

ILO STATEMENT

TICAD 7 – Plenary 4 “Deepening Sustainable and Resilient Society”

- Global threats like climate change and shrinking natural resources are putting the survival of many African communities at serious risk. This can still be avoided if they – and we all – succeed in building resilience. Many recent climate-related events are unprecedented and continue to be so. For example, in Africa it is estimated that 75 to 250 million people by 2020 and 350 to 600 million by 2050 will be exposed to increased water scarcity due to drought and decreasing rainfall. Climate change could erase decades of international efforts in sustainable development, leaving people behind with life-threatening consequences.
- The latest ILO report on the impact of heat stress on productivity and decent work suggests that, in Africa, 2.3 % of the total number of working hours will be lost to heat stress in 2030 – the equivalent of more than 14 million full-time jobs. This in addition to other negative effects of climate change, such as changing rain patterns, natural disasters, water scarcity and biodiversity loss. The significant impact of climate change in Africa raises questions of social justice, especially given that the continent has contributed less than 1 per cent of the historical emissions that are responsible for climate change.
- Disaster Risk Reduction is critically important for the ILO’s mandate to promote decent work for all. Reducing vulnerability and exposure of people to fragility through interventions that promote employment and livelihoods has always been a priority of the ILO and one of the main strategies to reduce the impact of disasters.
- In line with its mandate for social justice, the ILO addresses the issues arising from climate change by promoting a just transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient development. It does so through the promotion of green and decent jobs that have the potential of making communities healthier, safer and more resilient, while bringing decent employment opportunities.
- This commitment is clearly reflected in the **Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience**, adopted by governments and social partners in 2017. The Recommendation represents a unique normative framework for the world of work in conflict and disaster settings. Underscoring that employment and decent work contribute to peace and social cohesion, recovery and resilience building,

Recommendation 205 focuses also on disaster risk reduction, highlighting the importance of prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

- The ILO is celebrating 100 years in 2019. Last June the centenary International Labour Conference re-emphasised the relevance of the ILO in the humanitarian, development and peace nexus by adopting the **ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work**. The declaration recognises that *“persistent poverty, inequalities and injustices, conflict, disasters and other humanitarian emergencies in many parts of the world constitute a threat to those advances and to securing shared prosperity and decent work for all.”*
- At the operational level, the flagship programme “Jobs for Peace and Resilience” translates the normative framework into tangible action. The Programme aims to reinforce the capacity of countries in fragile situations to prevent, resist, adapt to and recover from disasters and conflicts through job creation. This is done through the creation of green jobs and decent employment in agriculture or other sectors, building green infrastructures and community assets that contribute to resilience.
- This approach links climate change adaptation measures and just transition¹ with employment, income security and asset creation for the benefits of local communities vulnerable to natural hazards, heat stress and other consequences of climate change.
- Those most vulnerable to climate risk are those already economically and socially vulnerable. A **just transition for all** towards an environmentally sustainable economy needs to be well managed and contribute to the goals of decent work for all, social inclusion and the eradication of poverty. A just transition is not only about the transition of the workforce from fossil fuels to energy efficiency, it is equally about supporting developing countries and the most vulnerable ones (such as the rural poor or indigenous populations) to adapt, in line with the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR).
- Climate-smart investments, especially in agriculture, environment and transport, have the potential to not only create jobs and sustain livelihoods, but also to ensure an inclusive growth pathway, **thus supporting local economic, social and environmental development** in both rural and urban areas.

¹ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/documents/publication/wcms_432859.pdf