
Leaders from International and major non-governmental Organizations and academics met at a conference organized by the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Global Trade and Financial Architecture (GTFA) project on "Globalization and Employment in the light of global shocks". During the event, the ILO launched a new publication entitled "Trade and Employment in the Global Jobs Crisis". The world is in a fragile recovery from the most severe financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression. Surging public debts and deficits, resurging global imbalances, and continuing financial sector weakness are just a few of the challenges facing the post-crisis world economy. Unemployment rates remain high in many countries and are expected to stay high in industrialized nations even as the recovery unfolds. The ILO (2010) estimates that unemployment rates increased by more than 30 million in 2009 to a total 212 million unemployed.

Although the possibility of a sovereign debt crisis is now looming over the world economy, GDP growth has started to pick up in most regions and employment growth is following, albeit with a lag. One of the questions that arise during this recovery phase is whether the global economy will return back to “normal” or whether the global crisis has triggered structural changes that will affect the long term patterns of trade and foreign direct investment (FDI) flows with resulting effects on employment.

In this context, the International Labour Office— in collaboration with the Global Trade and Financial Architecture (GTFA) project, has organized a conference on the linkages between globalization and employment in the light of global shocks and structural change (See program below).

During the Event, the ILO launched a new publication "Trade and Employment in the Global Crisis" by Marion Jansen co-ordinator of the ILO's Trade and Employment Programme and Erik von Uexkull, ILO Economist. The study analyses how cross-border trade has acted as a transmission channel, spreading the crisis to developing and emerging economies. Key topics covered include the role of export concentration in increasing labour markets' vulnerability to trade shocks, the effects of global price volatility on household and company investment decisions, the impact of the global slowdown on workers' and governments' bargaining power and the impact of negative trade shocks on gender inequality.

Program of the Conference

Morning session 1
Chair: Debapriya Bhattacharya (Special Adviser on Least Developed Countries, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

9:00 Opening remarks
- José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director, Employment Sector, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Otaviano Canuto, Vice-President and Network Head, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, World Bank

9:30 Learning the Hard Way: The Great Trade Crash and the Employment Crisis (Part I)
- Launch of the ILO study on “Trade and Employment in the Global Crisis” - Marion Jansen, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Discussants: Marc Bacchetta, World Trade Organization (WTO) and Frank Van Tongeren, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Morning session 2
Chair: José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs (Executive Director, Employment Sector, ILO)

11:00 Learning the Hard Way: The Great Crash and the Employment Crisis (Part II)
- Remittances and movement of workers - Frank Laczko, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Report on the global economic crisis and developing countries - Richard King, Oxfam
- The employment impact of trade on Chile and Mexico during the crisis - Alicia Puyana, Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO) (Mexico) and International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) consultant
Afternoon session 1
Chair: Fernando de Mateo (Ambassador, Mexico)

13:30 Structural change: The shift of Global Demand and Production as it Affects Trade and Employment

- Structural change, global imbalances, and employment in developing countries - Jörg Mayer, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- Shift in global demand and effects on employment, skills, and labor standards - Raphael Kaplinsky, Open University
- A Global Value Chain perspective - Gary Gereffi, Duke University
- Discussant: Hubert Escaïth, (WTO)

Afternoon session 2:
Chair: Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz (Chief Executive, ICTSD)

15:30 Fine-Tuning Globalization: Policy Response and Adjustment

- Employment impact of policy responses to the crisis - Simon Evenett, University of St. Gallen
- The role of openness and labor market institutions during global economic downturns - Elisa Gamberoni, World Bank and Erik von Uexkull, (ILO)
- Presentation of the GTFA publication on “Trade and Adjustment” - Marcelo Olarreaga, University of Geneva
- Trade and Adjustment, Hildegunn Nordas, (OECD)
- Discussant: Esther Busser, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

17:30 Closing remarks

Alejandro Jara, Director General, World Trade Organization
José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Director, Employment Sector, ILO
Otaviano Canuto, Vice-President and Network Head, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, World Bank

For further information on trade and employment, or to set up interviews with ILO experts please contact Mr. Erik von Uexkull at vonuexkull@ilo.org - +41 22 799 6734 - or visit the Trade and employment web page.
A recent ILO publication (Jansen and von Uexkull, 2010) provides insights into the extent and the nature of the negative consequences for workers and households as a consequence of the crisis-related trade and investment shocks.

> Read more
> Pictures of the event

**Videos of the panels**

Panel 1: *The Global Jobs Pact and macroeconomic policy (video – 12’30”)*

The panel heard keynote addresses by:

- **Introduction by Mr. Gilles de Robien (France), followed by an address by Mr. Celso Amorim, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Brazil (Video in Portuguese)**
- **Video statement by Hilda Solis, U.S. Secretary of Labor, United States, on the outcome of the G20 Labour Ministers meeting in Washington (Watch the video and read the statement)**
- **Video statement by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (Watch the video and read the statement)**

Moderated by Mr. Simon Long from The Economist, panellists discussed various issues including how employment can become a macroeconomic objective of the same order as low inflation and deficits. Panellists included:

- Ms Sandra Polaski, Deputy Under Secretary, Department of Labor, United States;
- Ms Maria Helena André, Minister of Labour and Social Solidarity, Portugal;
- Ms Aisha Abdel Hady, Minister of Manpower and Migration, Egypt;
- **Mr Carlos Tomada, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Argentina (Video interview in Spanish)**;
- Mr Richard Samans, Managing Director, World Economic Forum;
- **Mr Alberto Nadal, Secretary General, Confederation of Spanish Employers (Video interview in Spanish)**;
- Mr Guy Ryder, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

Panel 2: *The role of productive employment and social protection in realizing internationally agreed development goals and the MDGs (video – 7’03”)*

Moderated by Mr. Americo Martins dos Santos from BBC World Service, panellists discussed various issues including the role of social protection as a development and poverty reduction tool. Panellists included:

- Mr Robert Nkili, Minister of Labour and Social Security, Cameroun; Chairperson, African Union Labour and Social Affairs Commission; Government Vice-President of the ILC;
- Dr Kamal Elkheshen, Vice President, Sector Operations, African Development Bank;
- Mr Yogendra K. Modi, Chairman and CEO, Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd.;
- **Mr Quintino M. Severo, General Secretary, Central Sindical dos Trabalhadores (CUT), Brazil (Video interview in Portuguese)**;
- Mr Anders Wijkman, Vice-Chairman, Tallberg Foundation and member of the Club of Rome.

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