



Roundup

NGLS

United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)
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ILO and Rio+20: South-South perspectives

Introduction

The International Labour Organization (ILO) actively promotes sustainable development. In advance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), ILO member countries and social partners endorsed a set of key messages for the outcome of the Conference in June (see “ILO and Rio+20,” page 2). Through them, they call for a stronger coherence between the three pillars of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental) and urge the necessity of creating more and better employment opportunities while enabling the transition to a green economy. As an additional means to further sustainable development objectives, South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) can foster development through the transfer of knowledge and technology, and the exchange of experiences and best practices. This *NGLS e-Roundup* places the focus on sustainable development from an ILO perspective, and on the contribution of SSTC.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation, a continuous trend

While cooperation between developing countries has been part of global development cooperation since the 1970s, it is increasingly gaining greater visibility. The growing importance and relevance of South-South and Triangular Cooperation has been reaffirmed by several major UN conferences in the past decade: a) the UN General Assembly in 2004 where the

“South-South Cooperation can achieve results on the ground in ways that traditional development assistance may not because of countries’ geographical proximity, cultural and historical ties, or similar development paths.”

– UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries became the [High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation](#); b) the [Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review](#), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007, which also reaffirms the increased importance of SSTC; and c) the [High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation](#), held in Nairobi in December 2009, which gave a major political boost to SSTC.

The [2009 Nairobi Outcome document](#), endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2010, provides the most comprehensive and far-reaching definition of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the framework of the UN system. It defines SSTC as “a manifestation of solidarity among the countries and peoples of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance, and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.”

In the lead up to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the ILO – under the coordination of its [Green Jobs Programme](#) – has drawn attention to: green jobs creation; the development of an institutional and political “Just Transition” framework; the extension of social protection systems and the promotion of social inclusion in green economy policies. It also called for the inclusion of workers’ and employers’ organizations and labour market institutions in governance and implementation mechanisms; as well as for joint efforts to facilitate an economically efficient, socially just and environmentally sound transition to a green economy. Inputs were provided through statements, panels and side events and submitted through written contributions, including suggestions for the draft outcome document ([ILO input to Rio+20](#)). In collaboration with its member countries and social partners, the ILO developed a [short and focused statement](#), which includes nine key messages for Rio+20, as well as ILO’s renewed commitment to the goals of sustainable development and its readiness to be part of an action plan for the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes.

ILO’s [key messages](#) for Rio+20 are:

1. **Renewed commitment:** Governments have to reaffirm the goal of decent work for all as central to sustainable development, articulate the linkages between the three pillars, and commit to develop mutually supportive economic, social and environmental policies.
2. **A strong social pillar:** The social pillar of the Sustainable Development Framework has to be built upon the principle of decent work for all. This implies that decent work and social inclusion are reflected in indicators, goals, possible national commitments and governance mechanisms agreed upon at the Conference.
3. **Employment, sustainable enterprises, infrastructure and skills development:** The green economy must provide the needed jobs, especially for the growing numbers of youth. Countries have to be encouraged to set nationally agreed and attainable targets to increase the share of green jobs in the labour market over time.
4. **Social protection:** In order to build resilient enterprises and communities that have the ability to adapt to climate change and serve as a stabilizer in times of economic crisis, special focus has to be given to social protection and the creation of national social protection floors.

In terms of development, South-South practices are considered as an alternative approach/mechanism for development cooperation – one that complements rather than substitutes North-South cooperation. Such collective action has led to innovation, impact on the ground and value added results.

As part of the UN system. The ILO has been drawing on the Nairobi definition of SSTC, adapting it in view of its particular mandate. For the ILO, SSTC involves initiatives in the social, economic, environmental, technical and political fields. In this perspective, it can be a useful tool to engage social partners from developing countries to promote the [Decent Work Agenda](#) through development cooperation. The ILO recognizes that SSTC takes different and evolving forms, including, amongst others, the sharing of knowledge and experiences, training, and technology transfer. Considering the experience and knowledge of its tripartite constituents, the ILO sees SSTC as an effective means of capacity development, knowledge sharing, exchanging experiences and best practices, interregional cooperation, and mobilizing resources.

The ILO also recognizes the key role that SSTC can play in any future sustainable development framework. The strengthening of national response capacities and coordination mechanisms, as well as the commitment of social partners, are crucial to the sustainability of results and actions. In addition, SSTC should be demand-driven and not based on a one-size-fits-all approach. It needs to consider the specific characteristics of regional and national contexts.

So far, the key points of entry for ILO’s SSTC activities have been integrated packages targeting such areas as the promotion of employment generation and of social protection floors, sectoral activities, migration, child labour, green jobs, forced labour, social dialogue, skills development and capacity development.

To strengthen ILO’s work in this regard, on 22 March 2012 the ILO Governing Body adopted an ILO SSTC strategy to increase its institutional capacity to expand its existing SSTC initiatives and establish and implement new ones. In Rio, during a side event on “Decent Work and Social Protection Floors for Sustainable Development” on 22 June (see page 9), the ILO will launch a major initiative. It will strengthen the capacity of national governments and stakeholders to design and implement integrated social protection floor policies, including synergies with environmental policies by leveraging South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

5. **Standards and fundamental principles and rights:** International labour standards provide an important normative framework, as well as practical guidance for the formulation of policies conducive to sustainable development and for good governance.
6. **Enabling policies for making the transition work for all:** A clear framework and institutional arrangement to review, discuss and agree on response measures to structural changes in the transition to a greener economy is required, with an active role of the social partners.
7. **Institutional framework (governance) and national capacities:** Social dialogue and efforts to enhance policy coherence between the three pillars of sustainable development have to underpin any national institutional framework and should guide the design of reporting mechanisms on progress and implementation gaps.
8. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The formulation of SDGs needs to include the creation of green jobs, decent work and social inclusion

through policies for the greening of economies. Specific indicators and goals should be adopted to reflect job creation and social inclusion, as well as the role of social protection and the implementation of social protection floors.

9. **Capacity building:** Major efforts should be made to further build member States' capacities and knowledge, particularly at the national level, on labour market trends and developments resulting from the greening of economies and enterprises, with the aim of charting pathways for a just transition.

Until now, the draft outcome document, which has been negotiated in the past months, reflects many topics closely related to ILO's main principle: the creation of decent work and social justice for all. Green jobs and social protection are identified as key elements of sustainable development and a just transition to a green economy – along with issues such as poverty reduction, food security and agriculture, water, oceans, access to energy, sustainable cities, and resilience and disaster preparedness.

NGLS interviews...

SSTC and Sustainable Development

NGLS interviews Minister Marco Farani, Director, Brazilian Agency for Cooperation on the role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.



NGLS: What is innovative about South-South and Triangular Cooperation?

Marco Farani: The fight against poverty and hunger is the greatest beneficiary of the expansion of a horizontal model of cooperation, based on solidarity and inspired

Minister Marco Farani

Director, Brazilian Agency for Cooperation

by the needs, perspectives and priorities of developing countries. Brazil believes that the positive results achieved by South-South cooperation came as a consequence of a different approach in dealing with development challenges. Obstacles faced by developing countries tend to be similar in nature, scope and complexity; as a result, we can benefit from partnerships in which all parties teach, learn and join efforts to generate fresh and innovative responses. This is precisely the principle of South-South cooperation: by sharing questions and answers, lessons and achievements, developing nations increase their capacity to design their own solutions.

The Brazilian government has engaged in triangular cooperation with international organizations and developed countries for considering this arrangement a valuable mechanism to complement and to increase the impact of programmes and projects implemented through bilateral channels. As such, triangular initiatives incorporate the same principles of South-South cooperation, making the most out of the contribution of each partner.

For instance, in regard to triangular collaboration with multilateral organizations, the Brazilian perspective on the added-value and innovative character of the [Brazil-ILO Partnership for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation](#), ongoing since 2009, is threefold. First, the triangular arrangement allows for the conception of joint strategic programmes and projects that match the knowledge available in developing countries to the global decent work agenda, according to the mandate of the ILO. In addition, the tripartite nature of the ILO, reflected in the participation of government, workers and employers organizations from the partner countries in project activities, is especially relevant when it comes to ownership and sustainability of cooperation. Lastly, the ILO contributes in technical and operational terms by making available its wide network of field offices and experts. This close insight into local realities is very important in helping to ensure that the capacities and priorities of the partner country are taken into account.

NGLS: Brazil has collaborated with the ILO on the Decent Work Agenda and South-South and Triangular Cooperation for several years, and signed two new Declarations of Intent in the field of decent work and humanitarian assistance in 2010. What kinds of initiatives have resulted from this collaboration? Have these initiatives expanded to other southern countries?

Marco Farani: Brazilian programmes to combat poverty and social exclusion have achieved positive results and international recognition. As a consequence, Brazil now maintains various South-South technical cooperation projects with other developing countries in the field of decent work, with the participation of Brazilian institutions from the public sector and organized civil society.

“The fight against poverty and hunger is the greatest beneficiary of the expansion of a horizontal model of cooperation, based on solidarity and inspired by the needs, perspectives and priorities of developing countries.”

With the ILO, Brazil has established numerous triangular partnerships with several Latin American, African and Asian countries in the areas of social protection, social dialogue, green jobs and eradication of child labour. Currently, there are 11 on-going projects, including one regional initiative aimed at harmonizing legislation

concerning child labour in MERCOSUR [Common Market of the South], in addition to new projects in this field with Tanzania and the five African-Portuguese-Speaking countries signed in 2011. Moreover, a project resulting from the 2010 Declaration of Intent between the ILO and the governments of Brazil, Haiti and the United States was recently [signed](#), with a view to prevent the use of child labour in the reconstruction phase of the Caribbean country.

In November 2010, Brazil established a programme of capacity-building with the ILO Training Centre in Turin in humanitarian assistance and post-crisis recovery. The programme is training government officials from African-Portuguese-Speaking countries, Haiti, East Timor, Niger and the Palestinian territories in the prevention, rehabilitation and recovery from social and natural disasters.

NGLS: Can SSTC help encourage a social protection floor in these countries – as well as its implementation?

Marco Farani: Brazil is advocating for the establishment of social protection floors as part of an approach to promoting international development with social justice. We learnt in the past decade that investing in social protection is an effective way to fight poverty and hunger, to reduce inequalities and to improve living standards. Social protection policies have helped Brazil through the current financial/economic crisis and have been an important element of economic recovery. We believe that, through South-South technical cooperation, the “Bolsa Familia” as well as other social inclusion programmes can inspire strategies for social protection in developing nations interested in Brazilian practices in this field.

In this sense, horizontal partnerships serve as an effective and cost-efficient mechanism to marshal knowledge and adapt it along with other resources available at Brazilian institutions to local realities in support of the efforts of our partner countries to devise their own social security policies. One relevant aspect to be pointed out in this regard is that through South-South cooperation projects, the partner countries go beyond that traditional, and sometimes sterile, practice of short-term “international seminars” aimed at exchanging information on public policies. Governments from developing countries are always trying to catch up with unsettled social demands. In this sense, South-South projects allow partner countries to make real-time adjustments and improvements to their public policies.

NGLS: Would you say that SSTC can play an enabling role in helping countries reach sustainable development objectives? What role could you envision SSTC playing in relation to Rio+20 follow up and implementation?

Marco Farani: South-South technical cooperation will be a powerful tool available to governments in their efforts to turn the future global commitments resulting from the Rio+20 Conference into concrete and effective actions on the ground. Knowledge sharing and technology transfer, complemented by capacity development, will be essential elements in enhancing relevant national capacities to formulate and implement successful policies and actions that will lead to a more inclusive and uniform transition in all developing countries to a new global paradigm that integrates environmental sustainability with social development.

“One of the most important characteristics of South-South technical cooperation is the trust between partner countries.”

One of the most important characteristics of South-South technical cooperation is the trust between partner countries. This trust – which is based on the assumptions of mutual respect, lack of subordination and non-interference – is an important instrument to foster the post-Rio+20 agenda. Countries might be more confident to commit themselves to South-South initiatives related to Rio+20 outcomes because horizontal cooperation is, in principle, preserved from difficulties that might emerge in the context of North-South negotiations, especially when deciding “what comes first” in terms of the three different dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental. Thus, South-South technical cooperation offers the possibility of flexible and cost-effective arrangements to developing countries in their search for shared solutions to common challenges that will certainly become more sophisticated after Rio+20.

On page 11, an ILO regional perspective (Latin America and the Caribbean) on SSTC is provided.

NGLS interviews...

Ana Teresa Romero

Chief External Relations Branch, Department for Partnerships and Development Cooperation, ILO

ILO and Rio+20

NGLS interviews Ana Teresa Romero, Chief External Relations Branch, Department for Partnerships and Development Cooperation, ILO, on the relationship between the Decent Work Agenda and the three pillars of sustainable development; on the promotion of rights at work as human rights; and on how to create more decent work opportunities for youth. This interview does not necessarily reflect the views of the ILO.



NGLS: In the world of work, the social, economic and environmental dimensions come together. How can the Decent Work framework allow for a better integration of these three dimensions of sustainable development?

Ms. Romero: The Decent Work Agenda makes it possible to address the social and labour impacts of developments in the economic and environmental spheres. Adopted by the ILO's tripartite constituents in 1999, this Agenda recalls and reinforces the relevance of those values and principles that have underpinned the objectives and work of the ILO from its inception. The Decent Work Agenda rests on four pillars: (i) respect for rights at work as Human Rights; (ii) employment promotion; (iii) social protection; and (iv) social dialogue. They can be used to guide Decent Work-oriented approaches to policies and programmes for fulfilling the aims of the 1944 Declaration of Philadelphia in rapidly changing national and global economic contexts.

According to this Declaration which sets out the objectives of the International Labour Organization, "... All human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity ... it is the responsibility of ILO to examine and consider all international and financial policies and measures in the light of this fundamental objective." These words attest to the interdependence of economic and social policies and their links to poverty reduction, social justice and rights-based approach to development.

The environmental impact of activities in the world of work has long been addressed by focusing on the provision of "adequate protection for the life and health of workers in all occupations." A recent ILO Report entitled "[Promoting safety and health in a green economy](#)," notes that the aim is to "... make all jobs healthier and safer, while benefiting the environment and society, provided occupational risks are identified and managed at the onset."

The importance of integrating social justice and human well-being with economic activities and environmental sustainability was highlighted in the 1987 Brundtland Report "Our Common Future." That Report of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development that informed discussions at the first "Earth Summit" held in 1992 in Rio, Brazil, noted the links between "... poverty, inequality and environmental degradation" and called for "a new era of economic growth ... that is forceful and at the same time socially and environmentally sustainable."

The longstanding international political consensus that sustainable development has three integrated pillars – the social, the economic and the environmental, has not been translated into coherent policy and action. In the two decades since the first Rio Summit, the calls for an integrated approach to sustainable development have been gathering momentum. The Decent Work Agenda, with its focus on rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue, can contribute to that integrated approach in the quest for a "fairer, greener, more sustainable globalization."¹

Note:

¹ In April 2012, the UN High-Level Committee on Programmes submitted to the UN Secretary-General and heads of the UN System entities (who comprise the UN Chief Executives Board), a report that addresses the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It is entitled "fairer, greener, more sustainable globalization."

NGLS: In terms of both the Rio outcomes, which could include Sustainable Development Goals, and discussions on a post-2015 development framework, how could the ILO help to take forward a more inclusive rights-based approach that would also promote rights at work as human rights? What steps are being taken to include decent work as one of the core elements in these discussions?

Ms. Romero: The International Labour Office is supporting governments as well as employers' and workers' organizations of the Member States that make up the International Labour Organization, in a number of processes aimed at promoting rights at work as Human Rights and the Decent Work Agenda as part of the social pillar of Sustainable Development and the post-2015 international development framework. The following examples are illustrative.

Within the United Nations System, the ILO is contributing to policy-oriented research and to knowledge products for use in preparatory policy dialogues in the run-up to Rio+20. In December 2011 the Environmental Management Group of the UN System produced a report entitled "[Working towards a balanced and inclusive green economy: A United Nations System-wide Perspective](#)." The concept and aims of the Decent Work Agenda and the ILO's Green Jobs Initiative are included in this Report, which highlights the importance of creating decent work in a low-carbon economy.

In addition to research, the Office provides tripartite constituents with policy advice and technical support, including for their advocacy initiatives. At the Rio+20 Conference, international organizations representing the ILO's social partners (namely, the International Organization of Employers and the International Trade Union Confederation) will be hosting and/or co-hosting side events that deal with green jobs, decent work and sustainable development, from various perspectives. These organizations have been holding consultations with their members at the national and regional levels, running public on-line discussions and expressing their views in various fora. ILO has given various forms of support to these preparatory activities. At the Conference itself, the ILO will lead a side panel on "Decent Work and Social Protection Floors for Sustainable Development" and it will co-host, with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), a side event on green jobs and youth employment. The tripartite constituents and other non-governmental stakeholders will be involved in these activities.

The UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination, of which the ILO Director-General, Juan Somavía, is a member, issued an [official statement](#) in advance of Rio+20 which acknowledges that: “A number of priority issues have emerged which might serve as the basis for identifying sustainable development goals at Rio+20. Among these are: equity, poverty, decent jobs,”

The ILO’s message is that sustainable development needs a strong social pillar. The connection between the Decent Work Agenda and sustainable development has been made in the preparations for Rio+20, thereby laying a basis for Member States to propose, and lobby for, its inclusion in outcome documents of the Conference.

When it comes to preparations for defining the post-2015 development framework, the ILO and its tripartite constituents are promoting Decent Work as a development goal to be integrated into any proposed framework. This is being done through dialogue and participation in the global thematic consultations and the national consultations that have begun as part of the preparations.

The first global thematic consultation on “Growth, structural change and employment” was convened jointly by Japan, the ILO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in May 2012. Representatives of government, employers’ and workers’ organizations, together with a wide range of stakeholders engaged in policy dialogue and a vibrant exchange of views in Tokyo. The idea of anchoring Decent Work in the future international development framework was discussed and there is evidence that it is gaining widespread support. The continued involvement of the ILO and its tripartite constituents in the global and national preparatory consultations, as well as the contribution of the social partners (as non-governmental members of the post-2015 Outreach Planning Group), will help to reinforce this message and the practice of engaging in dialogue and consultation at all levels, to set an agenda that would complement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In sum, the aim is to strengthen dialogue and participation, multi-stakeholder commitment and policy coherence for achieving sustainable development.

NGLS: What efforts on the part of the international community are required in order to provide today’s youth with the necessary opportunities to find decent work, but also to thrive in a fairer, greener and more sustainable world?

“We must build on the momentum of Rio+20 and take action on the new and renewed commitments on youth employment that will come out of Rio and feed into the process for defining an international development agenda that goes beyond 2015.”

Ms. Romero: The challenge of creating opportunities for decent work for young persons has been on national and international agendas for decades. Indeed, the achievement of “full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people” is one of the targets of the first Millennium Development Goal which aims to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Progress in this regard, has fallen below expectations in many countries.

Perhaps the greatest and most meaningful effort would be for stakeholders at the country, regional and international levels, to give effect to the internationally agreed conclusions, recommendations and commitments that have been adopted. This would require either developing or scaling-up results-oriented youth employment initiatives.

The issues of training and education for employment, lifelong learning, entrepreneurship, support for innovative productive activities, and financing for enterprise creation, are among the many issues that have been addressed in various fora over the years. The subject of “youth employment” was on the agenda of the 2012 International Labour Conference.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), at its High-level Segment (July 2012), will hold a Development Cooperation Forum during which “Partnerships to tackle the youth employment crisis” will be discussed. In the run-up to and during the Rio+20 Conference, there will be a number of dialogues and events focusing on various aspects of youth and sustainable development – including matters related to employment.

We must build on the momentum of Rio+20 and take action on the new and renewed commitments on youth employment that will come out of Rio and feed into the process for defining an international development agenda that goes beyond 2015.

Box 1: The UNEP/ILO Concept of Green Jobs

Green jobs can be generically defined as the direct employment created in different sectors of the economy and through related activities, which reduces the environmental impact of those sectors and activities, and ultimately brings it down to sustainable levels. This includes “decent” jobs that help to reduce consumption of energy and raw materials, de-carbonize the economy, protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity and minimize the production of waste and pollution.

The green job concept has social as well as environmental aspects. Green jobs comply with the pillars of decent work – job creation, rights at work, social protection, and social dialogue – and are provided by economic activities that contribute to reduced environmental impact.

More precisely green jobs are decent jobs that:

- Reduce consumption of energy and raw materials
- Limit greenhouse gas emissions
- Minimize waste and pollution
- Protect and restore ecosystems

Key topics: two side events in Rio

Green jobs – A chance for youth!

Young people, who represent enormous potential for growth and development, have not been benefiting proportionally from the benefits of development. According to the ILO, young people make up half the population, but almost 13% of the global youth labour force is expected to be unemployed in 2012. On 15 June, on the sidelines of the Rio+20 Conference, the ILO co-organized a [side event](#) with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on “Green jobs: A chance for youth!” to highlight the sustainable development opportunities and challenges caused by the unprecedented level of youth unemployment.

As future generations need to be prepared for the transition to a green economy and need to have the opportunity to equip themselves with the necessary knowledge and skills, the event highlighted the need for a collective response to invest in young people’s intellectual and human potential, and to take their employment needs into account. It called on country partners and donors to make commitments to or accelerate the policy process for the creation of green jobs opportunities for young people.

Decent work and social protection floors for sustainable development

In its contribution to the Rio+20 zero draft outcome document, the ILO noted that “social protection needs to be recognized as an enabler of sustainable development, inclusive growth, and as an economic stabilizer in the face of growing economic and environmental shocks. Social protection shields people from destitution and poverty; it empowers them to seize market opportunities; and it contributes to the stabilization of aggregate demand.”

Social Protection Floors...

“... are nationally defined sets of basic social security guarantees that should ensure, as a minimum that, over the life cycle, all in need have access to essential health care and to basic income security which together secure effective access to goods and services defined as necessary at the national level.”

Many developing countries have already launched social protection initiatives with successful results in terms of reductions in poverty, vulnerability and inequality. The ILO supports the exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience among these and other countries interested in planning, expanding, extending or reorienting their social protection systems. For example, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme’s [Special Unit for South-South Cooperation](#), the ILO has initiated a project, entitled “[South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Implementation of gender sensitive Social Protection Floors at country level.](#)” This project facilitates SSTC in order to provide country-tailored support to selected countries from the South in designing and implementing national Social Protection Floors. The initiative was first launched in Cambodia in April 2012, and will be replicated in Benin, Burkina Faso, Lao PDR and Togo. The ongoing “ILO-Brazil Partnership for the promotion of South-South Cooperation,” launched in June 2009, is another example (see the interview with Minister Farani, starting on page 3).

To highlight some successful experiences in developing coherent policies and effective programmes linking social protection, employment, economic and environmental issues, the ILO – with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) – organized a Rio+20 [side event](#) on

22 June on “Decent Work and Social Protection Floors for Sustainable Development.” Amongst the successful experiences, the event showcased Brazil’s social housing programme “[Minha Casa, Minha Vida](#)” and green social transfer programme “[Bolsa Verde](#),” India’s “[Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme](#),” and climate “[missions](#),” and South Africa’s “[New Growth Path](#).” The event featured opening statements by Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and South African President Jacob Zuma, as well as high-level participants, including Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP; Christine Lagarde, Executive Director of the IMF, Juan Somavía, Director-General of the ILO; Ibrahim Patel, Minister of Economic Development, South Africa; Tereza Campello, Minister of Social Development, Brazil; and Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Rural Development, India. This also presented an opportunity to highlight the recent Social Protection Floor Recommendation adopted during the 101st Session of the International Labour Conference ([Recommendation for national social protection floors](#)).

[Assessing Green Jobs Potential in Developing Countries: A Practitioner’s Guide](#) (November 2011)



This guide provides practical solutions, tailored to the considerations of developing countries, to assess how a transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy might affect employment.

[Towards a Greener Economy: The Social Dimensions](#) (November 2011)



This report is the result of a cooperation project between the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion of the European Commission and the International Institute for Labour Studies of the ILO. Its purpose is to better understand the nature of the green economy and the implications for labour markets.

[Skills for Green Jobs: A Global View](#) (October 2011)



This report examines the experiences of 21 developed and developing countries in adjusting their training provision to meet the new demands of a greener economy. It shows that skills development is critical to unlocking the employment potential of green growth, yet skills shortages are becoming an obstacle in realizing this potential. The report recommends that countries devise strategies based on well-informed policy decisions, social dialogue, and coordination among ministries and between employers and training providers.

Social protection:

[Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization](#) (2011)



This report shows how social protection can play a pivotal role in relieving people of the fear of poverty and deprivation, delivering on the promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It highlights the extension of social protection as an element of a fairer and inclusive globalization. It also provides the evidence that social protection can help stabilize aggregate demand in times of crisis and increase resilience against economic shocks, contributing to accelerated recovery and more inclusive and sustainable development paths.

Relevant ILO resources

Green jobs:

[Working towards sustainable development: Opportunities for decent work and social inclusion in a green economy](#)



The joint ILO/UNEP study underscores that employment and social inclusion should be an integral part of any sustainable development strategy. It finds that, accompanied by the right policy mix, a green economy can generate 15 to 60 million additional and better jobs globally over the next two decades; lift tens of millions of workers out of poverty; and promote social inclusion.

[Promoting safety and health in a green economy](#) (April 2012)

The report highlights occupational safety and health as an integral part of the promotion of green jobs and a greener economy to achieve an economic and social development that is also environmentally sustainable.



Box 2 : IBSA Conference showcases green jobs initiatives in the Asian context

On 1-3 March 2012, the Government of India organized a high-level conference in New Delhi on the role of South-South Cooperation (SSC) that focused on promoting employment and decent work through public employment programmes and other innovation schemes. The conference, which attracted some 40 high level delegates, from 22 countries, including 10 ministers, aimed to build capacity and to facilitate the sharing of knowledge among developing countries.

The conference was set up under the auspices of the India-Brazil-South Africa ([IBSA](#)) trilateral initiative; a major driver of South-South cooperation and exchange.

One of the key features of the meeting was India's own experience in innovative public employment and social protection schemes. The country has been able to enjoy steady growth, contributing to global dynamism while large parts of the world have been subjected to the global economic and financial downturn. India has taken a number of steps to ensure quality employment and the extension of social security to the unorganized labour sector. The flagship [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act](#) (MGNREGA) ensures 100 days of guaranteed employment for rural households. India also supports the idea of a social protection floor and has made skills development a major national priority for youth. A coordinated plan has been agreed with a target of having 500 million skilled persons by 2022. MGNREGA has changed the lives of rural communities through wages, employment and income security and could also help generate natural resource conservation benefits as areas of works include water conservation and harvesting, irrigation, land development, drought proofing, reforestation and renovation of traditional water bodies. These projects create green jobs and the scale is tens to hundreds of thousand jobs per category per year. The environmental services from MGNREGA stretch from local, regional to global as the latter includes carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, improved adaptive capacity and vulnerability reduction to current climate risks.

The meeting also showcased the Brazilian "Bolsa Familia," Brasil Sem Miséria and the South African programme "Community Works" which also feature environmentally-sensitive social protection schemes.

In the panel discussion "Asset Creation Linkages with Green Jobs and Climate Change Adaptation," two other projects developed in Nepal and Indonesia were presented. Nepal has developed a three-year programme on agriculture and tourism value chain upgrading. This project relates to "Green Works" through rural roads construction, district road management, production of non-timber forest products, floriculture, solid waste management and eco-tourism promotion. In Indonesia, green jobs projects include the Green National Programme for Community Empowerment and Support for Poor and Disadvantaged Area (SPADA).

In the implementation of Green Jobs projects with the ILO, a number of different options for action have emerged, including transformation of the network of government-owned vocational training centres to meet the demand for new skills. (see Box 4, page 13)

In the conference's final statement, "green jobs" were mentioned as one of the elements to be addressed in the framework of SSC. Participating countries are invited to pursue their collaboration, to enhance policy dialogue, to provide and obtain guidance on the design of effective policies.

Prior to this global meeting, a regional workshop was conducted in Jakarta to foster knowledge exchange on "Green jobs through green works." Green works are part of the overall strategy to promote investment for climate change adaptation while at the same time fostering decent jobs. In addition to technical inputs on innovations in public employment programmes, experiences concerning Green Jobs and green works from Indonesia, Philippines and India were shared among the participants, with participants noting that projects had been developed in sectors such as forestry, flood protection and rural transport.

Box 3 : Green Jobs and South-South Cooperation in the Americas, by Anita Amorim

A “Partnership Programme between Brazil and the ILO for the South-South Cooperation in the areas of Forced Labour and Green Jobs” was signed on 15 June 2010, within the framework of the Implementation of the Partnership Programme ILO / Brazil for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation.

The programme has started preparatory activities and research and it aims to contribute to the prevention and eradication of forced labour and stimulate the generation of decent work and green jobs in Latin America (Peru and Paraguay) and the Caribbean.

- The government of Brazil and the ILO would like to promote the exchange of best practices for preventing and combating forced labour and promotion of green jobs between Brazilian institutions in charge of these policies and their counterparts in developing countries members of this cooperation.
- Even though the nexus between the two does not seem evident, there is a strong correlation between land appropriation, deforestation and forced labour; and the solution to these problems has often been to engage in environmentally sustainable solutions. According to ILO Brasilia, data on workers rescued from slave-like situations show a close connection with activities related to agricultural deforestation.
- The ILO office in Brasilia is still looking for additional funds for this project with the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation and triangular cooperation partners. The main objective is to have Brazilian authorities’ capacity strengthened to promote and share South-South Cooperation solutions on preventing and combating forced labour and promotion of green jobs in the Americas.

A second outcome of this initiative is increased cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean concerning exchange of information and knowledge on how to promote the creation of green jobs while combating forced labour. The coordinator of the project on Forced Labour in Brazil, Luiz Machado, gave an overview of the importance of this linkage during last May 2012 VI ILO-Brazil Annual Review meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

A greater focus on green jobs will certainly be one of the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference. The new sustainable development goals – post-MDG 2015 targets – will have to include a critical social dimension along with environmental concerns. Thus, concrete good practices like the Partnership Programme will be invaluable to put the question of decent work at the heart of the forthcoming international agenda.

ILO Regional Office’s Experience with SSTC

Below, Guillermo Dutra from the ILO’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean provides a regional perspective on its work on SSTC and impact felt on the ground.

The SSTC strategy developed by the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean takes the SSTC as a process whereby two or more developing countries develop individual or collective capacities through cooperative exchanges of knowledge, qualifications, resources and technological know-how.

The ILO Regional Office, after years of work, has accumulated enough evidence of sustainable initiatives by sharing management responsibility with ILO constituents and by taking into account regional and sub-regional integration processes like [MERCOSUR](#), CARICOM [[Caribbean Community](#)], and CAN [[Andean Community](#)]. In a nutshell: for our office, SSTC means capitalizing on its tripartite constituents’ experience and knowledge to promote the development of capacities, knowledge sharing, best practices and resource mobilization.



ILO Regional Office's Experience with SSTC (continued)

Our main objectives include:

- addressing the most pressing development issues such as poverty reduction and, more specifically, the region's Decent Work deficit;
- strengthening current "support for knowledge management" and developing flexible and friendly information systems in accordance with the countries' needs;
- consolidating social dialogue fora by involving our constituents around SSTC;
- implementing alternative schemes of cooperation and public-private partnerships;
- creating complementary opportunities between SSTC, North-South cooperation and other schemes;
- developing efficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure SSTC impact and reduce fragmentation and duplication.

A valuable SSTC example from Latin America and the Caribbean to promote a green economy is being developed by the ILO Office in Brazil, where the National Service for Industrial Learning of Brazil (SENAI) and the Brazilian National Service for Commercial Education (SENAC) are promoting green jobs by promoting the green economy as a cross-cutting issue in their training courses. Moreover, there is another initiative that deserves special attention: the network of member institutions of ILO's Inter-American Research and Documentation Centre on Vocational Training (ILO/CINTERFOR).

First and foremost, this initiative – with the support of the vocational training institutions (VTIs) and other members of the ILO/CINTERFOR network – has, for nearly half a century, been a pioneer in knowledge management and South-South and Triangular Cooperation in order to improve labour competencies. The networking strategy and the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) have made it possible to provide relevant and quality responses, with worldwide coverage. In fact, the [platform](#) receives visits from 189 countries/territories and the number of registrations continues to increase steadily. With the support of the network, ILO/CINTERFOR has made several databases [available](#), the contents of which are continuously updated. More than 6,000 people from all over the world have registered in order to gain access to this knowledge platform which includes a Teaching Resources Bank; an Experience Database; a Skills Profile Database; and a Specialists Database.

Furthermore, ILO/CINTERFOR coordinates more than 20 [virtual learning and practice communities](#) in which over 1,000 users participate, see Box 4 on page 13.

Impact on the ground

The ILO and the Brazilian Government have developed an important experience in SSTC which involves countries from LAC, Asia and Africa in topics like child labour, forced labour, gender, green jobs, social dialogue and social protection. This alliance aims to tackle the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda. The financial resources committed to the implementation of this initiative are US \$8,000,000.

Since the 1980s, Labour Ministries and National Institutes of Statistics from Latin American and Caribbean countries were supported through the SIALC Programme (Statistics Information and Labour Analysis for Latin America and the Caribbean), as a result of an agreement between the ILO and Panama.

Similarly, governments, unions and employer organizations from Caribbean countries were assisted through SSC on issues such as local economic development, HIV/AIDS, the environment.

For the ILO, SSTC is a form of cooperation that is complementary to North-South and other forms of cooperation; unique in that it makes use of the extraordinary untapped potential of the "Global South."

Box 4 : ILO's Inter-American Research and Documentation Centre on Vocational Training

The Inter-American Research and Documentation Centre on Vocational Training (CINTERFOR) is a technical service of the ILO created in 1961 and established in Montevideo, Uruguay, since 1964. ILO/CINTERFOR is at the centre of a network made up of the institutions and agencies of ILO Member States in the Americas and Spain that work on vocational training. It plays an important role in the coordination and strengthening of horizontal technical cooperation and the promotion and streamlining of human resource training institutions in the region, inter alia by facilitating the exchange of experiences, research, knowledge, information, documentation, methodologies and technology, and by assisting in the training of executive, technical and teaching staff of the institutions. The Centre also helps design public policies and assists the implementation of vocational training programmes by promoting strategic alliances between the State, employers and workers organizations. It further supports research activities and studies leading to the institutionalization and establishment of vocational training systems and programmes in accordance with efficiency, competitiveness and social equity requirements.

For more information, see the ILO/CINTERFOR [website](#) (in Spanish). For basic information in English, click [here](#).

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