy coherence is clear . As USG of DESA I am favouring policies from ILO forum )