

Jobs and livelihoods in the post-2015 development agenda: focusing on targets and indicators

Post-2015 in the outcomes of the International Labour Conference

The post-2015 development agenda was integrated in the work of the June 2013 International Labour Conference as part of the discussion on sustainable development, decent work and green jobs. In its *Conclusions on Achieving Decent Work, Green Jobs and Sustainable Development*, special emphasis is placed on including social justice and the greening of all enterprises and jobs as a major step towards achieving sustainable development and the eradication of extreme poverty.

The post-2015 development framework is the background against which these initiatives should take place. Environmental sustainability and decent work are fundamental challenges for today's society. As the link between the two is becoming more and more obvious, the ILO has an important role to play in this discussion. As an institution with expertise on both topics, it can underline the strong link between environmental sustainability and the quantity and quality of jobs and labour market institutions and performance.



This proposal gained support from several countries. The EU, represented by Ireland, repeatedly emphasized the importance of the post-2015 agenda and the fundamental role that the ILO should play in this process. The post-2015 agenda was addressed as a major issue in the Conclusions, in which the ILO calls on all its constituents to eradicate extreme poverty as part of the post-2015 development agenda.

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Jobs and livelihoods in the post-2015 development agenda: Meaningful ways to set targets and monitor progress

A new concept note on "Jobs and livelihoods in the post-2015 development agenda: Meaningful ways to set targets and monitor progress" discusses how a possible employment-related development goal can be expressed in terms of targets and indicators of progress. Adopted by the Governing Body in March 2013, this follows the first such note by the Director General of November 2012, entitled "Jobs and livelihoods at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda".

Employment, decent work and social protection emerged as critical priorities in the processes defining the so-called "post-2015 development agenda". As the conversation on the post-2015 framework continues, the content of the debate is changing towards finding appropriate targets and indicators to measure progress.



- Possible target:** Improved livelihoods for the most vulnerable workers and households

Possible indicators

- Working poverty rates - the subgoal added in 2007 to MDG1 on poverty reduction uses as an indicator the proportion of employed people living in households with per capita consumption below \$1.25 (PPP) per day. As extreme poverty is reduced, a useful measure would be the reduction in the proportion of employed people living in moderate poverty in households with per capita consumption below \$2 (PPP) per day.

- Possible target:** Increases in the proportion of good jobs

Possible indicators

- Share of paid employees by sector (agriculture, manufacturing, services)

Key resources

The ILO and post-2015
Beyond the MDGs

Jobs and livelihoods at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda

Jobs and livelihoods in the post-2015 development agenda: Meaningful ways to set targets and monitor progress

Report of the Committee on Sustainable Development, Decent Work and Green Jobs

Post-2015 development agenda
UN: The World We Want 2015: Thematic and national consultations
UN Resources on Post-2015
UN Task Team Report
High-Level Panel Report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Rio+20 websites

The Future We Want Outcome Document
Future We Want Website
ILO's key messages for Rio+20
Millennium Development Goals
Millennium Development Goals and Post-2015 Agenda
UN Secretary-General High-Level Panel

- *Agricultural indicators*
- *Share of informal employment in total employment*

3. **Possible target:** Increased participation of women and youth in employment

Possible indicators:

- *Employment to population ration (EPR) by gender and age group (15-64)*
- *Number of young people not in education or employment:* young people can be particularly affected by the lack of good jobs, so in countries that use adequate household surveys, the number of young people not in education or employment can be useful to track changes.

4. **Possible target:** Coverage and level of social protection floors: the livelihoods of people can be improved by access to a defined set of basic guarantees of income security and essential health care. A social protection floor represents a safety net against economic shocks. The data is available by looking at the development in different components of the core package identified in the [ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 \(No. 202\)](#).

Possible indicators:

- *Percentage of the poor receiving cash or other periodic income support* – this is a crucial indicator for the ILO.
- *Public social protection expenditure on programmes targeting the working-age population.*
- *Income security for the elderly through social protection*
- *Income security for families with children.*

These indicators are meant to be used as suggestions, and not

specific proposals, the report specifying that each country will decide their targets after carefully analysing its national circumstances. However, globally speaking, the range of indicators

on employment should take into account several elements, such as the composition of employment by sector and status; inequalities in access opportunities among vulnerable groups; and possibly the environmental sustainability of jobs.

High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons: Report

Job creation and youth employment are mainstreamed as priority areas for attention in the UN High-Level Panel on the post-2015 development agenda (HLP). Employment should be at the heart of the development community, and the report proposes a specific development goal to “create jobs, sustainable livelihoods, and equitable growth.”

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The report, entitled “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development”, was presented to the Secretary-General on 30 May 2013. It advocates a post-2015 framework “driven by five big, transformative shifts”.

- ✓ **Leave no one behind**
- ✓ **Put sustainable development at the core** – this is relevant for the work of the ILO, since the link between decent jobs and sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development framework was central to the item on the agenda of the 2013 International Labour Conference.
- ✓ **Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth** – ensuring good job possibilities while shifting towards sustainable patterns of work is one of society’s main challenges. From this point of view, youth employment is especially targeted as a fundamental issue. The report recognizes that creating opportunities for “good and decent jobs and secure livelihoods” is a first priority in reducing poverty and inequality.
- ✓ **Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all**
- ✓ **Forge a new global partnership.**

ACTRAV Trade Union Meeting on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Post-2015 Agenda was also discussed at a [Trade Union Meeting of Experts](#) organized by the ILO’s Bureau for Workers’ Activities on 21-22 May 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to provide guidance to unions in developing a

trade union platform for the post-2015 agenda and an action plan. One of the highlights of the event was an address to the audience by Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on post-2015 development planning. Several issues relating to the work of the ILO were emphasized in her speech, such as the importance of a paradigm shift from the MDGs to the SDGs. A recurrent issue was the increasing importance of emerging economies, such as Brazil,

India, and China. It was emphasized that the accelerated growth of those countries would determine a shift in the production base, leading to a shift in resources. Ms. Mohammed called on the ILO to increase its participation in the preparatory processes of defining to the post-2015 agenda.



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