



PARTNERSHIPS FOR DECENT WORK



International
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Key resources

[ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization](#) (pdf 134 kB) [FR](#) (pdf 143 kB) [SP](#) (pdf 144kB)

[Global Jobs Pact](#) (pdf 93kB) [FR](#) (pdf 105kB) [SP](#) (pdf 107kB)

[ILO Governing Body](#)

[Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization](#)

[United Nations Development Programme](#)

[Caribbean Development Bank](#)

[International Institute for Labour Studies](#)

["Overcoming the Jobs Crisis"](#)

[Committee on Technical Cooperation](#)

[Giving Effect to the Global Jobs Pact: International Declarations \(July 2009-February 2010\)](#)



Helen Clark



Three keys representing ILO tripartism

Forging a new globalization: HLCP and ILO Governing Body

High Level Committee on Programmes

This period of crisis recovery is also the time for in-depth reflection and changes to the international economic and social order. This was the call that came from the UN Chief Executive's Board High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), which recently met in Geneva (3-4 March).

The issues paper resulting from the meeting and released by the HLCP Vice-Chair and [IMF](#) representative Elliot Harris, states that the crisis has already inspired changes in how globalization functions, reliance on markets, social protection systems and global governance structures. Thanks to unprecedented large and internationally coordinated government interventions, a full financial meltdown was averted. Moreover, the international community recognized the necessity for large-scale international coordination, reflected in the revitalization of the [G20](#) in economic and financial decision making. With this international cooperation has come the acceptance that each country's economic and financial health should be regarded as a global public good, paving the way for more effective and sustained coordination of policies.

Another development stemming from the crisis is the accumulated proof of the positive impact that strong social protection systems have on countries' economies. Some of the countries that have weathered the crisis best are those that had social protection systems already in place: those systems were able to cushion the loss of income and help maintain domestic demand.

The moves being made toward a more inclusive, equitable and environmentally and socially sustainable form of globalization are highly encouraging, but they do not yet represent a paradigm shift. It is essential to continue rethinking the process of globalization and not to return to "business as usual". Employment should continue to be promoted and the "crisis behind the crisis" not be forgotten. The UN has a key role to play in this process. Through a united effort, the UN can support governments and help pave the way toward a new form of globalization. Areas for collaboration and cooperation include –

- supporting national policies on employment and decent work
- backing externally supported national initiatives, including the development of social protection floors in low-income countries and increasing aid for trade
- enabling countries to benefit from the Doha Development Round
- concerted multilateral action and agreement on binding objectives, especially carbon emissions
- internationally coordinated national action on efforts to reduce global macroeconomic imbalances.

HLCP member agencies are called upon to garner Member State support for the implementation of the above recommendations and formulate a coordinated message on how agencies and the entire system can support developing countries. Through combined efforts at the multilateral, national and international levels, a new, fairer and more sustainable future can be forged.

Partnering for the Global Jobs Pact – The ILO Governing Body

“We now need to apply the same policy decisiveness that saved banks to supporting sustainable enterprises and saving and creating jobs. We need the policies that will produce these results.” – ILO Director-General Juan Somavia, 24 March 2010

The ILO continues to build partnerships around the Global Jobs Pact (GJP) on global, regional and national levels. Many of these alliances and coordinated efforts were highlighted during the spring session of the ILO Governing Body (GB), held in Geneva in March.

Multilateral and regional partnerships grounded in the Global Jobs Pact were featured during the meeting of the GB’s Working Party on the Social Dimension of Globalization. Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Dr. Compton Bourne, President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) both addressed the Working Party and strongly supported the GJP. They expressed their intention to deepen collaboration with the ILO to help shape employment-intensive recovery favouring the real economy. “The Decent Work Agenda developed by the ILO is fundamentally about quality jobs and fairness,” stated [Ms Clark](#). “These are enablers for people realising their capabilities and living fulfilling lives, thus reducing their susceptibility to poverty, morbidity, hunger, and disease.”

Even before the crisis, the UNDP and the ILO were working together on projects around the globe. Some joint UNDP-ILO initiatives supported by the [Spanish MDG Achievement Fund](#) are –

- programmes for unemployed young people to get productive and decent work in Bosnia, Costa Rica and Sudan
- environmentally sustainable production in Viet Nam
- capacity building of small scale producers in the Dominican Republic, Egypt and Turkey

In January 2010 ties between the UNDP and ILO were deepened when the UNDP Executive Board resolved to integrate the Jobs Pact into its operational activities in collaboration with the ILO. Future areas for cooperation might now include employment creation, income generation and reintegration in post-conflict countries; tackling climate change through green jobs; collecting ‘best practices’ and knowledge of effective employment policies and programmes; and work on the Global Social Protection Floor.

Regional coordination around the Global Jobs Pact was demonstrated in Dr. Bourne’s presentation to the Working Party. He explained that Haiti has been particularly hard hit by the crisis and unemployment and reductions in remittances have entailed great material and social hardship. Together, the CDB and the ILO can focus on employment issues and policies in the region, where the ILO can use its expertise to analyze how Caribbean countries might incorporate the Global Jobs Pact into their recovery policies.

In a special event organized by the ILO’s International Institute of Labour Studies, national coordination around the Jobs Pact was also made evident. The seminar “[Overcoming the Jobs Crisis](#)” provided a forum to debate and discuss effective policies for providing a way out of the crisis. Representatives of France and Brazil addressed the seminar, as did representatives of social partners. Experts from three countries, Egypt, Germany and the Republic of Korea, shared good practices for mitigating the effects of the crisis. Some effective policies mentioned included establishing a minimum salary and reducing taxes (Brazil); reducing working hours and creating more flexible employment (Germany); and supporting “green jobs” as well as micro and small enterprises (Korea). At the conclusion, participants agreed that there is not one single solution to overcoming the crisis; however, by recognizing which measures have been effective and by focusing on the social element of the crisis, recovery is possible.

Special panel on the UN reform process

The Governing Body’s Committee on Technical Cooperation held a special panel discussion this year with UN Resident Coordinators (RCs). Three RCs representing Albania, Uruguay and Lesotho spoke about working with the ILO at the country level. The ILO’s contribution to the One UN programme was much appreciated by the RCs, as were the strong capabilities of ILO representatives in the field. The RCs encouraged the ILO to be more proactive in the field and to improve other agencies’ knowledge and understanding of the ILO’s unique tripartite structure.

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