



International
Labour
Organization

PARTNERSHIPS FOR DECENT WORK

Newsletter

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Key Resources

ILC Documents :

From 100th ILC :

[Report IA: Report of the Director-General – A new Era of social justice](#)
[Report I\(B\) - Equality at work: The continuing challenge - Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work](#)
[PR No. 15A - Text of the Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers](#)
[PR No. 15B - Text of the Recommendation Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers](#)
[For 101th ILC](#)
[PR No.19 - Report of the Committee on Labour Administration](#)
[PR No. 24 - Report of the Committee for the Recurrent Discussion on Social Protection](#)

For the 101st ILC :

[Report IV\(1\): Social protection floors for social justice and a fair globalization](#)

ILO Reports

[Global Employment Trends 2012: Preventing a deeper jobs crisis](#)
[World of Work Report 2011: Making Markets Work for Jobs](#)
[Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization](#)
[Global Wage Report 2010/11: Wage policies in times of crisis](#)

G20 Documents

[Short term employment and labour market outlook and key challenges in G20 Countries \(ILO-OECD report to the G20 Labour and employment Ministers Cannes Summit final declaration\)](#)

UN Related events

[Ecosoc 2012 – Annual ministerial review . Employment and decent work](#)
[Ecosoc 2011 – Ministerial declaration](#)
[Global South South Expo](#)
[LDC IV Summit - Istanbul](#)

Relations with development partners

[4th High Level Forum on Aid effectiveness](#)
[Pardev webpage](#)

2011: The Year in Review



During 2011 rising youth unemployment, growing inequalities both within and between countries, and the widespread feeling especially among young people that they have no voice and no say in matters affecting their lives, triggered a global wave of protest and unrest, such as the Arab Spring, the Indignados movement and the Occupy camps. In the wake of ever-increasing demands for more decent work and greater social justice, the ILO continued to advocate rights and jobs, protection and dialogue as the appropriate policy mix to meet peoples' aspirations globally and locally.

The 100th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) adopted the new [Domestic Workers Convention](#) along with a resolution and a set of [Conclusions](#) to strengthen labour administration and labour inspection, as well as a set of [Conclusions on social protection](#). The ILO continued to implement its agenda through effective and innovative technical cooperation projects with the support of a growing number of development partners, supplemented by other modalities of international cooperation: South-South Cooperation (SSTC), Triangular Cooperation, and, Public-Private Partnership (PPP). On the global scene, ILO's agenda of full and productive employment and of social protection for all were recognized in international fora, including the G-20 Summit and the Substantive Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in July 2011.

Monitoring the Economic and Job Crisis

During 2011 the ILO continued monitoring the impact of the economic crisis on employment and poverty reduction, while assessing possible future scenarios and remedies. According to the [Global Employment Trends report 2012](#), unemployment has increased by 27 million worldwide, reaching 200 million in 2012. In addition, more than 400 million jobs are needed to cater for growing labour supply. Moreover, 900 million workers are earning less than US\$ 2 a day, and 456 million earn less than US\$ 1.25. The latter figure represents a reduction of 233 million since 2000, essentially due to the successful fight against poverty in the East Asia region. Young people, however, have been particularly hard hit: in 2011 some, 74.8 million aged 15 to 24 are unemployed, an increase of 4 million since 2007. Today, the likelihood of a difficult third stage of the crisis has dramatically increased. As reported in the [World of Work report](#) (August 2011, published before the G20 summit), *the world economy is likely to create only half of those much needed jobs*. Inequalities leading to social discontent may exacerbate the situation.

Decent work deficits and technical cooperation in North Africa and the Middle East

Social justice and decent work are central to the demands of the current wave of popular movements in the Arab world. Poverty, unemployment, especially among young people, are structural issues that require medium to long-term responses. There are major disparities in degrees of poverty between and within countries. Youth unemployment is the highest in the world (15.0 and 17.0% in North Africa and the Middle East respectively, compared to a world average of 6.5%).

The absence of employment opportunities in the formal sector and underemployment often push individuals into the informal economy. More than four out of ten people have a vulnerable job, working either as own account workers or as unpaid contributing family workers. 72% and 60% of young working men and women respectively in several countries are not covered by an employment contract. Public employment services are chronically understaffed and lack the expertise to provide good services. A conducive environment for the growth of micro, small and medium-size enterprises is still to be developed. Because of unregulated migration, many migrants end up in poor quality jobs, no social protection and no respect for their rights. Productivity increases have been minimal in recent years. Quality of education is uneven across and within countries. Coherent national social security policies encompassing social insurance and non-contributory transfers and services are often not in place, calling for the establishment of effective social protection floors. Events in North Africa and the Middle East have revealed weaknesses in social dialogue institutions and processes, instances of poor governance which have led to regime change, and in some countries failure to enforce the rule of law. In this context, the ILO response and [strategy](#) is focused on promoting employment opportunities through the increased use of local resources, labour-intensive investment, and environmental protection-related jobs. The promotion of a conducive enterprise environment is essential. Another challenge is to strengthen the democratic transformation process in the subregion and to strengthen the rule of law. ILO programmes to promote youth employment are expanding in many of these countries to improve the school to work transition and develop active labour market policies and entrepreneurship promotion. The response is guided by the 2008 [ILO Declaration on Social Justice for Fair Globalization](#), and also includes crosscutting considerations, in particular the promotion of gender equality.

The ILO is seeking additional funding for technical cooperation projects addressing the above weaknesses in a number of countries in North Africa and the Middle East. PARDEV hosted a MENA donor meeting in July 2011 and will organize a second opportunity for exchange in April 2012.

100th International Labour Conference – A new era for social justice

In his report ILO DG Juan Somavia called for a [new era for social justice](#). *“An era where people’s needs, care for our planet Earth and fairness guide policy making; an era where the benefits of globalization are shared equitably; an era that can spark hope in our youth, creativity in our societies and the credibility of our public and private policies and institutions; an era where the dignity of work is promoted and respected; an era where voice, participation and democracy flourish”.*

The ILC adopted the new [Domestic Workers Convention](#) (No. 189), setting out basic principles and measures for the promotion of decent work for domestic workers and a related [Recommendation](#) (No. 201), providing technical and practical guidance to apply the Convention. A [resolution](#) was adopted to promote widespread ratification and implementation of the Convention – aimed at extending labour and social protection globally to millions of domestic workers (83% of them women and migrants) who have historically been excluded from such protection. “This Convention will help us formulate effective national legislation and regulations for this purpose”, Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia, emphasized in his address to the Conference. Mr. Somavia stated: “We are moving the standards system of the ILO into the informal economy for the first time, and this is a breakthrough of great significance ... History is being made.”

Social protection floor : a continuous challenge

The question of a social protection floor was addressed at the ILC and will be the subject of a resolution at the 2012 ILC. The ILC adopted a set of [Conclusions on social protection](#) aimed at extending social protection. The Report on a [Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization](#) prepared by an Advisory Group led by Ms Michelle Bachelet, showed that nationally designed social protection floors are affordable, even in low income countries. Social protection programmes can act as stabilizers attenuating the adverse impact of economic crises on labour markets by helping maintain social cohesion and stimulating aggregate demand. The report served as an input to the G20 process in the areas of employment, labour and development and was [welcomed by several world leaders](#) including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, as well as other prominent leaders in the world of work. The ILO also drew attention to the growing importance of social protection as a strategy to fight child labour, particularly in times of economic and food crisis.

Development Partnerships 2011

Technical cooperation remains a critical means of action for the ILO. The Organization continues to enjoy the support of many donor countries. The ILO signed a significant number of cooperation agreements in 2011, despite financial constraints in donor countries. Approvals amounting to US\$ 202,332,496 were registered in 2011, not including the amount of US\$ 54 million from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway in support of the Regular Budget Supplementary Account. [Recent donor partnership agreements include](#) –

- ▶ **Norway** signed an innovative cooperation agreement with the ILO providing a total of NOK 160 million (approximately US\$ 27.3 million) over the period 2012-15. Half of the funding will be unearmarked through the Regular Budget Supplementary Account (RBSA) and will target some of the most decisive interventions included in Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCP). Other areas include social dialogue and the strengthening of social partners, labour administration, fundamental principles and rights at work, gender equality and international policy coherence.
- ▶ The **United States Department of Labor** (USDOL) and the ILO signed a cooperation agreement, granting US\$ 17.5 million to support ILO’s activities to combat child and forced labour around the world.
- ▶ **Irish-Aid** committed to partner with the ILO for a total amount of 6 Millions Euros to support technical cooperation in the field of sustainable enterprises, skills development, the eliminations of forced and child labour.



► The **Swedish International Development Agency** (Sida) represented by Ms Charlotte Petri Gornitzka (see photo) signed an agreement confirming the second phase of its partnership with the ILO following a successful mid-term review. It will address employment policy, working conditions and international labour standards. A special provision is made in support of the recently adopted Domestic Workers Convention. Over the coming two years, SIDA will provide additional funding (US\$ 1.9 million) in support of youth employment.

► **Kuwait** continued its cooperation in Arab States, with a focus on the occupied Palestinian territories, providing US\$ 500,000 for this purpose.

In addition, several **public private partnerships** were signed. The **MasterCard Foundation** and the ILO formed a new partnership to create “Work4Youth”. This five-year partnership aims to promote decent work for young women and men, spending US\$ 14.6 million through ILO’s Youth Employment Programme. Eight companies in the chocolate and cocoa industry – ADM, Barry Callebaut, Cargill, Ferrero, The Hershey Company, Kraft Foods, Mars Incorporated, and Nestlé – pledged US\$ 2 million to a new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to combat child labour in cocoa growing communities in Ghana and Ivory Coast. JT International pledged US\$ 3 Millions to contribute to the eradication of the worst forms of child labour in tobacco growing communities in Brasil and Malawi.

The ILO strengthened its capacity to manage for development results, including through enhanced quality control. Profiles of donor agreements are available for [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [Denmark](#), [Ireland](#), [Italy](#), [Spain](#) and [Sweden](#). An overview of ILO’s Regular Budget Supplementary Account is online. At the [Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness](#) (Busan, December 2011) the ILO focus on youth employment was specially highlighted. In preparation of this event. The Governing Body Committee on Technical Cooperation discussed this approach, stressing the importance of country ownership in development processes, including by ILO constituents, as well as the need to focus on capacity development, SSTC, and on least developed and conflict affected states. The ILO promoted this work through its participation in the UNDG delegation at the High-Level Forum.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC): a new avenue for International Cooperation



SSTC is one of the emerging modalities of international cooperation, complementing traditional North-South cooperation. ILO continued to promote SSTC through practices as part of ILO’s international development agenda.

The ILO hosted a tripartite panel discussion: ‘[South-South and Triangular Cooperation \(SSTC\): A New Path for Social Development](#)’, at the ILC in June. Best practices in South-South Cooperation (SSC) in India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA), China’s view of SSC, and the role of tourism as a means of poverty reduction in LDCs were highlighted.

At the 2011 Global South-South Development Expo in Rome, ILO hosted a ‘Solution Exchange Forum’, showcasing integrated and innovative solutions and mechanisms to improve food security through decent work and social protection, especially in MERCOSUR countries. The event launched the joint “FAO-ILO Good Practice Guide for Addressing Child Labour in Fisheries and Aquaculture: Policy and Practice”.

ILO signed a number of memoranda of understanding (MoU) in 2011 to promote its agenda through SSTC initiatives. The ILO, the United States and Brazil signed an MoU which set out a series of guidelines to promote SSTC in the ILO’s Decent Work Agenda, especially skills development; fundamental principles and rights at work; equality of opportunity and treatment at work; occupational safety and health; and social protection. In this context China announced a future donation in support of technical cooperation in the field of employment. Other negotiations are under way. ILO constituents have recognized its importance in adopting the regular budget.

Decent work agenda in the UN system

The Decent Work Agenda continues to enjoy full support within the UN system, both at the global level, in the framework of interagency cooperation, and at the local level (UNDAF). The following examples illustrate the scope and content of ILO involvement.

In July 2011, ECOSOC reiterated its commitment to the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the ILC, which is a tripartite document urging a conducive environment for the promotion of policies and programmes aimed at employment creation.

In May the [Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries](#) (LDC-IV) in Istanbul adapted a Programme of Action inviting Member States to prioritize productive sectors, build LDC productive capacities, and invest in human and social capital. Development strategies should strive to enhance the participation and empowerment of the poor to ensure social justice and sustained, inclusive economic growth. Prior to the Conference, the ILO presented a thematic report on “[Growth, Productive Employment and Decent Work in the Least Developed Countries](#)”. During this event the ILO and the UNDP’s Special Unit for South South Cooperation exchanged letters on future cooperation on Social Protection.

The ILO is currently involved in preparations for the Rio+20 Conference, emphasizing green jobs creation, the development of a “just transition” framework, the inclusion of social partners in implementation and governance mechanisms, and the reinforcement of a “socially just” and “environmentally sound” development framework. Decent work conditions and protection are viewed as key priorities. The draft outcome document for Rio+20 covers decent work, social protection and youth employment. The promotion of the eight fundamental rights at work is a first step. ILO provided a detailed contribution in November 2011.

At the interagency level, the ILO is taking the lead in an ad hoc working group of the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) dealing with fairer, greener and more sustainable globalization. The group has reflected on the positive contribution of States, and of regional and global organizations. It placed emphasis on policy coherence across sectors (social, economic and environmental) and between institutions, to overcome the deficit of effective regulation derived from overlaying norms and organizations. Elements of this reflexion will also inform discussions on international development goals post-2015, which are chaired by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

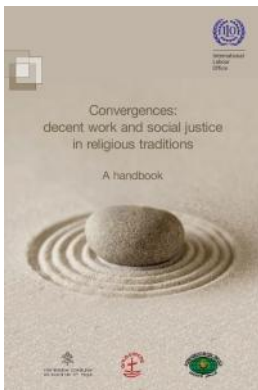
At the local level, PARDEV, on behalf of the ILO and in partnership with UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO, OHCHR and DOCO, led a [survey](#) of the 13 UNDAFs signed in the 2010. Each UNDAF was prepared by the government together with the United Nations Country Team to ensure alignment with national priorities while paying attention to internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the five key programming principles, integration of the CEB Joint Crisis Initiatives (2009) and South South Cooperation. References to the Decent Work Agenda, employment, the Global Jobs Pact and a social protection floor were extensive.

G-20 supports growth, jobs and social protection



The ILO welcomed the strong emphasis placed by the [G-20 summit 2011](#) in Cannes on growth, jobs and social protection and connecting these policies with the macroeconomic agenda. G-20 Leaders recognized the importance of investing in nationally-designed social protection floors, stressed their commitment to promote and ensure full respect of the fundamental principles and rights at work, supported the role of social dialogue in developing and implementing policies that promote job creation, decent work and social safety nets, and established a Task Force to concentrate initially on youth employment. They encouraged ILO's continuing efforts to promote ratification and implementation of the eight fundamental ILO Conventions. ILO Director-General Juan Somavia commented that, if pursued and implemented with determination, G20 leaders can help restore people's confidence, which is a prerequisite of market recovery.

Convergences : Social justice and decent work in religious traditions – A handbook



Following a meeting between ILO Director General Juan Somavia and the World Council of Churches General Secretary Olav Fykse Tveit, PARDEV published a [Handbook](#) assessing the level of convergence between ILO values and agenda and religious traditions. The project was also supported by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO). Representatives of different faiths –Christian (Protestant, Orthodox and Catholic), Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist – met in seminars in Geneva, Santiago (Chile), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and Dakar (Senegal). Their discussions made it clear that in their traditions, work is an essential component of human dignity, and that it should provide security and serve as a basis for solidarity. They agreed on the importance of commitment to social justice. The Handbook also highlights how the four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda are perceived in their traditions. Following the meetings, three inter-religious platforms were also launched in Santiago, Addis and Dakar, to support and promote the Decent Work Agenda in their respective countries, in association with the ILO Office and ILO constituents:

Looking forward to 2012

2012 is an important year for the global agenda. The [Rio Plus 20 Summit](#) on sustainable development will take place in June. Its objective is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess progress to date, identify the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges:

In June the 101st ILC has six items on its agenda. In addition to standing items (report of the Director General, the Programme and budget, the information and reports on the application of Conventions and Recommendations), it will discuss the youth employment crisis and the possibility of an autonomous recommendation on the social protection floor. Following the Declaration on Social Justice for Fair Globalization, it will also discuss the strategic objective of fundamental principles and rights at work. In 2009 it discussed employment; and in 2011 social protection).

During 2011, PARDEV welcomed a new management team. ILO Director General appointed Mr Jürgen Schwettmann, formerly Deputy Regional Director for Africa, as Director of PARDEV as of 1 October 2011; Mr Juan Hunt Ortiz, formerly Director of the ILO Office in Madrid, Chief of CODEV, as of 1 January 2011; and Ms Ana Teresa Romero, former Director of the ILO Office in Port-of-Spain for the Caribbean, Chief of EXREL

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