



Contribution of the ILO Intergovernmental Bodies to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The global intergovernmental bodies¹ in the world of work are the International Labour Conference (ILC) and ILO Governing Body (ILOGB). The ILC, also known as the international parliament of labour, is the annual assembly of ILO Member States, represented by governments and employers' and workers' organizations. It gathers every June in Geneva around 5000 delegates, including heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of governments, employers and workers from 187 countries. International organizations and civil society attend as observers. The annual assembly is responsible for reviewing major themes related to the world of work, crafting and adopting international labour standards and supervising their application. It examines the reports which the governments are required to submit, detailing their compliance with obligations arising out of ratified Conventions, and their law and practice in respect of Conventions and Recommendations.

The ILO GB is the executive body of the International Labour Organization. It meets three times a year, in March, June and November. It develops ILO policies and reviews their implementation, decides the ILC agenda, adopts the draft ILO Programme and Budget and elects the Director-General. It is composed of 56 titular members (28 Governments, 14 Employers and 14 Workers) and 66 deputy members (28 Governments, 19 Employers and 19 Workers) elected every three years by the ILC.

The ILC and ILO GB review on regular basis various themes related to a number of targets associated with the ILO mandate. Decent Work is a core pillar of SDG 8 on "*Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*" and is mainstreamed across the entire agenda. A wide range of targets are directly or indirectly linked to the world of work (See Annex 1) and have been subject to periodic in-depth thematic reviews.

The reviews are carried out in an integrated and multidimensional way convening critical actors, experts and multiple stakeholders including representatives of governments, business and trade unions as well as international organizations, academia and civil society. The thematic reviews are based on the latest statistical information available compiled by the ILO and *state of art* global reports, and will include in-depth analysis of at least 30 SDGs indicators agreed by the United Nations Statistic Commission for submission to ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

The ILOGB has followed closely the negotiations and adoption of the 2030 Agenda and expressed willingness to actively engage in the UN follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda supporting the work of the HLPF. The unique tripartite composition of the ILC and ILOGB and its interstate and multi-stakeholder nature are core strengths in the monitoring and follow up framework.

¹ In fact, since the ILO has tripartite composition, including representatives of governments, employers and workers, it is considered as an interstate organization.

1. Assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level:

Ensuring that sustainable development leaves no one behind calls for a comprehensive assessment across the multiple dimensions of poverty. A new report by the ILO, the ‘2016 World Employment and Social Outlook – Transforming Jobs to End Poverty’ examines the crucial importance of opportunities for decent work to the objective of leaving no one behind.²

The report shows that earnings from work are the main route out of extreme and moderate income poverty and therefore to the achievement of SDG 1.1 on poverty eradication. In developing and emerging countries, 36 per cent of the working age population are living on less than \$3.10 and 16.7 percent on less than \$1.90.

However, more and better jobs, albeit critical, will not be enough to end poverty. Nearly half of all children under 15 and elderly over 65 in developing and emerging economies survive on less than \$3.10 a day and more than one in five on less than \$1.90 a day. Improved social protection is essential to support those unable to work and to support families where working women and men are not able to earn enough to escape poverty. Financing social protection requires, of course, the transfer of income, via the state, from the productive sectors of the economy to those unable to work. Therefore, a productive economy with a high level of employment participation is an essential foundation for an effective social protection system. SDG 1.3 calls for appropriate national social protection systems, including floors, and the achievement of substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable by 2030.

Goal 8 of the SDGs aims at ensuring that growth is sustained, sustainable and inclusive envisaging a central role for full and productive employment and decent work. Economic growth, even if fast-paced does not necessarily ensure that no one is left behind. An important part of making growth more inclusive is building mechanisms for the governance of the world of work that respect fundamental principles and rights at work.

The rights-based foundation of the 2030 Agenda is vital to ensure that those at risk of being left behind have a voice in how sustainable development policies and practices are shaped and that they can freely exercise their rights, (free from violation) to claim their fair share of the wealth they have helped to produce.

The scale of the challenges facing the global community and the responsibilities of the ILO in contributing to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda are addressed in the ILO Director-General’s report to the 2016 International Labour Conference, ‘*The End to Poverty Initiative: The ILO and the 2030 Agenda*’³. The report will be discussed in the ILC plenary and the summary of the intergovernmental and tripartite deliberations will also serve as an input to the HLPF.

² See ILO (2016) “*Transforming Jobs to End Poverty - World Employment and Social Outlook 2016*” at <http://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/weso/2016-transforming-jobs/lang-en/index.htm>.

³ See ILO (2016). “*The End to Poverty Initiative: The ILO and the 2030 Agenda*”. Report of the Director-General Report I(B) At http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_479681.pdf.

2. Priorities, gaps, risks and challenges

The main driver of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth is the transformation of low productivity and poorly rewarded work into higher productivity decent jobs. Against this backdrop, the slow pace with which decent work opportunities are currently created in most parts of the world represents a major gap, particularly in countries where rural poverty incidences are high and informal economies are large. The latest figures show that around 600 million jobs will need to be created until 2030 just to keep up with the growth of the labour force.

The creation of a macroeconomic environment conducive to job creation and to formalization (target 8.3) should be a matter of the utmost importance. The informal economy absorbs more than half of the global workforce and includes more than 90 per cent of small and medium sized enterprises. As a result, millions of workers and economic units around the world suffer from poor working conditions and a lack of rights at work. Low quality employment, inadequate social protection, poor governance and low productivity are some of the obstacles that workers and enterprises face when caught in the informality trap. The 2015 International Labour Conference undertook a major review of the informal economy and adopted a new international labour standard to facilitate transition from informality to the formal economy that could be used as a blueprint for the implementation of target 8.3.

Many countries have a high population growth rate and thus a large number of young job seekers. Youth are 2-3 times more likely to be unemployed. Youth un- and underemployment as well as the large numbers of young women and men working in the informal economy for very low earning are major social, economic and political concerns.⁴ The development and implementation of a global strategy on youth employment is a core priority (target 8.b). Particular attention should be given the reduction of young people not in employment, education and training (target 8.6) and investment in skills for decent jobs (target 4.4). A comprehensive review of the youth employment crisis was done in the 2012 International Labour Conference that adopted the ILO Call for Action on the Youth Employment Crisis which can serve as a tool for country action. The UN Decent Jobs for Youth Initiative endorsed by the CEB and launched at the ECOSOC is a major step towards enhancing collaborative approaches and partnerships to tackle the youth employment challenge.

Women continue to face major barriers to equality in the world of work. In many countries, employment participation and earnings are much lower for women than for men.⁵ Weak growth in both the quality and quantity of jobs also interferes with efforts to ensure labour market access for a wide range of vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities and migrant workers. It also narrows the fiscal base that is essential to sustainably finance social protection systems.⁶ The coverage of social protection systems is still limited to around 27 per

⁴ See ILO (2015). "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015" at http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_412015.pdf

⁵ See ILO (2016) "Women at Work Trends 2016", at http://www.ilo.org/gender/Informationresources/Publications/WCMS_457317/lang--en/index.htm

⁶ See ILO (2015) "World Social Protection Report 2014-1" at <http://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/world-social-security-report/2014/lang--en/index.htm>



cent of the global population. Extension of social protection floors in line with the ILO Recommendation 202 also adopted by the ILC in 2012 should also be considered as a top priority. By generating increased resources for investment, such growth creates the resources needed to finance development sustainably and realize the SDGs.

Eradication of child labour and forced labour should also be considered as a core priority (target 8.7), along with the protection of workers' rights and the promotion of healthy and safe work environments (target 8.8.). The monitoring of the implementation of core labour standards in these areas by the ILO supervisory system, within the ILC, constitutes a major cornerstone of the follow and review mechanism of SDGs targets related to the world of work.

3. Lessons learned on ensuring that no one is left behind:

Recognizing the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and the importance of a thoroughly integrated approach to sustainable development, the ILO's constituents well appreciate the importance of working with the whole of government as well as other partners, notably UN Country Teams. They expect the ILO to play a full role in providing an integrated UN support to countries.

Respect for fundamental principles and rights at work is an essential underpinning for an integrated approach to leaving no one behind. Groups at risk need to be able to assert these rights in order to combat discrimination in all its forms and to form associations of their own choosing to express their interests and engage in dialogue and negotiation on policies and programmes for inclusive and sustainable development.

Social dialogue between governments, employers' and workers' organizations is an extremely valuable mechanism to identify the barriers to sustainable development and the policies and programmes needed to overcome them. Social dialogue and partnership, therefore, should be promoted in workplaces, local communities as well as at regional and national levels.

Adequate labour market information is lacking in many countries, especially in least developed countries. For the SDGs' indicator system to be successful in tracking progress and identifying challenges, urgent investments must be made in labour market information and analysis capacities.

4. Emerging issues

Continued slow growth in most regions of the world in 2016 means that the SDGs take off in a worrying global context. However, the 2030 Agenda, and Goal 8 in particular, provides a framework for rethinking global and national policies to break out of the slow growth trap and establish a trajectory for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, in which full productive employment and decent work for all becomes a driver of transformation. An important part of such action is the reversal of the strong trends in many countries towards

increased inequality and contraction of the labour/GDP share. This is damaging growth as well as provoking serious social stress.⁷

If the promise of the 2030 Agenda is not realized by concerted national and international action, the social fabric of many countries is at risk of being severely damaged with worrying implications for multilateral cooperation, respect for civil and political rights, human rights and peace.

Despite a prolonged period of slow growth, the world of work is undergoing substantial changes. It will be vital to ensure that public policy is able to shape the processes of change to ensure that the goals of the 2030 Agenda are realized. The ILO has launched through its intergovernmental and tripartite processes a four year programme of consultation and analysis on the future of work which will, amongst other issues; help identify emerging issues for the realization of the principle of leaving no one behind.⁸

5. Areas where political guidance by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is required:

The ILO Governing Body has discussed on several occasions the 2030 Agenda and expressed a strong interest in ensuring that the ILO and its intergovernmental bodies are able to play a full role in the UN follow-up and review in accordance with its mandate to pursue social justice and the long standing Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organization. The International Labour Conference 2016, in which governments, employers and workers from all over the world will, amongst others, discuss how the ILO can play its role nationally, regionally and globally. The ILO Director-General could report to the HLPF on the results of these discussions. It would be most helpful if the General Assembly could establish a programme for its follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda so that the ILO can organize its follow-up and review so as to provide its support to the HLPF.

Given the scope and high ambitions of the 2030 Agenda, adequate follow-up and review processes are paramount to the Agenda's success. Guidance on the ways in which the ILO and other UN entities can appropriately support the HLPF and member states would be timely. As can be seen in the Annex listing goals and targets most directly related to the ILO's mandate, the ILO's goal of decent work for all connects to all SDGs in some degree. In many, perhaps all, cases it will be important for UN agencies and others to form partnerships to deliver integrated support to member states. For its part the ILO is ready to help in the convening and organization of such partnerships and looks forward to any guidance the HLPF may wish to give in this regard.

⁷ See ILO (2015) 'World Wage Report 2014/5,' at http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_324678/lang-en/index.htm

⁸ See 'Report of the ILO's Director-General, the future of work centenary initiative,' at http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/104/reports/reports-to-the-conference/WCMS_369026/lang-en/index.htm

6. Policy recommendations

With the current prospects for weak global growth, the acceleration of progress across the SDGs, particularly for those at risk of being left behind, requires a shift towards more inclusive growth patterns. This means that, in addition to generating decent work, economic growth has to be decoupled from environmental degradation. High, middle and lower income countries should consider implementing a package of policy measures drawing on the SDG framework.

Investing in new infrastructure for greener growth coupled with policies to increase employment and the spending power of lower and middle income groups are needed to rekindle growth and transform the dynamics of growth for sustainability and a just transition in support of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Low interest rates permit the financing of growth-enhancing sustainable infrastructure investments such as communications, low carbon emissions transport, renewable energy, fuel-efficient housing and public buildings, clean water and sanitation systems. In many cases, viable employment intensive options are available to maximize the job-creating impact of infrastructure investment.

Counteracting weak growth also requires action to reverse the structural increase in inequality in many countries towards the sustained and inclusive growth called for by the 2030 Agenda. With developments in the world of work a major cause of increased inequality, policies on decent jobs and social policies are of critical importance for those at risk of being left behind and the broader 2030 Agenda.

Achieving gender equality, in line with the 2030 Agenda, is an indispensable precondition for the realization of a sustainable development that leaves no one behind and ensures that the future of work is decent work. Similarly, action on youth employment as proposed in the UN Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth is a top priority in many countries.

As mentioned in the ILO Global Jobs Pact (target 8.b.), while countries face different constraints and opportunities, narrowing income inequalities and boosting household consumption can be realized by:

- Improving job quality by fostering the transition of workers from the informal to the formal economy, and tackling labour market segmentation
- Ensuring equality of opportunities to participate in quality education, training and lifelong learning
- Promoting universal social protection and social protection floors
- Improving employment outcomes for vulnerable groups in the labour market, with particular attention to youth unemployment, through active labour market policies
- Taking decisive measures to increase women's participation and ensure equal pay and working conditions for women and men
- Reducing wage inequality, through for example minimum wages and strengthening collective bargaining

Annex 1: SDG targets most directly related to the ILO mandate⁹

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
<p>1.1. By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day</p> <p>1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions</p> <p>1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable</p> <p>1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters</p>
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
<p>2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment</p>
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
<p>3.8. Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all</p> <p>3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination</p> <p>3.c. Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States</p>
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
<p>4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university</p> <p>4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship</p> <p>4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations</p> <p>4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States</p>
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

⁹ Targets in Goals 6, 7, 11, 13, 14 and 15 are not mentioned in this list but it should be noted that the investments needed to realize these goals can and should create decent work. The ILO is already collaborating closely with partners such as UN Water and Habitat to support the implementation of commitment in these areas.

5.1. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

8.Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

8.2. Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

8.3. Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

8.4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

8.6. By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

8.7. Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

8.8. Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

8.9. By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

8.b. By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

- 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
- 9.2. Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
- 9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

- 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- 10.4. Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
- 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- 12.1. Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
- 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
- 12b. Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

16.10. Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries