

TOWARDS A « GLOBAL EMPLOYMENT AGENDA »

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MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Put employment at the top of the national and global agenda.
- Identify *key policy challenges* to give effect at the national level to global employment priorities.
- Build a platform of *strategic alliances* between the ILO and other UN agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions to ensure an integrated approach to employment issues.

The Employment Challenge

- **Almost 1 billion or 1/3 of the workforce are either unemployed or underemployed.**
- **500 million more people in the world's labour force in the next decade (2000-2010) – of these 97 per cent in developing countries.**
- **Women in most parts of the world remain discriminated against; an overworked and underpaid human resource whose skill development is neglected – making better use of their potential and improving their status, opportunities and conditions of work will help to break the grip of poverty everywhere.**

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE AGENDA

- **Decent work as a productive factor**
- **Promote a virtuous circle of productivity, employment and output growth**
- **Generating decent and productive employment for the working poor**
- **Promoting entrepreneurship and private investment**

- **Promoting employability by improving knowledge and skills**
- **Ending discrimination in the labour market**
- **Making the future more socially and environmentally sustainable**
- **Building a new macro-economic framework for employment growth**

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

- **Three parts:**
 - FORCES OF CHANGE
(Trade, technology, entrepreneurship and private investment.)
 - MANAGEMENT OF CHANGE
(Through appropriate investments in skills and knowledge, development, pursuing active labour market policies and developing social safety nets.)
 - BUILDING A NEW MACROECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR EMPLOYMENT GROWTH.

DYNAMICS OF THE FRAMEWORK

« *If change is managed well* then a country is in the best situation to tap the major *forces of change* and achieve needed *productivity growth* for pursuing non-inflationary *growth-oriented macroeconomic policies* and more *employment-intensive development* »

GLOBAL ALLIANCES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE EMPLOYMENT AGENDA

- **An invitation to governments, the social partners, the multilateral system of the United Nations agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions to review, rethink and reorient the policies of the past and to move together to seek common ground to shape a successful employment strategy.**

- **Global alliances could involve different players at different levels.**

National governments for the formulation of national employment strategies based on the goals of the Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122).

The social partners need to play a major role in the design of the global strategy and its implementation at the national/local level.

Strategic alliances at the global level, e.g. with UNESCO on skills developments and lifelong learning, UNDP on poverty alleviation, World Bank on PRSPs.

Strategic alliances of regional coordination, e.g. Jobs for Africa.

IMPLEMENTING THE ALLIANCES FOR EMPLOYMENT

- A proposal for roundtables on various dimensions of employment policy.
- Rather than a traditional institutional process, roundtables function more as an intellectual process, a kind of think tank on which to exchange views on policy ways and means.