“Today, more than ever, decent work opportunities for all are the key to inclusion, social justice, stability and peace. In a world of work undergoing transformative change, Governments, Workers and Employers must come together to build the future of work we want.”

Guy Ryder,
ILO Director-General
Advancing social justice.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency for the world of work. It sets international labour standards, promotes rights at work and encourages decent employment opportunities, the enhancement of social protection and the strengthening of dialogue on work-related issues.

The ILO has a unique structure, bringing together governments, employers’ and workers’ representatives. The ILO has 187 member States and is one of the oldest UN agencies. The ILO’s Secretariat has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and a global network of technical experts and field offices in more than 40 countries.

The International Labour Conference (ILC) meets once a year to adopt new international labour standards and to approve the ILO’s work plan and budget.

The Governing Body is the executive council of the ILO and meets three times a year in Geneva.

Promoting decent work.

CREATING JOBS
Promoting economies that generate opportunities for investment, entrepreneurship, skills development, job creation and sustainable livelihoods.

PROMOTING SOCIAL DIALOGUE
Strong and independent workers’ and employers’ organizations are central to increasing productivity, avoiding disputes at work and building cohesive societies.

EXTENDING SOCIAL PROTECTION
Ensuring that women and men enjoy working conditions that are safe, allow adequate free time and rest, take into account family and social values, provide for adequate compensation in case of lost or reduced income and permit access to adequate health care.

GUARANTEEING RIGHTS AT WORK
Obtaining recognition and respect for the rights of workers. All workers, and in particular disadvantaged or poor workers, need representation, participation and laws that protect their rights.

A bit of history.

The ILO is founded as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended the First World War, to reflect the belief that universal and lasting peace cannot be achieved without social justice.

The Declaration of Philadelphia states that labour is not a commodity and establishes basic human and economic rights for States to uphold.

The ILO becomes the first specialized agency of the United Nations.

The Organization is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work creates a set of core labour standards.

The Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization expresses the contemporary vision of the ILO’s mandate in the era of globalization.

Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development places decent work for all at the heart of policies for sustainable and inclusive growth and development.

The ILO marks its Centenary and launches a number of key initiatives to equip the Organization to take up successfully the challenges of its mandate in the future.