



Ministerial Breakfast

Realizing Decent Work for Sustainable Development: Country Strategies

Organized by the Permanent Missions of Angola and Belgium, as co-chairs of the Group of Friends on Decent Work for Sustainable Development in cooperation with The European Union and the ILO

31 March 2015, UN Headquarters, Room 8 (Conference Building)

8.00 – 9:45 am

Background

The Group of Friends of Decent Work for Sustainable Development, co-chaired by Angola and Belgium, includes 34 members¹ and was created to mobilize and coordinate political and technical support to advance employment and social protection issues within the post 2015 sustainable development agenda.

Decent work features prominently in the intergovernmental negotiations of the post 2015 sustainable development agenda. In addition to a dedicated goal to Inclusive Growth and Decent Work for All, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals has proposed a set of decent work targets mainstreamed across various goals, covering a wide range of specific subjects in the area of employment and social protection (see list attached).

As negotiations evolve, great attention has been devoted to the need to identify adequate means of implementation and partnerships and appropriate monitoring and follow up mechanisms associated with each one of the targets.

To address these issues, on the occasion of UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) 2015 Integration Segment, on “Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all”, the Group of Friends will bring together Ministers and Ambassadors from developed and developing economies from all regions to share their perspectives on how they are planning to accomplish the decent work targets, according to their national priorities and circumstances.

¹ Angola, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, EU, France, Germany, Grenada, Hungary, India, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Palau, Peru, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sweden, Tanzania, Turkey, Vanuatu, Vietnam.

Focus

The panel will discuss the implementation of the decent work targets, including main challenges and opportunities, possible policies, programmes and tools, financing instruments, monitoring and follow mechanisms.

Participants

Ministers, deputy ministers and high level officials attending the ECOSOC Integration Segment, Ambassadors and delegates to the UN, members of the Group of Friends on Decent Work for Sustainable Development, representatives of international organizations, business, trade unions and civil society.

Structure

The 90 minute session will take place as an interactive dialogue. Each Minister will choose one or two targets of the list attached and will be given the floor to respond to the following questions in maximum 10 minutes:

- How your country is planning to deliver on this target?
- How the implementation will be financed? What partnerships could be established to deliver on the targets?
- What are the monitoring and accountability mechanisms?

After the first round of interventions, the moderator will open the floor comments/questions directed to the panel.

As this is an interactive dialogue, we do not recommend the use of prepared statements or PowerPoint presentations.

The event will be webcasted live at webtv.un.org and there will also be a social media campaign to raise awareness about decent work and sustainable development both prior and during the meeting. Speakers are encouraged to tweet during the meeting using hashtag #600MillionJobs #DecentWork, #Action2015.

Preliminary agenda

Moderator: HE Ambassador Bénédicte Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN

8:00 – 8:15 - Welcome coffee

8:15 – 8:25 - Opening remarks

- Mr Guy Ryder, ILO Director General
- Ms Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Mobility

8:25 – 9:15 – Invited guest speakers

- H.E. Mr. Luis Eduardo Garzón, Minister of Labour, Colombia
- H.E. Mr. Hanif Dhakiri, Minister of Manpower, Indonesia
- H.E Mr. Ebrahim Patel, Minister for Economic Development, South Africa
- H.E. Mr. Radosław Mleczko, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Poland

9:15 – 9:40 Interactive debate

9.40 – 9.45 Concluding remarks – H.E. Ambassador Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins, Permanent Representative of Angola to the UN

Core Decent Work Targets in the Sustainable Development Agenda

Goal	Target
Goal 1.	End poverty in all its forms
Social protection floors for all	1.3 implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
Goal 4.	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
Skills for decent work	4.4 by 2030, increase by x% the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
Goal5.	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Unpaid care and domestic work	5.4 recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
Goal 8.	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Labour productivity	8.2 achieve higher levels of productivity of economies through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors
Decent job creation, formalization and SMEs	8.3 promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage formalization and growth of MSMEs including through access to financial services
Full employment and decent work for all / Gender Pay Gap	8.5. by 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
Youth employment	8.6. by 2020 substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
Child and forced labour	8.7. take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms including recruitment and use of child soldiers
Labour rights, occupational safety and health, migrant workers	8.8. protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment
Goal 9.	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Industrial employment	9.2 promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and by 2030 raise significantly industry's share of employment and GDP in line with national circumstances, and double its share in LDCs
Goal 10.	Reduce inequality
Wages and social protection	10.4 adopt policies especially fiscal, wage, and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies
Freedom of association	16.10 ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements