



## Governing Body

310th Session, Geneva, March 2011

GB.310/17/4

## FOR INFORMATION

SEVENTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

### Report of the Director-General

### Fourth Supplementary Report: Decent work and the multilateral system

#### Overview

##### Issues covered

This paper describes the progress of decent work in the multilateral system, principally within the United Nations (UN), and invites reflection on how to ensure it is fully embodied in future UN policy and operations.

##### Policy implications

The Governing Body discussion will inform policy in this area.

##### Legal implications

None.

##### Financial implications

None.

##### Action required

Submitted for information.

##### References to other Governing Body documents and ILO instruments

GB.283/7, GB.285/ESP/6/2, GB.286/ESP/4, GB.307/4(Rev.), GB.309/WP/SDG/1, GB.310/TC/1.

Global Jobs Pact.



***Contents***

	<i>Page</i>
I.      Towards a broader development agenda.....	1
1.     The MDGs and beyond.....	1
2.     Stronger policy focus on job-led growth, social protection and poverty alleviation ....	3
3.     Coherence in delivery – The United Nations Development Assistance Framework .....	5
4.     UN Women.....	6
5.     A greener economy .....	7
6.     South–South cooperation: Fresh impetus .....	8
II.     Forthcoming meetings.....	9
1.     Fourth United Nations Conference for the Least Developed Countries (Istanbul, 9–13 May 2011).....	9
2.     United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 – Rio de Janeiro, 2012).....	9



## I. Towards a broader development agenda

1. Since the World Summit for Social Development of 1995, the concept of decent work has received formal expression in 1999 and repeated endorsement at all levels. It has been translated into development goals and initiatives, and significantly informed the international development debate, especially during the recent economic and financial crisis. Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), world summits and major regional and other international bodies have reaffirmed the goals of decent work, and during the crisis they were invoked widely in policy responses. As a result of those commitments, among other things, decent work concerns have found a more visible place in the policies and operations of the UN agencies, funds and programmes.
2. This paper focuses on the main areas in which decent work can be further advanced in the UN system. It sets such progress in the context of the current debate on the future of development policy in the wake of the High-Level Plenary Meeting (HLPM) of the General Assembly at the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2010. The paper sets out how the Office and the Organization as a whole can best structure its policies and activities so as to promote the aims of system-wide coherence and at the same time maximize the impact of the ILO's concerns on balanced social and economic development.
3. In accordance with the Governing Body's request for more focused documents, this paper does not give full details of the outcomes of all meetings or of the work of all UN bodies. It may also be recalled that a paper on policy coherence for strong, sustainable and balanced growth was discussed at the November session of the Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization.<sup>1</sup> Since that paper focused to a great extent on ILO work with the G20 and the Bretton Woods institutions, the current report deals in more detail with ILO engagement in the UN system. More comprehensive details are available on the ILO website.<sup>2</sup>

### 1. The MDGs and beyond

4. The September 2010 UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals discussed how to expedite progress to achieve the MDGs by 2015.<sup>3</sup> The General Assembly<sup>4</sup> acknowledged that despite important setbacks, significant progress had been made in many areas, but progress had been slow in reaching full and productive employment and decent work for all, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women, and advances were

<sup>1</sup> GB.309/WP/SDG/1.

<sup>2</sup> [www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/pardev/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/pardev/index.htm).

<sup>3</sup> The High-Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly discussed a report by the Secretary-General, the annual *Millennium Development Goals Report 2010* (New York, UNDESA, 2010), and the *MDG Gap Task Force Report 2010: The global partnership for development at a critical juncture* (New York, UNDESA, 2010).

<sup>4</sup> A/RES/65/1: *Keeping the promise: United to achieve the Millennium Development Goals* (19 October 2010).

threatened by high food prices and the international financial and economic crisis. Without additional efforts, several of the MDGs were likely to be missed in many countries.<sup>5</sup>

5. The UN Summit adopted a concrete action agenda<sup>6</sup> to achieve the eight anti-poverty goals by 2015 and entered into major new commitments on women's and children's health and other initiatives against poverty, hunger and disease. It expressed support for the Global Jobs Pact;<sup>7</sup> and emphasized the need to involve employers' and workers' organizations in efforts to pursue job-intensive, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development in order to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all, and to promote small and medium-sized enterprises.<sup>8</sup> Major new commitments and initiatives were announced to accelerate MDG progress in support of the global action plan by governments, international organizations and partners, and business representatives.<sup>9</sup> The general aim is to maximize efforts and accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015, involving an MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF)<sup>10</sup> and further work on MDG 8 (a global partnership for development) through the MDG Gap Task Force, in which the ILO is now participating.
6. In the wake of the Summit, the international community is already beginning reflection on the post-2015 development model. Many regard the MDG framework as relevant but also limited, based on a "top-down" approach to needs that is increasingly out of keeping with more recent thinking on the development partnership between donors and beneficiaries, and failing to address the underlying economic issues that can make possible more equitable and inclusive growth. Practitioners and experts advocate broader approaches that involve not only new techniques for poverty eradication, such as cash transfer programmes and the social protection floor, but also new strategies for the transformation of economies so as to maximize their distributive effect through decent work programmes and innovative forms of development financing. As the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) concluded in October 2010 discussing the outcome of the MDG Summit,<sup>11</sup> the need now is to cut across the sectoral approach of the MDGs and move towards more integrated "system-wide" policy thinking.
7. A discussion on the issue of globalization and policy coherence across the multilateral system had been taking place at the CEB High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) since 2009. In October 2010 the HLCP agreed that the Chairperson should convene a technical brainstorming to deepen that discussion. The technical brainstorming meeting on the theme "Moving towards a fairer, greener and sustainable globalization: Issues and policy options for coherence across the multilateral system" was held at the ILO Office in Santiago, Chile in January 2011, involving a small group of highly qualified thinkers and

<sup>5</sup> ibid., particularly paras 5, 12, 21 and 22.

<sup>6</sup> ibid., para. 36 ff.

<sup>7</sup> ibid., para. 48.

<sup>8</sup> ibid., para. 70.

<sup>9</sup> For a full list of all financial commitments, see the UN press release at [www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010](http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010). For more detailed descriptions of the relevance of decent work to each MDG, see the ILO website.

<sup>10</sup> UNDP: *Unlocking progress: MDG acceleration on the road to 2015* (New York, 2010), available at [www.undp.org/mdg/acceleration.shtml](http://www.undp.org/mdg/acceleration.shtml).

<sup>11</sup> CEB/2010/6: *Report of the High-level Committee on Programmes on its twentieth session*, para. 7.

policy-making officials from the multilateral system and from academia. The brainstorming included a special session with the five executive secretaries of the UN Regional Commissions, whose presentations focused on the importance of taking into account the regional perspective in the search for policy coherence across the multilateral system. A decision was taken to set up an ad hoc reflection group under the HLCM with the task of shaping proposals to strengthen policy leadership and coordination across the multilateral system in dealing with the economic, social and environmental implications of globalization. Proposals will be submitted to the CEB for further interagency analysis and consideration as a contribution to strengthen the work of the multilateral system in the lead-up to various intergovernmental processes, including Rio+20.

8. The quest for a more comprehensive development model – that is, one not restricted to extreme poverty eradication and basic social services – should indeed reflect efforts to reshape globalization and redress its adverse effects, most notably on inequality. It should deal effectively with emerging challenges such as climate change, and should also be defined in terms of achieving universal access in all countries to a minimum set of essential services – social protection, decent work, health and education, and sustainable energy.<sup>12</sup> Such a model requires an efficient and coordinated international effort, with UN system-wide policy coherence across many fronts, ranging from poverty reduction to climate adaptation. It will be essential for the ILO to ensure that decent work and productive employment are fully embodied in it.

## **2. Stronger policy focus on job-led growth, social protection and poverty alleviation**

9. Decent work has figured consistently on the agenda of ECOSOC. In 2010, ECOSOC reviewed national and international support for the implementation of the Global Jobs Pact on the basis of a report prepared for the UN by the ILO.<sup>13</sup> It underlined how key elements of the policies that countries adopted in response to the economic and financial crisis reflected the approach of the Pact, and highlighted the efforts of the multilateral system to reorient its technical and financial assistance to address the employment and social protection needs of the most vulnerable countries and populations.<sup>14</sup>
10. ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review discussed as its main theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women". The council<sup>15</sup> reiterated its support for the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and reaffirmed that gender equality, the empowerment of women, women's full enjoyment of human rights and the eradication of poverty are essential to economic and social development, including the achievement of all of the MDGs. ECOSOC's Development Cooperation Forum focused on promoting greater coherence; accountable and transparent development cooperation; the role of various forms of cooperation including South-South and triangular cooperation; the impact of multiple crises; and achieving the MDGs by 2015.

<sup>12</sup> See CEB/2010/HLCM-XX/CRP.1: *The practical reality of globalization*, discussion paper by the HLCM Vice-Chairperson (2010).

<sup>13</sup> UN: *Recovering from the crisis: A Global Jobs Pact*, Report of the Secretary-General, E/2010/64 (New York, 2010).

<sup>14</sup> ECOSOC: *Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: A Global Jobs Pact*, Resolution E/2010/25 (2010).

<sup>15</sup> ECOSOC: Ministerial Declaration – 2010 High-level Segment (June–July 2010).

11. In July 2011, ECOSOC will discuss “implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education” and “current national and global trends and challenges and their impact on education”, together with a further report on the ILO Global Jobs Pact.
12. The Social Protection Floor (SPF) Initiative <sup>16</sup> is one of nine initiatives <sup>17</sup> launched by the CEB in response to the international financial and economic crisis, and supports countries in their efforts to provide access to essential social services and social transfers in the areas of health, water and sanitation, education, food, housing, life and asset-saving information. It is hence of central relevance to efforts to eradicate poverty. Under the ILO’s leadership, in collaboration with WHO and with strong UNICEF involvement, the initiative has developed structures for building partnerships at the global, regional and national levels as well as through South–South cooperation to ensure policy coherence between all partners collaborating in the initiative. This includes a high-level political advisory group <sup>18</sup> chaired by former President of Chile and now Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, and an interagency working group on data and statistics. During the second SPF Initiative interagency meeting in November 2010, hosted at the ILO during the Global South–South Development Expo, a joint UN workplan for 2011 was established detailing joint activities at global, regional and country levels.
13. The SPF Initiative is an ambitious programme with opportunities to develop and test new working methods to ensure policy and operational coherence across the UN system in one critical area. The lessons learned from its operation can usefully inform the post-2015 debate.
14. Poverty remains the central issue of development but there is growing recognition that productive employment and decent work are central to poverty eradication. The Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty has decent work as its theme. In a recent resolution <sup>19</sup> the General Assembly reaffirmed the goals of the Second Decade, and emphasized the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the UN development agenda. The Decade offers an opportunity to make innovative approaches to raising awareness of the relevance of decent work and productive employment to poverty eradication with a view to shaping opinion and action on this key linkage in the development nexus.
15. Within the framework of the Second Decade and the CEB Joint Crisis Initiative on the Global Jobs Pact, an interagency technical meeting on “Building employment and decent work into sustainable recovery and development – The UN contribution” was held at the ILO International Training Centre in Turin from 29 November to 1 December 2010. The meeting, organized by the ILO and the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA) with the support of the ILO–Norway Cooperation Agreement on policy coherence for growth, employment and decent work, showed that, if the ILO has developed its Global Jobs Pact, most other UN agencies have taken steps to respond to countries’ demand for assistance in addressing labour market vulnerabilities.

<sup>16</sup> See the Global Extension of Social Security website, at [www.socialsecurityextension.org/gimi/gess](http://www.socialsecurityextension.org/gimi/gess).

<sup>17</sup> CEB: “Global financial and economic crisis – Joint crisis initiatives (JCIs)”, available at [www.unsceab.org/ceb/priorities/global-financial-crisis](http://www.unsceab.org/ceb/priorities/global-financial-crisis); see also GB.307/4(Rev.).

<sup>18</sup> Social Protection Floor Advisory Group, see [www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/spfag/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/spfag/index.htm).

<sup>19</sup> A/RES/64/216.

The FAO and IFAD are strongly engaging in promoting employment and decent work in rural areas and the ILO and FAO have agreed to work together on promoting decent work in rural areas in Latin America. UNCTAD subscribes to the view that employment is not a residual result of economic growth but requires coherent macroeconomic policies, structural industrial change and a distinctive range of labour market policies and institutions. UNICEF is stimulating a broad debate on the macroeconomic foundations of inclusive recovery. UNFPA is researching the linkages between population dynamics, employment creation, food security and poverty, and is about to launch population situation analyses at country level to feed into development strategies and UNDAF. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is measuring employment in the tourism industries. UNESCO is working on a holistic approach to education and technical and vocational education and training. UNDP is active in many areas including private sector development, youth employment and public employment programmes, and is looking at the employment dimension of each of the MDGs.

- 16.** Those efforts are very encouraging. The issue is to make sure that the specialized knowledge of each agency is used to develop collective policy wisdom, comprehensive data collection and research that is practical and actionable. The meeting in Turin produced a number of ideas for collaboration in quality research, knowledge sharing, advocacy and policy dialogue.<sup>20</sup>

### **3. Coherence in delivery – The United Nations Development Assistance Framework**

- 17.** In operational terms efforts continue to ensure maximum efficiency of United Nations country-level activities through the One UN and UNCT initiatives. The workplan of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), which oversees UN reform processes, has as its priorities to contribute with government leadership to accelerating achievement of the MDGs and Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADG), especially in countries furthest from reaching their national targets.<sup>21</sup>
- 18.** As of September 2010, the work of the UNDG<sup>22</sup> has been simplified, with a reduction from some 30 to seven task teams and mechanisms, and a reduction from five to two standing working groups and two networks. In particular, the ILO will, in conjunction with UNICEF, convene a new UNDAF programming network to function as a virtual team to support, as necessary, the needs of the UNDG, Regional UNDG Teams and UNCTs with regard to the UNDAF roll-out process, including any normative issues, and the implementation of UNDG's support plan approved in 2010. It will serve as a knowledge hub for best practices in the field and ensure the application of existing instruments and guidance. Strong ILO involvement in the programming network will support the continuous mainstreaming of the Decent Work Agenda.
- 19.** In 2010 the Office analysed the degree to which the Decent Work Agenda has been reflected in all 102 active UNDAFs. It found that decent work and its principles had been identified as priorities in three-quarters of the countries: 28 UNDAFs reflect all four pillars of the Agenda, and nearly three-quarters of all UNDAFs reflect at least three pillars. One third of the UNDAFs make an explicit reference to decent work and such concepts as employment promotion, social protection, gender equality, and children's rights, with

<sup>20</sup> See [www.ilo.org/integration/events/events/lang--en/WCMS\\_150552/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/integration/events/events/lang--en/WCMS_150552/index.htm).

<sup>21</sup> *UNDG Work Plan for 2010–11*, available at <http://portal.unesco.org>.

<sup>22</sup> See [www.undg.org](http://www.undg.org).

particular focus on child labour, are integrated in most of them. The Decent Work Agenda was partially included in many other countries. These are important steps, influencing programming of activities and allocation of resources towards ILO issues and opening up opportunities for ILO constituents.

20. The CEB *Toolkit for mainstreaming employment and decent work*<sup>23</sup> has been used to promote the mainstreaming of decent work in the preparation of UNDAFs in Argentina, Indonesia and Uruguay, and similar processes have begun in Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Syrian Arab Republic. It has also been used in Indonesia, Laos People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam to promote decent work in national policies and programmes. In the United Republic of Tanzania the CEB *Toolkit* is being adapted for use by sectoral ministries in order to improve the decent work and employment outcomes of national policies and programmes. A guidance note is being prepared collecting lessons learnt from this experience and providing suggestions to ILO regional and national staff on how to use the CEB *Toolkit* at the country level.
21. Training of UN officials and constituents has continued. The CEB *Toolkit* was introduced to workers and employers in Dakar in April 2010 and in Lima in August 2010 in the context of seminars promoting the participation of constituents in the preparation of future UNDAFs.<sup>24</sup> A workshop was also held for officials of UN agencies from Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima in August 2010.

#### 4. UN Women

22. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to be known as UN Women, was created by the General Assembly in July 2010.<sup>25</sup> It consolidates the mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, with the additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, to function as a secretariat, and to carry out operational activities at the country level. Ms Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, was appointed Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women in September 2010.
23. UN Women will focus on seven areas of activity: violence against women; peace and security; leadership and participation; economic empowerment; national planning and budgeting; human rights (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women); and the pursuit of the MDGs.
24. The ILO has taken a leading role in facilitating exchanges of view between the agencies and the new entity. In November 2010, the ILO hosted an informal meeting for the Executive Director of UN Women to enable her to meet representatives of several Geneva-

<sup>23</sup> Available at <http://cebtoolkit.ilo.org>.

<sup>24</sup> For further aspects of capacity building, see GB.310/TC/1.

<sup>25</sup> See [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org).

based international agencies,<sup>26</sup> share the immediate plans for the work of UN Women, and learn about the agencies' mandates and key activities on gender equality.

## 5. A greener economy

- 25.** The issue of climate change is a key area in which policy coherence is essential to the success of international efforts. The CEB is playing a leading role in promoting such policy coherence.<sup>27</sup> The HLCF agreed in 2010 to establish, under the CEB Climate Change Action Framework, a separate focus area on the social dimensions of climate change. Currently 14 UN agencies,<sup>28</sup> the World Bank and the International Organization for Migration are involved. The three objectives of the task team are: (i) to develop a comprehensive and inclusive conceptual framework of the social dimensions of climate change; (ii) to advocate for the inclusion of the multidimensional nature of climate change, beyond the environmental impact in related policies and measures; and (iii) to identify ways in which the UN system can more effectively support Member States to ensure that climate-related policies and measures simultaneously provide better living conditions for society as a whole.
- 26.** The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP16/CMP6) in Cancun, Mexico (29 November–10 December 2010) involved two tracks of negotiations: global between all parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (Long-term Cooperative Action – LCA) (UNFCCC); and a separate set of negotiations to decide on further commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. The ILO organized a number of side events during the meeting on various aspects of the green economy.<sup>29</sup> The Conference adopted the Cancun Agreement, which will form the basis of next year's negotiations on LCA, and contains specific references to decent work. In particular, it states that the Conference "Realizes that addressing climate change requires a paradigm shift towards building a low-carbon society that offers substantial opportunities and ensures continued high growth and sustainable development, based on innovative technologies and more sustainable production and consumption and lifestyles, while ensuring a just transition of the workforce that creates decent work and quality jobs,"<sup>30</sup> and recognizes "the importance of avoiding or minimizing negative impacts of response measures on social and economic sectors, promoting a just transition of the workforce, the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities and strategies and contributing to building new capacity for both production and service-related jobs in all sectors, promoting economic growth and sustainable development".<sup>31</sup>
- 27.** Considerable efforts will hence be needed to give concrete expression to the concept of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work, and in particular to

<sup>26</sup> IOM, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UNECE, WHO and WIPO.

<sup>27</sup> See [www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climate-change](http://www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climate-change).

<sup>28</sup> ILO, WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, OHCHR, UN Women, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, ITU, UNDESA, UN-Habitat and WFP.

<sup>29</sup> See ILO website, [www.ilo.org/empent](http://www.ilo.org/empent).

<sup>30</sup> Cancun Agreement: Outcome of the Ad hoc Working Group on long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, section I (A shared vision for long-term cooperative action), para. 10, available at [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop\\_16/application/pdf/cop16\\_lca.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_16/application/pdf/cop16_lca.pdf).

<sup>31</sup> ibid., section III (Enhanced action on mitigation) E, Preamble (Economic and social consequences of response measures).

identify entry points in the Agreement and other relevant decisions taken at COP16 to enhance the social and labour dimensions of climate adaptation.

## 6. South–South cooperation: Fresh impetus

- 28. South–South cooperation has been a strategic partnership development tool for several decades, and the past few years have seen a revival of the concept. It was highlighted in the Accra Agenda for Action on Aid Effectiveness<sup>32</sup> and is frequently referenced in intergovernmental consultations as a complement to the traditional North–South dynamic. The Global South–South Development Expo 2010 (GSSD Expo)<sup>33</sup> is a multilateral event called by the United Nations General Assembly. The 2010 Expo was jointly hosted at ILO headquarters by the ILO and the UNDP Special Unit for South–South Cooperation. It aimed to present and discuss critical issues faced in the light of the challenges presented by globalization and the financial crisis. Its main theme was social protection and decent work. The UN South–South Unit committed to a 1 million dollar contribution for projects in this field. More than 600 delegates from 150 countries took part.
- 29. The Expo enabled a wide range of actors to spotlight, showcase and promote innovative solutions to poverty challenges, designed by developing countries themselves. It also discussed critical issues that all societies, and especially countries of the South, are facing, such as social protection and decent work, food security, climate change and environment, HIV/AIDS, global health and education. Its high-level segment saw the launch of UNDP's *Human Development Report 2010*,<sup>34</sup> a meeting of the Directors-General of development cooperation agencies on enhancing capacity for knowledge management in South–South and triangular cooperation, a meeting on legal empowerment of the poor, and an India–Brazil–South Africa (IBSA) panel.
- 30. Two declarations of intent were signed during the Expo: an agreement between IBSA on South–South Cooperation with the ILO, which commits these countries to support the creation of a South–South Cooperation Programme in the ILO, and a Declaration of Intent between Brazil and the ILO on the provision of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations.<sup>35</sup>
- 31. The ILO has attached importance to developing the concept and modalities of South–South cooperation particularly in view of its potential for increasing the sharing of knowledge on successful initiatives, disseminating the Decent Work Agenda, and as a useful complement to conventional forms of development cooperation. South–South cooperation will be mainstreamed into ILO programmes more systematically, following successful initiatives undertaken by the Office, under the leadership of countries from the South. The current strategy for South–South and triangular cooperation in the ILO focuses on three priority areas: the first is institutional; the second is externally oriented and focuses on mobilizing resources for technical cooperation and partnership building with other international organizations and UN agencies; the third aims at strengthening support and building the capacity of ILO constituents for South–South cooperation.

<sup>32</sup> Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Accra, Ghana, 2–4 September 2008 (HLF 3); see [www.accralhf.net](http://www.accralhf.net); <http://siteresources.worldbank.org>.

<sup>33</sup> See [www.southsouthexpo.org](http://www.southsouthexpo.org).

<sup>34</sup> UNDP: *Human Development Report 2010: The real wealth of nations: Pathways to human development* (New York, 2010).

<sup>35</sup> A report on the GSSD Expo is also available on the ILO website.

## II. Forthcoming meetings

### 1. Fourth United Nations Conference for the Least Developed Countries (Istanbul, 9–13 May 2011)

- 32.** The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) aims to assess the results of the ten-year Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Brussels in 2001;<sup>36</sup> and to adopt new measures and strategies for the sustainable development of the LDCs into the next decade. Preparations for the Conference are in progress, with activities at national, regional and global levels. It is an inclusive process involving the participation of all stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector. The ILO has participated in a number of preparatory events for LDC-IV.
- 33.** The ILO is contributing a paper on growth, employment and decent work in the LDCs, diagnosing weaknesses and strengths in the pattern of growth of LDCs, with policy implications for remedial measures in key areas including macroeconomic policy regimes; trade regimes; social protection regimes; sectoral growth and employment; the role of industrial policy; and MDG accelerated growth and employment strategies.
- 34.** Representatives of the ILO, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNWTO and WTO met in Geneva in November and agreed to establish a permanent Steering Committee on Sustainable Tourism for Development for LDCs, with the aim of (a) securing a thematic roundtable on tourism at LDC-IV; (b) the preparation of a paragraph on tourism to be included in the LDC-IV outcome document; (c) the development and coordination of a tourism toolkit as a core deliverable at LDC-IV; and (d) joint coordination of a tourism forum for LDCs for the private sector, and the creation of an e-network of steering committee partners to facilitate communications and coordination.

### 2. United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 – Rio de Janeiro, 2012)

- 35.** The UN Conference on Sustainable Development<sup>37</sup> will mark 20 years since the landmark Earth Summit from which the UNFCCC and other initiatives were born, and ten years since the review of that Conference's outcomes in Johannesburg.<sup>38</sup> The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for the conference in December 2009<sup>39</sup> and a preparatory committee has been established. The ILO has participated in its meetings.
- 36.** The objectives of Rio+20 are to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development, assess progress and gaps in the implementation of agreed commitments, and address new and emerging challenges. The main themes will include the green economy

<sup>36</sup> See GB.283/7.

<sup>37</sup> See [www.uncsd2012.org](http://www.uncsd2012.org).

<sup>38</sup> GB.285/ESP/6/2 and GB.286/ESP/4.

<sup>39</sup> A/RES/64/236.

within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

- 37.** The ILO is working on the employment and social dimensions of sustainable development under both of these themes, and on the linkages between the social, environmental and economic pillars of sustainable development. The work of the ILO's Green Jobs Programme, and of the joint ILO–UNEP–ITUC–IOE Green Jobs Initiative will be invaluable in its involvement in Rio+20. The ILO has compiled its views on the issues involved in a questionnaire coordinated by UNDESA.<sup>40</sup>
- 38.** The synthesis report<sup>41</sup> prepared for the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee compiles the inputs from Member States, civil society (major groups) and UN agencies, and includes several references to labour-related issues relevant to the ILO. In particular, it recognizes:
- that policies and measures to promote a green economy in the framework of sustainable development will create new green jobs (improved energy, water and other resources efficiency, clean energy production, etc.), and that retraining programmes for workers are necessary as part of the transition to a low-carbon sustainable economy;
  - that decent work and full productive employment, together with other social policies such as social protection, should be further promoted to ensure a fair social transition to a green economy; and
  - that it is essential to ensure a just transition for the workforce to achieve a sustainable economy.
- 39.** The Preparatory Committee held a meeting in January 2010 to refine the scope of the agenda items. Attention was given to implementing mechanisms and the need for good examples of workable solutions. Green jobs were perceived by several speakers as the bridge between the two agenda items by linking to the third, social pillar of sustainable development. Negotiations will continue in March.
- 40.** The Governing Body may wish to request the Director-General to take account of its discussions in preparing the next steps of the ILO's strategy to ensure the mainstreaming of decent work in multilateral development efforts.

Geneva, 23 February 2011

*Submitted for information*

<sup>40</sup> Available at [www.uncsd2012.org/files/responses-un-system/Questionnaire-Email-submission-%20ILO.pdf](http://www.uncsd2012.org/files/responses-un-system/Questionnaire-Email-submission-%20ILO.pdf).

<sup>41</sup> *Synthesis Report on best practices and lessons learned on the objectives and themes of the Conference* (A/CONF.216/PC/8), available at [www.uncsd2012.org/files/precom/Synthesis-Report-website-version.pdf](http://www.uncsd2012.org/files/precom/Synthesis-Report-website-version.pdf).