



8. Develop a global partnership for development

MDG 8 reflects the Millennium Declaration's call for a global partnership for development. It addresses how countries can work together to achieve Goals 1 to 7. MDG 8 covers many areas, ranging from the fairness of the multilateral system to youth employment, technology, development assistance, debt relief and the special needs of developing States. Progress towards Goal 8 is mixed, despite strengthened support from the international community. Greater focus on decent work as part of development would speed up that progress.

Decent work in a fair global system

In addition to its work relating to MDGs 1-7, the ILO contributes to MDG 8 through its Decent Work Agenda (decent and productive employment, rights, social protection and social dialogue) by -

- promoting decent work as a global goal in fair globalization;
- calling for greater policy coherence for poverty reduction across the multilateral system;
- encouraging employment from technological change;
- direct monitoring and promotion of the youth employment target under MDG 8;
- capacity building for workers' and employers' organizations to participate in national development agendas

Globalization has the potential to promote open societies, more productive economies and the freer exchange of goods, knowledge and ideas. As the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization (WCSDG) [1] stresses, globalization is fair only when it creates opportunities for more and better jobs.

Trade, financial policies and technological change affect labour markets, working conditions and incomes. The ILO works to promote policies that keep decent and productive employment, social protection and rights at the centre of development concerns.

Fair globalization: Action to take

The 2004 report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, *A fair globalization: Creating opportunities for all*, recommends practical action for Goal 8 –

- making decent work a national and global objective;
- creating fair rules for trade, investment, international finance and migration; better international policies (e.g. meeting aid needs and debt relief) and more accountable institutions;
- stressing national and international responsibilities for creating good governance and reforms to ensure fairness and sustainable global growth, with a move from donor conditionality to national ownership of policies;
- greater policy coherence between international economic, social and environmental policies in a reformed multilateral system.

While trade is not an end in itself, Goal 8 underlines the contribution that it can make to poverty reduction when accompanied by other policies. The export products of poor countries still face significant barriers to access markets, such as high tariffs and subsidies.

The Monterrey Consensus and the WCSDG report recommend broad-based national dialogue and international policy coherence to ensure more effective development. The Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration (2002) and the Copenhagen Declaration (1995) all recognize the key role that productive, freely chosen employment plays.

Decent and productive work for youth

Providing opportunity to young people and tapping their great potential is key to achieving MDG 8 and the other Goals. In developing regions, young people (15 to 24) are three times more likely than adults to be unemployed. In many countries, unemployment rates are higher among young women than among young men. As the UN's Millennium Development Goals Report for 2005 notes, young adults without jobs could create a scenario for crime, violence and social unrest.

The ILO is the lead organization of the Youth Employment Network (YEN) [13], a joint UN/World Bank/ILO initiative set up in the framework of the Millennium Declaration. YEN brings

Target 12. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction

Target 13. Address the special needs of the least developed countries. Includes tariff- and quota-free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced debt relief and cancellation; and increased ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction

Target 14. Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing states

Target 15. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries

Target 16. In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

Target 17. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

Target 18. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications



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together policy makers and representatives of industry, youth and civil society to identify solutions to the challenge of youth unemployment in poor countries. Four global priorities, “the four Es”, have been identified –

- **Employment creation** is placed at the centre of macroeconomic policy.
- **Employability:** invest in education and vocational training for young people.
- **Equal opportunities:** give young women the same opportunities as young men.
- **Entrepreneurship:** make enterprise creation easier for young women and men.

The ILO Global Employment Agenda (GEA) outlines key priorities for youth employment [12]. Youth employment has links with the ILO’s work on equal opportunities, skills development and the elimination of child labour. The ILO –

- assists governments and social partners in identifying the main youth employment issues and designing and implementing integrated policy responses, including youth career counselling and vocational training;
- documents innovative ways to keep young people from dropping out of education, so they can enter the labour market with better training and skills, e.g. school-to-work transition surveys;
- undertakes research and compiles statistics on various aspects of youth employment.

In the UN system, the ILO is the reporting agency on **Indicator 45: Unemployment rate of young people aged 15-24 years**, under Goal 8, Target 16. The ILO provides data analyses and reports [81] which feed into the Secretary-General’s report to the UN General Assembly on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration [82]. The ILO is advocating a change in this target and its associated indicator to include the general objective of decent and productive employment, but still with a focus on youth.

Social justice and development

“Lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice. The attainment of conditions in which all human beings have the right to pursue their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity, is the central aim of national and international policy. All national and international policies and measures, especially those of an economic and financial character, should be judged in this light. They should be accepted only where they promote and do not hinder achievement of this objective.”

These provisions in the Declaration of Philadelphia (1944), part of the ILO Constitution, underpin the ILO’s role in examining all international economic and financial policies in the light of this fundamental aim.

Poverty reduction and the ILO

The ILO assists developing countries in reaching the MDGs by –

- crafting Decent Work Country Programmes, in consultation with governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations, as a framework for ILO action [22];
- aligning ILO country programmes to developing countries’ national agendas and national poverty reduction strategies [9] (see MDG 1), investing in integrated approaches to local development [34];
- working with the Bretton Woods institutions towards greater policy coherence, supporting debt relief and working with other UN agencies for coordinated action on poverty reduction;
- developing the Global Social Trust to reduce poverty through a partnership in which richer countries sponsor sustainable social protection schemes for unprotected groups in poor countries, [27] and pursuing the Global Campaign on Social Security and Coverage for All [26].

Benefits of new technologies

Advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs) underlie the integration of financial markets and permit the division of production processes throughout the world. While ICTs have great potential to aid poverty reduction, they must be linked to social and economic development. One core element of the ILO Global Employment Agenda [12] is “the promotion of technological change for higher productivity and job creation and improved standards of living”.

The **2002 Monterrey Consensus [83]** called for increased development assistance to achieve the MDGs. It stressed the need for enhanced coherence and coordination among development partners. The need for a partnership between rich and poor countries was reaffirmed in the 2002 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (see MDG 7).

The **2005 joint UN Millennium Project Report, Investing in Development – A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals**, recommends MDG-based PRSPs; and other actions to achieve the MDGs [84].

The **Helsinki Process**, initiated by Finland and Tanzania, aims to promote new partnerships between North and South, and between civil society, governments and the private sector, in implementing globally agreed policies, such as the MDGs.

Good governance embraces the rule of law, participation and consensus building, transparency and accountability, equity and effectiveness. The 2003 UN Convention Against Corruption is a milestone [85].



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For the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the ILO has highlighted its research on the impact of ICTs on the world of work and on solutions to ensure benefits for workers [80], the strengthening of education and skills to widen the benefits of globalization [38], and the promotion of social dialogue in the process of globalization [39].

Good governance and development

The ILO furthers this aspect of MDG 8 by –

- promoting a global reform process based on social dialogue, embracing negotiation, consultation and information exchange at various levels between governments and employers' and workers' organizations on economic and social issues;
- ensuring that rights at work are respected in the context of reforms: good governance of the labour market applies the rule of law to work, and involves those most affected;
- fostering the role of labour market institutions that underpin development: sound labour legislation, social dialogue bodies and collective bargaining, equality commissions, dispute resolution mechanisms, labour inspectorates, and an informed and effective judiciary - such institutions create the enabling conditions for macroeconomic stability, productivity and competitiveness.

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work [7]

A key link between social progress and economic growth is respect for fundamental principles and rights at work. They enable people to "claim freely and on the basis of equality of opportunity their fair share of the wealth they have helped to generate". All ILO member States are to respect, promote and realize these principles that relate to eight ILO fundamental Conventions -

- freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining (Conventions 87 and 98);
- the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour (Conventions 29 and 105);
- the effective abolition of child labour (Conventions 138 and 182);
- the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation (Conventions 100 and 111).

With its pillars of employment, rights, social protection and social dialogue, the Decent Work Agenda goes hand in hand with the attainment of MDG 8 as well as Goals 1 to 7.

ILO publications relevant to MDG 8

- *Youth: Pathways to decent work*. ILO, 2005.
- *The ILO and the follow-up to the World Summit on Social Development*. ILO, 2005.
- *Employment, Productivity and Poverty Reduction*. World Employment Report. ILO, 2004-05. [4]
- *A Fair Globalization – Creating opportunities for all*. World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, 2004. [1]
- *A Fair Globalization. The role of the ILO*. ILO, 2004. [2]
- *Global Employment Trends for Youth*. ILO, Aug. 2004. [88]
- *A Guide to Youth Employment*. ILO, 2004.
- *Working out of poverty*. ILO, International Labour Conference, 2003. [3]
- *An Integrated Approach to Promoting Good Governance*. ILO, 2003.
- *Facilitating Youth Entrepreneurship* (Part I). ILO, 2003. [89]
- *YEN, Consolidated Outcome of the High Level Panel's Working Groups on Employability, Equal Opportunities, Employment Creation and Entrepreneurship*. ILO, Geneva, 2003.
- *United Nations initiative on youth employment* (GB.286/ESP/5). ILO, 2003.
- *Global Employment Agenda: Discussion paper*. ILO, 2001.
- *Life at Work in the Information Economy*. World Employment Report. ILO, 2001.
- *Working Out of Poverty: An ILO submission for the Indonesia PRSP*. ILO Jakarta, 2004.

The UN target for **Official Development Assistance** (ODA) is set at 0.7 per cent of donors' national income. Full delivery of the Monterrey commitments requires 0.29 per cent by 2006. But still ODA will be \$25 billion short of the extra \$50 billion estimated to be needed to meet the MDGs.

UNDG reports positive UN coordination efforts, including increased support to national strategies and plans; more harmonization of UN programming cycles; and better linkages between UN instruments and national processes [86].

The **Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative** is the main international effort to improve developing countries' debt sustainability.

The **UN General Assembly's Resolution on Promoting Youth Employment (2003)** encourages UN member States to develop national action plans on youth employment. Youth unemployment rates exceed adult rates in all regions and have skyrocketed worldwide over the past decade by 26.8 per cent. This accounts for nearly half of the world's jobless.

Blue text and numbers in brackets [..] are linked to websites. See attached list of reference materials.
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