

United Nations reform and the ILO

Better serving the world's people by marshalling the full strength of the United Nations' resources is the main objective for [United Nations reform](#). Since the late 1990s, the process aims to increase policy coherence and effectiveness while avoiding fragmentation and duplication among UN agencies, programmes and funds. A harmonized approach to development activities and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was reaffirmed at the 2005 United Nations World Summit.

The [United Nations Development Assistance Framework \(UNDAF\)](#) is the centrepiece of the UN reform process on development assistance. It is a country-driven, collaborative and coherent response by the UN to development challenges. Moreover, it comprises a common strategic framework for UN operational activities at the country level. The UNDAF contains key development objectives of governments, the UN system and its partners and its Action Plan outlines the workplan and results framework for all.

The [Delivering as One](#) initiative brings together resources and rationalizes operations to provide common services by drawing on the strengths and comparative advantages of the different UN agencies. The "Delivering as One" pilot has tested in eight countries (Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay and Viet Nam) how the United Nations family can deliver in a more coordinated fashion.

The [Chief Executives Board \(CEB\)](#) is the coordination mechanism for the reform process. It assembles executive heads of UN organizations, Bretton Woods Institutions and the WTO, under the chairmanship of the Secretary General. The Board is assisted by the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), the High Level Committee on Management. (HLCM), and the UN Development Group (UNDG).

The ILO and United Nations reform

The ILO Programme and Budget for 2010-11 has allocated more than US \$1 million to UN reform. The ILO's emphasis on UN reform has allowed it to work more coherently with other United Nations agencies, thereby enabling it to exert greater influence on the UN agenda. As such, the Decent Work Agenda is being mainstreamed into the UNDAF process, and the CEB Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work has been included in the 2009 UNDAF Guidelines. The ILO also actively participates in Delivering as One which enables the Organization to strengthen its capacity to fulfil its mandate of promoting decent work and full and productive employment for all at the country level.

The High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), a pillar of the CEB, has been chaired by the ILO Director-General Juan Somavia since February 2009. He proposed a nine-part cluster approach to tackling the economic and social dimensions of the crisis. The ILO is taking the lead on two initiatives: the Global Jobs Pact and Social Protection. The latter was adopted by the International Labour Conference in 2009 and was then adopted by the Economic and Social Council in July 2009. This expanded the mandate of the Pact to Funds, Programmes and Specialized agencies in the UN system. The Global Jobs Pact aims at offering concrete and result-oriented contributions to many of the most pressing challenges of a crisis which are economic and financial in origin, but social in their consequences. It is a portfolio of practical and operational policy options, which can be tailored to national situations. The ILO is also strongly involved in a “Global Green Deal” through its green jobs programme – another cluster represented in the CEB paper.

The ILO’s Goals for the “Delivering as One” Process

- Setting decent work as a priority in national development strategies integrated in the “Delivering as One” and in the UNDAF processes
- Strengthening the voice and capacity of constituents to participate in the national development debate and in UNCT negotiations
- Ensuring integration between the normative, analytical, policy and operational aspects of decent work
- Promoting the ILO’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) and the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008), along with the Global Jobs Pact and the Decent Work Agenda, as tools for building a strong message on system wide coherence in the social sphere.

Advantages of the ILO’s involvement in Delivering as One

- The ILO’s unique tripartite structure can contribute to the development of social dialogue at the national level, thereby enhancing the legitimacy of UN activities. For their part, beneficiaries of the ILO/UN can voice their opinion on decisions affecting their development. It is important to emphasize social dialogue and tripartism in the UN reform process.
- Promoting International Labour Standards within the discussion of “rights based approaches”
- The ILO’s experience in developing fundamental principles and rights at work offers a rights-based approach to the wider development system and its Decent Work Agenda provides a clear development mandate. The ILO and its Member States and social partners have to ensure that decent work is a priority.