

ILO Report Launch and Policy Discussion

Accelerating progress under SDG8 and Promoting full employment and decent work for all

Embassy Room, 3rd Floor
The Westin New York Grand Central
212 E 42nd St, New York
15:00 - 18:00
16 July 2019

Background

Within the 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG8) calls for the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full employment and decent work for all. This seminar will bring together ILO tripartite constituents, policy-makers and experts from ILO and other international agencies, development partners, academic and research institutions and representatives from permanent missions based in New York, to discuss the findings of a new ILO report on SDG8 and to review practical ways to reinvigorate the commitment to promote full, productive and freely chosen employment and accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Agenda (Tentative)

15:00-15:30 Welcome and opening remarks

Mr. Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General

Ms. Magdalena Valerio, Minister of Labour, Migration and Social Security of Spain

15:30-16:45 **ILO report on Sustainable Development Goal 8: Charting Progress**

Up-to-date international evidence for the indicators under the 12 targets which constitute SDG 8 suggests progress is slower than required. At its current pace, SDG 8 is unlikely to be achieved. This is of special concern given the central role that SDG8 plays in the 2030 agenda and the inter-linkages it has with other goals such as eliminating poverty and hunger, promoting health and wellbeing and reducing gender and other inequalities. Accelerating progress will require the consideration of many interlocking areas of policy - from macroeconomic policy, wages and skills to active labour market policies, transition to formality, green jobs, social dialogue and local economic development, with good country practice as the main reference.

Moderator: **H.E. Ms. H. Elizabeth Thompson**, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations

Presenter: **Mr. Sangheon Lee**, Director, Employment Policy Department, ILO

Discussants:

H.E. Mr. Perks Master Clemency Ligoya, Permanent Representative of Malawi to the UN and Chair of the Coordination Bureau for the Least Developed Country Group

Mr Roberto Suárez Santos, Secretary-General of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE)

Ms. Paola Simonetti, Deputy Director, Economic and Social Policy Department, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Ms. Jenny Ricks, Global Convener, Fight Inequality Alliance

Q&As

16:45-17:00 Coffee break

17:00-18:00 **Reinvigorating the commitment to full and productive employment and achieving the SDGs**

Full, productive and freely chosen employment is a long-standing concern of the International Labour Organization and a core element of the social contract in most of its member States. It is also a concrete yardstick to measure the success of economic policy. Its inclusion in the 2030 Agenda was a renewed recognition that a thriving labour market is a prerequisite for economic progress, social cohesion and sustainable development. Yet, the question of full employment has become less central in the policy practice of some countries for a number of factors including the difficulties in estimating the quality of jobs, the preference for narrow inflation targets and fiscal austerity, the challenges of rampant globalization and rapid technological change and the inequalities they contribute to generate. This panel discussion will look at the role a full employment target can play in helping lift those who are left behind and how to set conditions for it in the current context of sweeping changes in the world of work. The underlying conviction is that a renewed, clear and measurable commitment to full employment is essential for the success of any set of policies aimed at achieving the SDGs.

Moderator: **Mr. Philipp Steinberg**, Director General for Economic Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany

Panellists:

Ms. Sukti Dasgupta, Chief, ILO Employment and Labour Market Policy Branch

Mr. Prakash Loungani, Assistant Director, Independent Evaluation Office of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Mr. Jan Kregel, Director of Research, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College

Q&As

18:00 Wrap up and conclusion