



Public-Private-Partnerships for Decent Work

*“Poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere”**

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Government of the Netherlands

*Declaration concerning the aims and purposes of the International Labour Organisation
(Declaration of Philadelphia), 1944

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Many companies and foundations play a pivotal role in the advancement of social and economic development worldwide. They also recognize the advantage of forming partnerships with the United Nations system as a means of linking to development policies and thereby contributing to their community and raising their visibility.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It is the authoritative international body on employment and labour issues. The ILO promotes decent work by providing technical and policy advice to policy makers; setting labour standards; undertaking action-oriented research; and implementing development projects.

The ILO works with individual companies and foundations to tackle important global labour market issues; to support sustainable enterprises and entrepreneurs; to enhance value in supply chains; to promote social protection; and to resolve specific problems in the world of work.

ILO Partners can help –

- Eliminate child labour;
- Improve occupational safety and health to reduce accidents and diseases;
- Foster small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for local development;
- Create economic opportunities for women and young people;
- Fight HIV/AIDS in companies and communities;
- Protect the environment while creating jobs through the Green Jobs Initiative;
- Spread corporate social responsibility to SMEs and other companies, and develop decent work values in supply chains.

Other areas for partnership opportunities include:

- Combating discrimination and forced labour;
- Promoting trade union rights;
- Developing skills;
- Expanding social security.





Why choose the ILO as your partner?

The ILO is the only UN agency where employers and workers have an equal voice alongside governments in decision making processes. The direct representation of employers ensures that ILO action addressing business is realistic and appropriate; the direct representation of workers brings the highest level of credibility to action on labour issues.

Companies that apply the principles and values of decent work can reap benefits in the form of improved productivity and quality, stronger and improved relations with workers, closer compliance with social norms and an enhanced company product and image.

Benefits of partnering with the ILO include –

- Access to the ILO's network of local, regional and global partners (governments, employers' and workers' organizations, the UN system, regional and subregional organizations and related civil society groups), all of which can be key allies in helping to achieve development objectives;
- The opportunity to tap knowledge and expertise through the ILO's worldwide network, sharing technical expertise across business sectors;
- ILO training materials and policy advice in areas such as enterprise development, occupational safety and health and corporate social responsibility.





Why is the ILO interested in partnering with companies and foundations ?

Major innovations in the world of work tend to originate in companies operating in the private sector. Private foundations often support progressive research and pilot projects on economic and social development. The ILO actively seeks partners in the private sector in order to learn from them, exchange experience, and promote decent work throughout the business world.

How does a company partner with the ILO ?

Partnerships can take many forms, including –

- Exchanging knowledge and expertise in a wide range of business sectors;
- Participating in advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns;
- Organizing meetings and other events;
- Collaborating on research projects;
- Short-term exchanges of personnel;
- Providing contributions in kind or financial backing for development projects.

Is your company interested in partnering with the ILO ?

The ILO seeks partnerships with companies and foundations that share its core values and respect internationally recognized principles with respect to labour, human rights, the environment and corruption.

In developing the partnership, guidance and policy advice will be offered by the ILO to bring your company into line with recognized decent work principles.





Other ILO services of interest to the private sector and foundations

ILO Help Desk

The ILO Help Desk is a free and confidential service to help your company align its operations with international labour standards and the ILO approach to socially responsible labour practices. The Help Desk is a one-stop shop for accessing a whole range of ILO expertise in the areas of social protection and the protection of workers' rights, sustainable enterprise development, conditions of work, social safety nets and industrial relations.

Contact the ILO Help Desk –

- by email at assistance@ilo.org
- by telephone at [+41-22-799-6264](tel:+41-22-799-6264)

Supply chain improvement through Better Work

The ILO's Better Work Programme helps enterprises bring their practices into line with core ILO labour standards and national labour law. Strong emphasis is placed on improving worker-management cooperation, working conditions and social dialogue.

For more details, visit <http://www.betterwork.org/public/global>





What our partners say about the ILO ...

“ The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is proud to partner with the ILO in efforts to serve millions of people with great needs and few resources. (...) Through the ILO, their grantees, and the Micro-insurance Innovation Facility, we are committed to learning more about the impact and value of insurance for people in developing countries. ”

Bob Christen, Director of the Financial Services for the Poor Initiative, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

“Better Work represents a significant breakthrough in raising labour standards. (...) We believe it will be invaluable as it strives to improve working conditions for people making our products.”

Michael Kobori Vice President, Supply Chain Social and Environmental Sustainability, Levi Strauss & Co.

“Better Work is a great opportunity for companies ... We want it to start in apparel and then expand to all other sectors ...”

Farham A. Ifram, Chairman, Jordan Garments Accessories & Textiles Exporters Association





The ILO welcomes enquiries about partnerships and will provide all necessary guidance to help us create one.



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