



## Governing Body

329th Session, Geneva, 9–24 March 2017

GB.329/INS/7

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 17 February 2017

Original: English

### SEVENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

## The ILO and the United Nations Development System

#### Purpose of the document

At its 328th Session the Governing Body requested the Director-General to report to the March 2017 Governing Body session on the outcome of the United Nations (UN) discussions on a new Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) resolution and other 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) implementation activities. This paper provides an update of the ILO's work within the context of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) with emphasis on the implications of the UN General Assembly's recently adopted QCPR resolution. It also presents an update of ILO support to tripartite constituents in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and recent developments concerning selected multi-stakeholder partnerships (see draft decision at paragraph 27).

**Relevant strategic objective:** All.

**Main relevant outcome/cross-cutting policy driver:** Enabling outcome A: Effective advocacy for decent work.

**Policy implications:** Yes.

**Legal implications:** None.

**Financial implications:** None.

**Follow-up action required:** No.

**Author unit:** Multilateral Cooperation Department (MULTILATERALS).

**Related documents:** GB.329/POL/5; GB.329/HL/1; GB.329/INS/3/1



## I. Background

1. The ILO Governing Body has been regularly informed of the ILO's engagement with the United Nations (UN) as part of the UN Development System (UNDS) and apprised of the UN's efforts to improve system-wide coherence as well as its policy and financial implications.<sup>1</sup> It has also endorsed the Office's efforts to ensure that decent work is recognized as a key element of sustainable development and supported its pursuit of multi-stakeholder partnerships with a view to assisting countries achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular focus on SDG 8 on sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.<sup>2</sup> ILO cooperation with the UN brings a number of benefits, including access to extra-budgetary funding channelled through the UN and the opening of important pathways to promote ILO principles, standards and policy orientations among other UN agencies, national governments and social partners.
2. The policies of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly for the UNDS are reviewed every four years in the context of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR). The process allows the General Assembly to evaluate the UN's effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact in helping programme countries meet their sustainable development needs. The resulting General Assembly resolution guides the UNDS operational activities for development, and outlines how the system's entities should work together for the subsequent four years.
3. The provisions of the QCPR resolution are binding for UN entities that report to the General Assembly but not for specialized agencies like the ILO that have independent governance structures. However, as a member of the UN system the ILO is committed to contributing, within its mandate, to the aims and objectives of the resolution.
4. The new QCPR resolution adopted in December 2016 was the first in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).<sup>3</sup> The Office participated in the preparations for the intergovernmental negotiations through its active engagement in the mechanisms of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). The UN Development Group (UNDG) and its working groups provided key support and inputs to the 18-month intergovernmental ECOSOC dialogue on the longer term positioning of the UNDS, which was convened from December 2014 to June 2016 to identify potential reforms of the system in the areas of functions, funding, governance, partnerships, organizational arrangements and capacity in order to make it fit for purpose for assisting member States to reach the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

### A more strategic approach

5. One of the key aims of UN member States coming out of the ECOSOC dialogue was to adopt a more strategic and streamlined QCPR resolution that puts greater focus on better coordinated and more accountable and efficient UNDS support to countries, a goal that was largely achieved. The resolution calls on UNDS entities, within their respective mandates, to mainstream the SDGs in their strategic planning documents at all levels and to reflect their

<sup>1</sup> GB.317/PFA/4; GB.317/PV; GB.320/PFA/4.

<sup>2</sup> GB.328/INS/7; GB.328/PV/Draft; GB.325/INS/6; GB.325/PV.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/243 (2016): Link to QCPR resolution on ECOSOC website (<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/oas-qcpr>).

contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in their strategic plans in close consultation with, and for presentation to, their respective governing bodies. It also requests the UNDS to strengthen results-based management and to focus more on long-term development outcomes. The Office is already largely in step with these provisions by proposing a Programme and Budget for 2018–19 with an improved results framework that identifies clear links between the ILO’s outcomes and specific SDG targets.

6. Member States emphasized that there is no “one size fits all” for development and that the UNDS must be flexible in its operational activities for development at the country level and pursue full alignment with national development plans and strategies to strengthen national ownership and leadership while ensuring the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders at the national level. They further recommended that the physical presence of UNDS entities should align with national needs and requested that the UNDS adopt flexible, cost-effective and collaborative models for field presence, as appropriate. This could open up new and innovative ways to operate in different categories of countries and to better include non-resident agencies, which the Office and ILO constituents should be prepared to fully explore.
7. Capacity building features prominently in the resolution, which calls on UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies to improve support to strengthening national capacities to achieve country-level development results with a view to ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions. It highlights the importance of UNDS functions in providing normative support and evidence-based, and where appropriate, integrated policy advice; in supporting national institutions to increase planning, management and evaluation capacities, as well as statistical capacities; in assisting governments in leveraging partnerships; and in supporting North–South, South–South and triangular regional and international cooperation. This aligns well with the ILO resolution on Advancing Social Justice through Decent Work, adopted by the International Labour Conference (ILC) at its 105th Session in June 2016, which calls upon the Office to “further strengthen the institutional capacity of member States and representative organizations of employers and workers according to their needs, to pursue relevant, effective and coherent social policy for decent work and sustainable development”.<sup>4</sup>
8. The resolution highlights additional areas for the system to consider in its operational activities for development. These include the continued promotion of women’s empowerment and gender equality and respect for human rights, including the right to development and recognition that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. The resolution also recognizes the complementarity between development, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action, and the role of sustainable development in mitigating the drivers of conflict, humanitarian crisis and complex emergencies. In this regard, it calls upon the entities of the UNDS to enhance coordination with humanitarian assistance and peace-building efforts at the national level in countries facing humanitarian emergencies and in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

## Funding issues

9. The continuing and accelerated decline in core resources to system entities during recent years remains a great concern. The resolution urges donor countries and other contributors to maintain and increase their core contributions to the UNDS and to do so on a multi-year basis and in a predictable manner. It also urges member States and other contributors to make non-core contributions more flexible and aligned with UN Development Assistance

<sup>4</sup> See para. 15.4(a) of the Resolution.

Frameworks (UNDAFs) or equivalent planning frameworks<sup>5</sup> as well as with the strategic plans of the UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and to streamline and harmonize requirements related to reporting, monitoring and evaluation. Greater priority on pooled, thematic and joint funding mechanisms complementing agency-specific funds is highlighted, as is the growing importance of leveraging traditional funding with innovative sources of financing as set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## Improving the functioning of the UNDS at country level

10. The resolution builds on the country-level reforms begun ten years ago to encourage UN agencies as members of UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to work in close coordination under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator and to promote the “Delivering as One” approach in countries wishing to adopt it. With a view to more integrated action under the 2030 Agenda, it requests the UNCTs to improve their focus on results and the division of labour at the country level, to use the UNDAF guidance and, where appropriate, the UNDG Standard Operating Procedures and Business Operations Strategies, and to present annual results reports to the programme country governments, as well as to strengthen joint programming processes and joint support for capacity building on data collection. UNDS entities are encouraged to further simplify and harmonize agency-specific programming instruments, business practices, processes and reporting in alignment with UNDAFs. The ILO has already aligned its Strategic Plan for 2018–21 with the QCPR cycle, and will continue to explore opportunities to harmonize business practices with other UNDS entities at the country level, where appropriate.
11. Further enhancements of the Resident Coordinator system, administered by the UNDP, are foreseen in order to ensure that Resident Coordinators have sufficient leadership, prerogative, impartiality, management tools, experience and skills sets to fulfil their functions. To this end, Resident Coordinators will be empowered to make final decisions on strategic objectives in the UNDAF in consultation with governments, increase common resource mobilization and contribute to the assessments of UNCT members. The need for full implementation of the functional firewall between the functions of the Resident Coordinator and the UNDP Resident Representative<sup>6</sup> to reduce potential for real or perceived conflict of interest is also to be addressed. UNCT members will be required to report to the Resident Coordinator in relation to the UNDAF without prejudice to the accountability of the UNCT entities to their respective headquarters.
12. Since 2014, some of the costs of operating the resident coordinator system have been shared among UNDS entities according to a formula agreed by the UNDG that takes into account individual agencies’ use of the system. The ILO Governing Body approved the Office’s participation in this arrangement in March 2013 and the first financial contribution of US\$3.8 million for 2014–15 in March 2014.<sup>7</sup> The ILO’s contribution rose to \$4.3 million for 2016–17. The QCPR resolution foresees the continuation of the cost-sharing arrangement and requests the UN Secretary-General to ensure that UNDS entities report to their respective executive boards on their use of the resident coordinator system and their contribution to the cost-sharing mechanism.

<sup>5</sup> UN country planning frameworks may have alternative names. In this document these are included in references to “UNDAFs”.

<sup>6</sup> In many countries the Resident Coordinator also serves as the UNDP Resident Representative.

<sup>7</sup> GB.317/PFA/4; GB.317/PV; GB.320/PFA/4; GB.320/PV.

## Decisions deferred to later in 2017

13. While the resolution provides substantial and detailed guidance on policy orientations and operational modalities for development cooperation, potential reforms in several key areas were deferred to 2017. During the course of the year, the Secretary-General has been asked to prepare additional proposals for review by ECOSOC on the following:
- (1) a “system-wide outline” of the functions and capacities of individual UN entities with recommendations for reducing duplication and overlaps and a follow-up system-wide strategic document to be prepared by heads of agencies under the leadership of the Secretary-General on concrete action including options for aligning funding modalities with the functions of the UNDS;
  - (2) further improvements to the resident coordinator system for General Assembly action with a view to ensuring sufficient leadership, prerogative over the UNCT, impartiality, independence, funding and a proper dispute resolution mechanism; and
  - (3) options for General Assembly action on improving the governance of the system through increasing the transparency, accountability and overall coordination of the entities of the UNDS and clarifying the roles of ECOSOC and the CEB in this regard.

## II. Support to countries to implement the 2030 Agenda

14. In this second year of the SDG era, the 2030 Agenda continues to take concrete shape at the country level. An array of integrated multi-stakeholder national planning approaches are being applied, reflecting the Agenda’s principles of universality and country ownership. Some 100 countries have already requested assistance from UNCTs with their national sustainable development processes,<sup>8</sup> primarily in the areas of mainstreaming SDGs into national development plans, and general orientations on the Global Indicator Framework (GIF) to monitor SDGs and SDG measuring and reporting. A total of 40 countries (up from 22 in 2016) representing all income and development levels will provide voluntary national reviews of their SDG planning and implementation progress and challenges to the 2017 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York (10–19 July).
15. In the national efforts to plan for and implement the 2030 Agenda, some early trends and innovations can be observed. Countries are establishing or re-invigorating cross-ministerial coordinating committees to guide national SDG processes and many are undertaking mapping and status assessment exercises, including on data production and availability for the SDG indicator framework. The UNDG MAPS<sup>9</sup> and UNDAF processes have been playing a central role in countries with UN programmes. UNCTs have also been aligning UNDAFs to the SDGs. In this regard, it is interesting to note that all 21 of the UNDAFs with results mapped to the SDGs that started implementation in 2016 linked an outcome theme to SDG 8, which indicates that UNCTs see a significant contribution of their programmes to achievement of this goal.<sup>10</sup> This underscores both the opportunities and challenges for the

<sup>8</sup> UNDG: *Together Possible: Gearing up for the 2030 Agenda. 2015 Results of UNDG Coordination.*

<sup>9</sup> The UNDG Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) is a shared resource package for the UNCTs’ substantive engagement with governments and partners on the SDGs, paying special attention to the cross-cutting elements of partnerships, data and accountability.

<sup>10</sup> UN Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO): *UNDG: 2016 United Nations Development Assistance Framework, Desk Review, November 2016.*

ILO in ensuring that the integrated Decent Work Agenda is prominent in national development plans and remains central to the achievement of Goal 8.

16. Building on the Office's successful experiences and lessons learned in previous UNDAF cycles and national development planning engagement,<sup>11</sup> and in consideration of the strong interest in Goal 8 in particular, ILO support in the context of UN-system SDG processes aims to ensure that from an early stage constituents are equipped with knowledge and technical support to participate and contribute. Requests for ILO assistance have largely focused on tripartite capacity development and policy advice for the national SDG processes. Development of data collection and SDG monitoring and reporting systems are also key areas of constituent interest where the Office is intensifying efforts, focusing on the 13 decent work-related indicators of the GIF for which the ILO is the custodian agency. Technical assistance is being provided to enhance and conduct labour force surveys and aid countries with relevant data for monitoring, assessment of gaps and reporting needs. Indicator work will strengthen the country diagnostics used in the development of ILO Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs), which are also being refocused to ensure the contribution of decent work priorities to national sustainable development plans.
17. The following examples highlight some of these different activities at the country level. Additional information on the rollout of the ILO Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda can be found in the appendix.
18. Within the "One UN" paradigm, African countries are developing a new generation of UNDAFs to align with the 2030 Agenda. Some 28 ILO programme countries have undertaken or will soon start national SDG processes with UNCTs using MAPS, with constituents in about half of these requesting ILO input or support to date. Also, in response to increasing demands for capacity building on the SDG employment indicators, an ITC–ILO academy on labour market statistics and analysis organized in Côte d'Ivoire in 2016 included sessions on producing and reporting indicators in accordance with the SDG indicator framework.
19. In the Asia and the Pacific region, DWCPs are being realigned to ensure constituents' engagement in support of national sustainable development plans and the ILO is supporting a number of SDG processes. In Viet Nam, for example, the ILO has provided advice to the Ministry of Labour on the drafting of contributions to the national SDG action plan. In India, the ILO provided technical inputs to the Vision 2030 of the National Institution for Transforming India, which is the Government's planning body as well as the coordinating body for SDG implementation. In Bangladesh, the ILO leads a UNCT task force to promote private sector participation in SDG implementation and will work with the Bangladesh Employers' Federation as the key coordinating agency for the private sector in SDG implementation. Assistance has been provided to Mongolia and the Philippines, where workshops were held last year to provide training for national statistical offices and other agencies responsible for reporting progress on SDGs. The Philippines used this training to prepare its national voluntary review presented at the HLPF in July 2016.
20. Several examples from the Europe region also illustrate ILO support. UNDAF-centred processes are being conducted in the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro with ILO engagement and constituent participation. In the Republic of Moldova, which benefits from a joint UN support project, this has resulted in productive employment and decent work featuring prominently in the draft UNDAF 2018–21 outcome structure. The Office also participated in an integrated UN support mission to Uzbekistan for SDG localization and

<sup>11</sup> ILO programme implementation 2014–15, p. 26 and ILO, Evaluation Office: *Independent evaluation of the ILO's strategy for coherent decent work policies*, Geneva, 2014

prioritization, where draft national SDGs and targets were developed, along with a localized indicator framework with UN system support.

21. In the Americas, 18 countries and territories in the Caribbean<sup>12</sup> have developed a joint regional UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework 2017–21 (MSDF) and the ILO continues to support tripartite constituents to engage in the national consultation processes. This MSDF is now being implemented through national annual country implementation plans, which are replacing the traditional UNDAFs. In another example, Argentina held a high-level event on SDG implementation in March 2016 in which heads of local UN agencies participated and the Government is now in the process of establishing an inter-ministerial National Commission for Sustainable Development. The ILO is leading the action in the cooperation area on inclusive and sustainable economic development within the Strategic UN Cooperation Framework for Argentina 2016–20 and has been providing support to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security in various forums related in particular to Goal 8. Argentina will host the upcoming IV World Conference on Child Labour in 2017, which has been expanded to include the elimination of adult forced labour, reflecting target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda.
22. In the Arab States region, nine countries and territories have undertaken or begun national SDG processes with the UNCTs and seven have requested ILO support. In keeping with the cross-cutting, integrated nature of the SDGs, the ILO and ITC joined forces with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) on a regional training course on SDGs in December 2016. The seminar brought together constituents and key national partners on SDGs (ministries of planning and economy, and statistical offices) from five countries and territories from the Arab States region.<sup>13</sup> The training essentially focused on the poverty-employment-growth nexus and the interconnectedness of these three dimensions within the 2030 Agenda.

## Regional dimension

23. The regional dimension of the 2030 Agenda is also being integrated into the ILO's approaches. For example, the 13th Africa Regional Meeting, held in December 2015, requested that all African governments develop and review their plans and strategies to take into account the call in the 2030 Agenda for national sustainable development strategies. It specifically called on the ILO "to develop and implement, in consultation with the constituents, a new generation of Decent Work Country Programmes that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". At the 16th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting in December 2016, the Bali Declaration noted that the 2030 Agenda provides the overarching framework for the region's aspiration, with decent work as the main driver for sustainable development. In this context it called for ILO action to, inter alia, design and implement DWCPs in line with constituents' needs and progress towards the 2030 Agenda, capacity building for constituents, and promotion of overall economic and social policy coherence and enhanced collaboration with the UN system and with regional organizations and financial institutions.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, the British Virgin Islands, Curaçao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

<sup>13</sup> Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and the United Arab Emirates.

<sup>14</sup> See: [http://www.ilo.org/global/meetings-and-events/regional-meetings/asia/aprm-16/WCMS\\_537445/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/meetings-and-events/regional-meetings/asia/aprm-16/WCMS_537445/lang--en/index.htm).



## Partnerships for SDG implementation

24. At the global level, the ILO leads or co-leads several alliances and multi-stakeholder partnerships related to SDG 8 and other decent work-related goals and targets with the involvement of the tripartite constituents. Developments related to these, including the Alliance 8.7 to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour, the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, and the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection, were highlighted at the November 2016 session of the Governing Body.<sup>15</sup> The Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, of which the Director-General is a member, launched its first report in September 2016 during the UN General Assembly. The report identified seven drivers of change to advance women's economic opportunities, which coincide closely with ILO research.
25. Notable developments since the November Governing Body session include the key follow-up steps to advance implementation of the recommendations of the report of the High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth,<sup>16</sup> co-led by the ILO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Shortly after endorsement of the report by the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in early December 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/71/159, which encourages actions in support of the creation of some 40 million new jobs in the health and social sector by 2030, paying specific attention to addressing the projected shortages of 18 million health workers by 2030. On 14 and 15 December 2016, the ILO, WHO and OECD hosted a High-Level Ministerial Meeting to launch a five-year action plan that the three agencies have developed to facilitate the implementation of multisectoral approaches and country-driven action that are necessary to achieve the Commission's recommendations. The action plan highlights the need to invest in the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health and social care workforce, particularly in developing countries, and received wide support at the ministerial meeting.

### III. Looking ahead

26. The Office will continue to monitor QCPR implementation and UNDS reform processes and report to the Governing Body on proposals that require its guidance. The Office's engagement in the UN CEB coordination mechanisms and measures already undertaken in the areas of programme, results-based management and management processes place the Office in a relatively good position to comply with a number of requests contained in the new QCPR. Within the UN, the ILO's tripartite structure, standard-setting and supervisory function, technical expertise and convening capacity on labour issues are recognized comparative advantages that the Office and ILO constituents need to exploit further to promote decent work as a fundamental element of sustainable and inclusive growth at global and regional levels, within UNCTs and in assistance to ILO member States in achieving the SDGs.

<sup>15</sup> GB.328/INS/7, para. 13.

<sup>16</sup> *Working for health and growth: Investing in the health workforce.*

## Draft decision

### *27. The Governing Body:*

- (a) takes note of the QCPR resolution and requests the Director-General to take appropriate action towards its implementation within the ILO's mandate; and*
- (b) requests the Director-General to take account of its guidance on further development of ILO support to tripartite constituents in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and multi-stakeholder partnerships.*

## Appendix

### ILO Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda – Roll-out strategy

The ILO Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda was issued in March 2016, offering initial guidance for action. Since then, the Office has progressed in its implementation at global, regional and country levels.<sup>1</sup>

#### *The scope and nature of the roll-out strategy*

The strategy sets out an action plan for the achievement of specific goals and the related means and resources. In this specific case, the goals – the SDGs and their targets – are set. The question is therefore how existing ILO means can be organized so that the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda contributes to achieving the goals. For this purpose, the SDG implementation actions can be grouped into six broad categories: (1) capacity building; (2) guidance development; (3) outreach; (4) research and policy; (5) communication; and (6) partnerships.

The guiding principle in determining this roll-out strategy is an orientation towards strengthening constituents' capacities to engage in the development of national sustainable development plans and associated UN programming processes. As set out in the report of the Director-General to the 105th Session of the ILC,<sup>2</sup> this requires a concerted Office-wide effort and intensified engagement through SDG thematic partnerships within the UN system and beyond.

At the country level, the Office support is driven by the needs and priorities of constituents as expressed in SDG-oriented DWCPs, national strategies and UN planning processes such as MAPS and UNDAFs.<sup>3</sup> Consequently, the intensity of ILO support differs from one country to another. Some countries may centre their national SDG strategies in particular around decent work. These countries are likely to request high-intensity engagement for which specific technical support teams will need to be deployed.

This approach is in line with the ILO's Strategic Plan for 2018–21,<sup>4</sup> which calls for the ILO to become a leading actor in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in support of national strategies and an effective advocate, actor and partner for the promotion of decent work in relevant national, regional and international arenas.

It also responds to the resolution on Advancing Social Justice through Decent Work, adopted by the ILC in 2016, which called for ILO action to effectively assist member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda and in this respect to: (a) develop a strategy for promoting decent work through partnerships and policy coherence based on the principles of complementarity and mutual reinforcement with relevant international, regional and national organizations that have mandates in closely related fields. In all such partnerships the ILO should promote understanding and recognition of its values, mandate and standards; and (b) include in such a strategy a special focus on promoting inclusive growth and decent work at the country level with international and regional economic and financial institutions.

<sup>1</sup> See GB.328/INS/7.

<sup>2</sup> ILC.105/DG1(B): [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_479681.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_479681.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support and UN Development Assistance Frameworks.

<sup>4</sup> See GB.328/PFA/1, para. 36(e).

## **Structure and means of action**

Rolling out the ILO support strategy to member States is not parallel to or separate from relevant work under the ILO Regular Budget and other ILO sources of funding. Indeed, both the 2016–17 Programme and Budget and the proposed Programme and Budget for 2018–19 provide for the resources, strategic orientation and approaches applied for this purpose. Similarly, existing organizational processes, such as the outcome-based work planning coordination processes and the Global Technical Teams will continue to be used to ensure policy coherence and technical quality.

A significant proportion of the priority actions have already been implemented or initiated. A short status update is provided below.

1. *Capacity building:* A range of capacity-building activities have been rolled out in 2016. The ILO SDG self-study e-learning course on decent work and sustainable development is now available in English, French and Spanish. The ILO Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda proposes to develop a capacity-building, diagnostic and awareness-raising instrument to enable ILO constituents, governments, UN organizations, development partners and civil society to prioritize and mainstream the Decent Work Agenda in national SDG planning processes. This instrument (Decent Work for Sustainable Development – A Resource Platform) is currently being prepared by the Office and will form the basis of regional workshops during 2017.

In the area of statistics, the Office is developing data collection guidelines, manuals and tools to facilitate the implementation of recent international standards on labour statistics, with a particular focus on better measurement of decent work-related SDG indicators. The capacity of national statistical offices will be strengthened to report on SDG indicators through their participation in training sessions like the labour market statistics and analysis academy (with the ITC–ILO) or other regional workshops to be conducted in the regions in partnership with regional commissions and other stakeholders.

2. *Guidance development:* The guidance for DWCP preparation has been updated. The Office is also engaged in the preparation of revised UNDAF guidance, including a series of companion guides.
3. *Outreach:* The annual HLPF is the major avenue for ILO outreach to provide the framework for country-level engagement. In November 2016, the Governing Body decided to make use of its March sessions in 2017, 2018 and 2019 as a platform for tripartite discussion of the ILO contribution to the HLPF annual review.<sup>5</sup>
4. *Research and policy:* ILO flagship reports are being prepared in consideration of the requirements of the 2030 Agenda.
5. *Communication:* A series of SDG notes and fact sheets is being prepared. Areas covered are: national employment policies; green jobs; gender and discrimination; social protection; skills; and multinational enterprises. Further SDG notes will be prepared for thematic areas based on programme and budget outcomes. These notes provide detailed background briefs on the decent work contribution under these thematic areas to several SDGs and include further resources and frequently asked questions (FAQs). The ILO website is being regularly updated and should soon include a web-based (mobile-compatible) DW-SDG application.
6. *Partnerships:* Global partnerships in key areas of the 2030 Agenda have been established and continue to be further developed and operationalized.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> See GB.328/INS/7.

<sup>6</sup> Idem.