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Taking the Global Jobs Pact to the G20 Pittsburgh Summit

"We need a durable recovery that creates the good jobs our people need."

G20 Leaders' Statement, paragraph 13

Decent jobs for all must be part of a healthy and successful economic and financial recovery. The message from the Leader's statement of the G20, *A Framework for Strong, Sustainable, and Balanced Growth* is unequivocal: as long as there is unemployment there will be a crisis. Strong policy responses and stimulus packages must continue until good jobs are available. Following an invitation from G20 Leaders, ILO Director-General Juan Somavia addressed the Summit and delivered the report requested of the ILO at the London Summit in April.

A Framework for Putting Quality Jobs at the Heart of the Recovery

In their statement, G20 Leaders fully endorse the Global Jobs Pact and commit to bringing it home. They unanimously urge countries to refer to ILO standards and their Framework provides a strategy to address the job crisis.

Prioritizing Job Growth: Efforts already made by G20 countries will have created or saved 7-11 million jobs by the end of 2009. Still, decisive action must continue. Recovery plans should carry on supporting decent work, preserving employment and prioritizing job growth. Furthermore, income and training support and social protection for the unemployed and those at risk of unemployment must be available.

Labour Markets and Training: Structural reforms targeting more inclusive labour markets, labour market policies and quality education training and programmes have been identified. The ILO has been asked to help develop with its constituents and NGOs a training strategy for G20 consideration.

Review Reports: Monitoring and evaluating the impact of the policies adopted by the G20 are key actions for shortening the path out of the crisis. Now, the task is to ascertain whether further measures are desirable and consider medium-term employment and skills development policies, social protection programs and best practices to make sure that workers can take advantage of all scientific and technological advances. The ILO has been asked to provide expertise and knowledge in this area.

Social protection for the most vulnerable is a priority for *Strengthening the support for the Most Vulnerable*. Low income countries' capacity for core spending in areas such as health, education, safety nets and infrastructure needs to be protected. The poor should have improved access to **micro finance** services and successful models for **small and medium enterprise (SME)** financing.

The Framework also highlights *Energy security and climate change* as a critical component for sustainable growth. It outlines specific commitments to achieving diverse, reliable, affordable and clean energy. Building a **green economy** is also central to the Global Jobs Pact where creating sustainable and "green" jobs are interlinking objectives. In particular, investing in "green production" and services are important tools for job creation and stimulating economic activity. Shifting to a low-carbon economy and environmentally-friendly economy can result in a reduction in social gaps which in turn can realize decent work opportunities for more workers around the world.

ILO report to the G20: *Protecting People, Promoting Jobs: From crisis response to recovery and sustainable growth.*

In response to a request from G20 Leaders, the ILO has prepared a [survey](#) and assessment of employment and social protection. It examines measures taken in 54 countries across all regions and income groups in four categories: stimulating labour demand; supporting jobs and jobseekers; expanding social protection and food security; and applying social dialogue and protecting rights at work.

Six measures used with the highest frequency

- Spending on infrastructure
- Subsidies and tax reductions for small enterprises
- Credit for small enterprises
- Training programmes and facilities
- Consultations with employers' and workers' organizations
- Social protection through cash transfers

Six measures used with the lowest frequency

- Additional measures to fight labour trafficking
- Additional measures to fight child labour
- Small enterprise access to public tenders
- Consultation at sectoral level
- Increased capacity for labour inspection
- Protection of migrant workers

Reviewing the measures: Lower and middle-income countries (LIC and MIC) and higher income countries (HIC) chose different measures for coping with the crisis. LICs and MICs were more likely to stimulate demand and expand social protection while HICs have invested more in labour demand and labour market policies. LICs have taken fewer policy initiatives than both MICs and HICs, probably indicating resource and capacity constraints. For all, the most common response has been public investment in infrastructure which has shown a high employment multiplier. Asian and Latin American countries especially were best prepared to deal with the shock, drawing on lessons learned from previous financial crises. These countries had sounder fiscal stances, lower inflation and external indebtedness, higher reserves and sometimes wider social protection coverage and so were better prepared to take quick action. Social dialogue and collective bargaining have been used to find creative solutions to the crisis, including work sharing and extended leave as well as finding consensus between governments and social partners.

Fragile global economic recovery and weak employment growth: Signs of stabilization and recovery have been recorded, but forecasts generally agree that there will be gradual and weak recovery until at least the end of 2010. The ILO estimates that global unemployment will continue to rise, and by the end of 2009 there will be between 29 and 61 million more unemployed workers than in 2007. Even as the economy improves, working families still will not see positive forecasts in the labour market until long after economic recovery is underway.

Areas for further action: Policies focusing on economic and employment growth continue to be essential, as are fiscal measures to generate jobs and boost aggregate demand. The threat of protectionism should be stopped and non-cyclical measures continue to be implemented. A deeper analysis of the effect of policy packages in individual countries should be sought in addition to increased statistical data on the impact of policies on workers, enterprises and households and instruments to monitor the crisis. Aid to low income countries should be expanded to meet the need for employment and basic universal social protection. The rights of workers, children, unprotected migrants and human trafficking all suffer during times of crisis – urgent attention must be paid to these groups.

Through a fair spread of the cost of the recovery, a socially sustainable response to the crisis is possible.

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External Relations Branch
Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department
International Labour Office
CH-1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 799 7604
exrel@ilo.org
www.ilo.org/pardev