



Newsletter

Partnerships and External Relations

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KEY ILO RESOURCES

ILO Global Job Crisis Observatory
A website providing information on the employment and social impact of the crisis and policy responses.

The Financial and Economic Crisis: A Decent Work Response – (pdf 789 kB)



A Global Policy Package to Address the Global Crisis – (pdf 10.05 MB)

Global Employment Trends 2009
– (pdf 616KB) – **French** – (pdf 572 KB) – **Spanish** – (pdf 567 KB)

Global Employment Trends for Women 2009 – (pdf 636 KB)

Policy responses to the economic crisis: A decent work approach in Europe and Central Asia – (pdf 297 KB) – **French** – (pdf 572 KB) – **Spanish** – (pdf 567 KB)

Videos

IMF Managing-Director, Dominique Strauss-Kahn addresses ILO's Governing Body on responses to the current global financial and economic crisis – (video - 87.4 MB)

Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz talks about concrete solutions for the global financial and economic crisis – (video – 32.3 MB)

Creating employment opportunities for Yemeni women – (video – 23.6 MB)

A Decent Work Response to the Job Crisis

Responding to the Crisis through the Decent Work Agenda

Since the beginning of the financial and economic crisis the ILO has been working with governments, workers, employers, other UN agencies and their partners to develop measures to repair the financial system while also ensuring social protection for all. Now more than ever the ILO's Decent Work Agenda is a key instrument for promoting social justice in a globalized economy.

The crisis was the main topic at the ILO's Governing Body in March [read more]. In a special session at which he was presented with the ILO's Decent Work Research Prize, Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz encouraged the Governing Body to pursue the cause of protecting employment by stressing the urgent need for a global stimulus package [see video].

During the Governing Body a new study by the ILO's International Institute for Labour Studies (IILS) was released. **The Financial and Economic Crisis: A Decent Work Response**, calls for a Global Jobs Pact. It builds on the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda: promoting employment by creating a sustainable institutional and economic environment; developing and enhancing measures of social protection; promoting social dialogue and tripartism; respecting, promoting, and realizing the fundamental principles and rights at work.

The Governing Body decided to focus attention on the crisis at the forthcoming International Labour Conference in June, which will see a two-day Global Summit on Dealing with the Job Crisis.

A Closer Partnership

The release of the IILS report coincided with a High-Level Event [read more] involving Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Director of the IMF; Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation; Alexander Shokhin, President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; and Jonathan Shaw, Minister for Disabled People and Minister for the South East at the UK Department for Work and Pension all of whom addressed the Governing Body.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn urged a closer partnership between the IMF and the ILO



[see video]: during this time of crisis the two agencies must work together to provide monetary aid and social safety nets to the most vulnerable. Furthermore, help must come in the form of a global stimulus package, a cleansing and repairing of the financial sector, and strong support to emerging and low-income countries.

Highlights from Global Jobs Pact

1. *Reviving the credit system and providing targeted support to sustainable enterprises*

Support must be provided to small enterprises (SMEs): the ILO Small Enterprise Development Programme provides policy advice and support to SMEs and helps governments administer and supervise training and contracts for local contractors as a way of complementing infrastructure programmes.

2. *Enhancing Social Protection, especially among low-income groups*

Government-run conditional cash transfer programmes provide cash to poor families and carry some education and health-related conditions. They are an excellent way of ensuring that basic levels of health and education are maintained among the world's poorest. By strengthening and implementing such programmes, countries are not only helping families immediately affected by the crisis, but are also investing in their citizens and paving the way toward increased prosperity.

3. *Protecting the rights of workers*

In order to maintain social justice, it is essential to ensure that workers' rights and international labour standards are not compromised. Various international labour Conventions protect working people, including Conventions on termination of employment (No. 158), migrant workers (No. 97 and No. 143), and child labour (No. 138 and No. 182).

4. *Focusing on social dialogue and wage determination*

At the Eighth ILO European Regional Meeting in Lisbon in February the ILO's commitment to social dialogue was reemphasized [read more and access the conclusions]. Since its inception the ILO has recognized that social dialogue and collective bargaining are powerful tools for preventing social unrest, reducing income inequalities, and maintaining social cohesion.

United Nations Reform

The aim of UN Reform is to 'Deliver as One': the UN family is working together to deliver programmes at the country level in a more coordinated way. The ILO is taking an active role in the UN reform process [read more].

High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) – 26-27 February 2009

The HLCP is an integral part of the UN reform process. It was founded by the Chief Executives Board (CEB) in 2000 to provide a forum for inter-agency dialogue, launch new programme initiatives, and advise the CEB on strategic planning, policy and programme development. The HLCP is responsible for implementing and following up on UN conferences and summits and facilitating dialogue on the implications of the UN reform process.

Continuing the ILO's leading role in UN reform, ILO Director-General Juan Somavia, hosted and chaired the February meeting of the HLCP. The paper by the Director-General is the result of input on the financial crisis received from 25 UN agencies and addresses the following themes: finance, trade, employment, environment, social services, humanitarian, development and international cooperation. The Director-General emphasized that people are at the centre of the crisis and any response should address the needs of the most vulnerable. The paper endorsed by the HLCP was later expanded and adopted by the CEB during its meeting in Paris on 5 April 2009.

During the HLCP, the implementation of counter-cyclical measures, including social protection measures and employment creation, were promoted by Mr. Jomo, Under Secretary-General at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (DESA). In his view, current global imbalances are unsustainable and counter-cyclical measures should be the means for returning logic to global financial systems. In his role as Chair, Mr. Somavia stressed that during this time of crisis, policy coherence and coordination should be key concerns of the HLCP.

In Brief

» 90 Years Working for Social Justice

In 2009 the ILO and its members celebrate [the 90th anniversary](#) of the Organization's formation in 1919. To mark this milestone, special events are being held in more than 120 countries under the banner of "90 years working for social justice".

» United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

The Decent Work Agenda has again been the focus of inter-agency partnership, this time relating to the new UNDAF Guidelines, the latest edition of which include explicit reference to the Fundamental Principles and Rights at work and the [CEB Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work](#).

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