

Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

The ambition:

Bringing together member States, international financial institutions, social partners, civil society, and the private sector to help countries create 400 million decent jobs, including in the green, digital and care economies, and to extend social protection coverage to the 4 billion people currently excluded.

The challenges:

Increase resilience against future crises and support the necessary structural transformations (formalization, digitalization, green transition, etc.), ensuring a just transition for all. However, constraints need to be overcome to support countries' efforts to undertake the necessary policy and financing reforms to accelerate change and achieve their development goals. Bottlenecks include:

- Weak implementation capacities and weak public institutions, including social security and labour inspection, tax authorities and others.
- Insufficient awareness among policymakers, social partners, development and financial partners, UN agencies, and the public on the potential impacts and multiplier effects of well-designed and adequately financed social protection and employment policies and strategies.
- Constrained fiscal space and a lack of political will.
- The dominance of policy silos that prevent collaboration and synergies during diagnostic, design, and implementation of policy solutions.

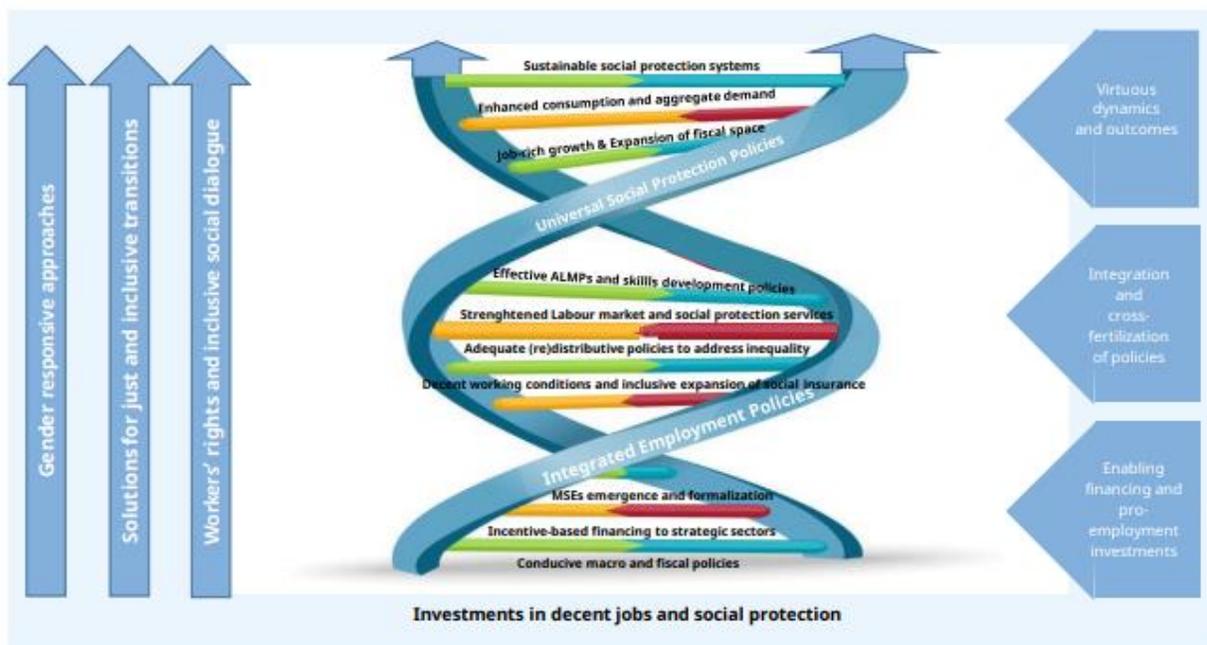
- Insufficient coordination and alignment of ministries, institutions, social partners but also development and financial actors, including power imbalances in the government (with line ministries in charge of labour and social welfare being less prioritised), and limited capacities to build a national consensus based on inclusive social dialogue that can restore trust and social cohesion.
- A dearth of timely and relevant data through underdeveloped labour market information systems and social security statistics.
- Hampering economic and labour market conditions:
 - High incidence of informal workers and enterprises
 - Persistently high unemployment and underemployment especially within vulnerable groups
 - Limited economic growth
 - Persistent gender gaps in terms of labour market participation and working conditions
 - Increasing inequalities within and between countries
 - Discrimination against vulnerable groups

The solutions:

- working in an integrated manner within a comprehensive framework and a consistent theory of change comprised of an integrated package of employment, social protection, and environmental policies with strong economic and social returns
- generating interest and political support
- securing financial backing
- providing the necessary technical support
- building national consensus and coherent support from development and financial partners

Such integrated and consensus-based packages will **combine short-term and longer-term objectives** with a view to:

- overcoming the health and socio-economic crisis, as well as the recent triple crisis (food, energy and finance crises) and achieving a “human-centred” recovery,
- addressing deep-seated structural constraints (e.g., poverty and vulnerability in rural areas, youth unemployment, informality, refugee crisis),
- reinforcing national institutions to face future crises, and
- supporting just transitions (e.g., to the formal economy, green and sustainable economies, and gender-sensitive and inclusive economies, etc.).



Potential entry points:

- **Significant investments in universal social protection** together with adaptations/incentives for hitherto excluded groups to join will reduce coverage gaps among the 4.1 billion people excluded, including workers in the informal economy, rural populations, migrant workers, and refugees, reduce poverty and secure a more sustainable and equitable financing mix for social protection (social security contributions and taxes).

- **Legal, administrative, tax and other incentives and improved capacity of institutions** to deliver efficiently and strengthened capacities of workers and economic units to enter the formal economy (including through recognition of prior learning), thereby providing access to decent working conditions and adequate social protection, leading to higher levels of productivity, and contributing to increasing the tax and social contribution base.
- **Investment in a digital economy** to create more decent work opportunities and broaden the contribution base.
- **Sufficient investments in the care sector** to facilitate the creation of decent jobs, the provision of quality services to older persons, children, and persons with disabilities, reduce the burden on family members, and facilitate the participation of women in the labour market.
- **Sufficient investments in green jobs**, combined with social protection and skills development to facilitate the transition to environmentally sustainable economies.
- **Access to scholarships and quality education, skills enhancement, internships, and apprenticeships** to enable young people to profit from decent employment opportunities with adequate social protection coverage to brighten their future perspectives.
- **Investment in lifelong learning systems** to enable **workers to re-skill and upskill** according to personal aspirations and labour market needs.
- **Securing adequate public social spending** in the context of debt restructuring negotiations with the IMF to support recovery and avoid social protests.

Implementation structure:

- Inter-agency Task Team: A time-bound Inter-Agency Task Team set up and chaired by the ILO that benefits from technical inputs from ILO and UN experts. Deliberations of the Task Team are intended to refine some of the policy approaches, including through the development of road maps on various thematic areas of Our Common Agenda, to be promoted under the Global Accelerator while also validating and endorsing final GA governance arrangements.

- High-ambition Coalition of Governments: The UN Secretary-General has called for the establishment of a body of high-level support for the Global Accelerator, headed by ministers from like-minded countries.
- Pathfinder countries: Countries in which the GA is in place or under development; originally 10 countries.
- The Technical Support Facility (TSF): At the heart of the Global Accelerator is the Technical Support Facility (TSF), which provides overall strategic and operational guidance for Accelerator activities, including activities at the country level. The TSF operates at the global, regional, and country levels to support UN Country Teams, led by the UN Resident Coordinators, to identify respective country needs and demands for social protection and employment interventions and to ensure the quality and conformity of the country proposals developed with the integrated policy approach of the Accelerator.