

**FOR INFORMATION**

FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

The ILO and the multilateral system*Contents*

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1. The ILO's engagement with other multilateral organizations and processes over the past year focused on promoting decent work and the Global Jobs Pact, especially in the context of the financial and economic crisis. The ILO also continued its efforts to contribute to a more coherent United Nations (UN) system-wide approach to sustainable development, both in terms of policies and through operational practices in UN reform processes and country programmes. This has borne fruit in many areas, some of which were reported to the Governing Body in November 2009.¹ This paper reports on decisions and events of most significance to ILO priorities.

Crisis response and recovery

United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (New York, 24–26 June 2009)

2. The Conference² was attended by high-level representatives, including presidents, prime ministers, vice-presidents and ministers. It debated the role of the UN in discussions on reforming and strengthening the international financial and economic system; action to mitigate the impact of the crisis on development; the impact of the crisis on employment, trade, investment and development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and the contribution of the UN development system in the response to the crisis.
3. The ILO cautioned that the jobs recovery could be much slower than the economic recovery, and stressed the need for immediate action to mitigate the crisis and prevent dangerous levels of unemployment and underemployment, highlighting the Global Jobs Pact as a practical resource for dealing with the jobs crisis while maintaining a decent work perspective.
4. The outcome document³ refers specifically to a number of ILO concerns and the Global Jobs Pact, which it invited the ILO to present to the substantive session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in July 2009.⁴ The Governing Body discussed the resulting ECOSOC resolution, entitled "Recovering from the crisis: A Global Jobs Pact"⁵ in November 2009.

UN Economic and Social Council

5. The ECOSOC resolution followed a presentation of the Global Jobs Pact by the Director-General to the High-level Segment of the Council. During the Coordination Segment of the Council, the Director-General addressed a panel discussion on the impact of the financial and economic crises on sustainable development, particularly their social implications, while ILO Executive Director Mr George Dragnich participated in a thematic panel on

¹ GB.306/WP/SDG/1.

² www.un.org/ga/econcrisissummit/.

³ www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/63/303&Lang=E.

⁴ See GB.306/WP/SDG/1.

⁵ ECOSOC: *Recovering from the crisis: A Global Jobs Pact*, July 2009 (E/2009/L.24) (available on request).

“The current economic, food and climate change crises and their effects on the achievement of the MDGs: The role of UN system’s support to national efforts.”⁶

6. The High-level Segment of the substantive session adopted a Ministerial Declaration on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health⁷ which drew particular attention to the need to support the efforts of developing countries in building up and improving basic social protection floors.
7. The 47th Session of the Commission for Social Development, in February 2009, took social integration as its priority theme⁸ and a special paper entitled *Policy responses on employment and the social consequences of the financial and economic crisis, including its gender dimension*⁹ was submitted to its 48th Session in 2010. The ILO provided extensive inputs, drawing attention to the Global Jobs Pact and the gender dimension of the crisis.

UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) Joint Crisis Initiatives

8. In early 2009, under the leadership of the ILO Director-General, the High-level Committee on Programmes of the CEB undertook a review of the main challenges facing the international community in the current international financial and economic crisis. In April 2009 the CEB endorsed a coherent and comprehensive strategy for system-wide action to address the crisis and adopted a communiqué¹⁰ supporting the nine initiatives proposed by the High-level Committee on Programmes, coordinated by various CEB member organizations, with the voluntary participation of other agencies. The initiatives are:
 - *Additional financing for the most vulnerable* (UNDP, World Bank) – advocating and devising a joint World Bank–UN system mechanism for the common articulation and implementation of additional financing, including through the World Bank’s proposed Vulnerability Fund;
 - *Food security* (FAO, IFAD, UN, WFP) – strengthening programmes to feed the hungry and expanding support to farmers in developing countries;
 - *Trade* (UNCTAD, WTO) – fighting protectionism, including through the conclusion of the Doha Round and strengthening aid for trade initiatives and finance for trade;
 - *Green Economy Initiative* (UNEP) – building on mutually beneficial synergies in the international community’s response to the challenges of climate change and the global financial and economic crisis, with a focus on green growth and green job creation – the ILO is a supporting agency of this initiative due to its work on green jobs;
 - *Global Jobs Pact* (ILO) – boosting employment, production, investment and aggregate demand, and promoting decent work for all;

⁶ A full account of ECOSOC’s activities in 2009 may be found at <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/490/17/PDF/N0949017.pdf?OpenElement>.

⁷ www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=E/2009/L.12.

⁸ www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2009.html.

⁹ E/CN.5/2010/8.

¹⁰ <http://hlcp.unsystemceb.org/JCI/01>. See also GB.306/WP/SDG/1.

- *Social Protection Floor Initiative* (ILO, WHO) – ensuring access to basic social services, shelter, and empowerment and protection of the poor and vulnerable;
 - *Humanitarian, security and social stability* (WFP) – emergency action to protect lives and livelihoods, meeting hunger and humanitarian needs, protecting displaced people and shoring up security and social stability;
 - *Technology and innovation* (ITU, UNIDO, WIPO) – developing technological infrastructure to facilitate the promotion and access to innovation; and
 - *Monitoring and analysis* (IMF, UNDESA) – strengthening macroeconomic and financial surveillance and implementing an effective early warning system, and urgently establishing a UN system-wide vulnerability monitoring and alert mechanism to track developments and report on the political, economic, social and environmental dimensions of the crisis.
9. The initiatives are interconnected, but each makes a distinctive contribution to the social development agenda. The Global Jobs Pact and Social Protection Floor initiatives focus on employment and social protection issues respectively. The Global Jobs Pact initiative, led by the ILO, aims at promoting stronger and more coherent action across UN agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant international organizations that engage in the implementation of the Pact. The initiative provides a platform for policy dialogue and greater inter-agency cooperation in sharing knowledge, mobilizing funds and providing technical assistance to countries wishing to strengthen employment and decent work measures in their recovery programmes. The Social Protection Floor Initiative, jointly led by the ILO and WHO, aims at promoting and supporting the implementation of a basic set of essential social transfers and the availability and continuity of and access to essential services (such as water and sanitation, adequate nutrition, health, education and family-focused social work support) as a means to alleviate the social impact of the crisis. On a national level, the social floor approach would be based on a legislative framework and the empowerment and protection of the poor and vulnerable. The approach has been endorsed by the governing bodies of several UN agencies.
10. The lead and cooperating organizations of each Joint Crisis Initiative have prepared programmes of action clearly distinguishing between the measures that require immediate steps to be taken and those aimed at sustained long-term human security. In each policy area the main expected outcome is a widely accessible pool of expertise, resources, capacity building and advocacy events, and networks to develop and share knowledge, which countries can rely on in their policy and programme development. Following the endorsement of the common strategy by the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (June 2009), and the call for a coordinated approach at the country level, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) also developed modalities to support field-based, country-owned crisis response programmes that target the most vulnerable countries and populations and draw on the expertise, resources and networks made available under each of the nine initiatives.¹¹
11. The Director-General, in his capacity as Chairperson of the High-level Committee on Programmes, convened a meeting of executive heads of lead agencies of the nine CEB Joint Crisis Initiatives on 7 July 2009 in Geneva. As follow-up, Helen Clark, as Chairperson of the UNDG, sent a letter to all UNDP Resident Coordinators urging them to work with the UN country teams on rapid and relevant means of operational support to governments indicating interest in the Joint Crisis Initiatives.

¹¹ General Assembly Resolution No. 63/303 and the letter of 1 September 2009 from the Chair of the UNDG to United Nations Resident Coordinators.

CEB Toolkit for mainstreaming employment and decent work

12. Work to promote implementation of the CEB *Toolkit* approach over the past year focused on country-level application. It was used in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) exercises and One UN country planning in Argentina, Indonesia, Syrian Arab Republic, Uruguay and Viet Nam. Such initiatives were greatly facilitated by the implementation of an ILO-led capacity-building and awareness-raising training programme and by the promotion of the *Toolkit* approach in the UNDAF Guidelines adopted in 2009.
13. Collaboration based on the CEB *Toolkit* approach with CEB organizations at headquarters' level also continued with the preparation of action plans by several organizations to enhance decent work outcomes in areas related to their mandate, based on the synergies identified in the self-assessment exercise. The approach has been adapted to take account of the impact of the world financial and economic crisis so as to facilitate use of the decent work approach for solutions.

United Nations Development Programme

14. In September 2009, the UNDP Bureau discussed its response to the abovementioned ECOSOC resolution for the UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies to take account of the Global Jobs Pact in their decision-making processes. The Bureau decided that, with a view to partnering with the ILO in implementing the Global Jobs Pact, the UNDP Executive Board should examine a paper in January 2010 highlighting areas of engagement and proposals for action to address the directives in the Pact.¹² In January the UNDP Executive Board adopted a "UNDP response to the financial and economic crisis: Promoting the Global Jobs Pact". The decision recalled the agreement of 2007 between the UNDP and the ILO to strengthen ties to reduce poverty and create jobs, and decided to continue to give priority to the Global Jobs Pact, in collaboration with the ILO, and to integrate it into its operational activities under the UNDP strategic plan; and asked the Administrator to strengthen interagency collaboration at the country level so as to enhance thematic ties with the CEB Global Social Protection Floor Initiative. It also requested the UNDP to include in the annual report of the Administrator a progress report outlining the initiatives it has undertaken to implement this decision. This important decision of the Board strengthens even further the basis of ILO–UNDP collaboration at the regional, subregional and national levels.

UN Ministerial Conference on the Social Impact of the Economic Crisis in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Turkey (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 7–8 December 2009)

15. This Conference,¹³ organized by the ILO, UNICEF, FAO and UNDP and hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan, brought together ministers and deputy ministers of labour and senior officials of the ministries of labour, finance, economy and agriculture of the

¹² Executive Board of the UNDP and of the United Nations Population Fund: *Employment programming in response to the global financial and economic crisis*, DP/2010/12, www.undp.org/execbrd/word/dp2010-12.doc.

¹³ www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/geneva/what/events/almaty2009/index.htm.

countries concerned,¹⁴ as well as high-level representatives of the UN system, international and regional financial institutions, regional organizations, bilateral cooperation agencies, employers' and workers' organizations, civil society and regional academia. The Conference focused on employment and labour market development, social protection and food security, and agricultural development. The purpose was to exchange views on effective anti-crisis policies and the lessons learned, and on how to stimulate recovery and shape longer term strategies that can help countries move towards their optimal development paths.

16. A panel of regional directors of UN agencies and representatives of international financial institutions focused on the future partnership with national stakeholders with a view to supporting a speedy recovery and sustainable development. The Conference combined political debate and technical discussions, with active involvement of the social partners. The Conference adopted a Ministerial Declaration which is driven by the Decent Work Agenda and the Global Jobs Pact.

Meeting of G20 Labour and Employment Ministers (April 2010)

17. At their Pittsburgh Summit the G20 leaders stated:

To ensure our continued focus on employment policies, the Chair of the Pittsburgh Summit has asked his Secretary of Labor to invite our Employment and Labor Ministers to meet as a group in early 2010 consulting with labor and business and building on the upcoming OECD Labor and Employment Ministerial meeting on the jobs crisis. We direct our Ministers to assess the evolving employment situation, review reports from the ILO and other organizations on the impact of policies we have adopted, report on whether further measures are desirable, and consider medium-term employment and skills development policies, social protection programs, and best practices to ensure workers are prepared to take advantage of advances in science and technology.

18. On 21 October 2009 President Obama addressed a letter to the Director-General thanking him for the work leading up to the Pittsburgh Summit and his participation in the Leaders' discussions. President Obama also mentioned additional ILO analysis to help the forthcoming G20 Labour and Employment Ministers meeting, including the preparation of a twenty-first century job-training strategy enabling workers to succeed in an evolving global economy. President Obama requested the Director-General to work on this strategy with the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers and to submit a final report to the next Leaders' Summit.
19. The United States Secretary of Labor, Ms Hilda Solis, has formally invited the ILO to the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers meeting to be held in Washington, DC, on 20–21 April 2010. As mandated by the G20 Leaders' Statement in Pittsburgh, consultations with labour and business will precede the Meeting. The ILO is preparing a series of technical papers in close coordination with the conveners of the G20 Ministers meeting.

¹⁴ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

International financial institutions

(a) *International Monetary and Finance Committee and Development Committee*

20. In April 2009, the Director-General addressed the International Monetary and Finance Committee and Development Committee on the subject of “Shortening the global recession, accelerating recovery and setting course for inclusive and sustainable world development”.¹⁵ The IMF meeting agreed to a substantial increase in the funds available for loans to countries needing support as a result of the crisis. The World Bank announced the establishment of a number of programmes,¹⁶ including a Vulnerability Financing Facility and an Infrastructure Recovery and Assets Platform to raise and channel funds for crisis response.

21. In a paper entitled *From crisis response to recovery, jobs and sustainable growth*¹⁷ submitted to the International Monetary and Finance Committee and Development Committee meeting in Istanbul in October 2009, the Director-General emphasized the continuing risks to employment and world economic and social stability represented by the crisis, pointing to the relevance of the Global Jobs Pact in this context, in particular its call for coordinated global policy action to maximize the positive impact on jobs and sustainable enterprises worldwide. Ministers at the meeting committed “to maintaining supportive fiscal, monetary, and financial sector policies until a durable recovery is secured, and stand ready to act further as needed to revive credit, recover lost jobs, and reverse setbacks in poverty reduction”. They also affirmed that it was “important to continue international support for low-income countries’ efforts to implement their long-term development plans and to combat poverty, and to continue monitoring the impact of the crisis on these economies”. The World Bank reported that it had accelerated lending to counteract the effects of the crisis and requested an increase in its capital and an early completion of the next pledging round for its soft loan arm, the International Development Association.

(b) *Joint ILO–World Bank technical workshop on the impact of the financial crisis on employment (Geneva, 25 January 2010)*

22. In January the ILO and the World Bank presented their latest work analysing the impact of the financial crisis on employment in order to ensure consistency and to identify possible areas for future collaboration. Issues discussed included regional and country trends, imputing missing labour market data to assess crisis impacts, the effect of the crisis on labour markets, an overview of ILO inputs into the meeting of G20 Labour and Employment Ministers and other policy analysis, and an inventory of current policy interventions.

23. At the workshop it was agreed to establish joint technical working groups in the following areas:

- determining global and regional aggregate employment trends and imputation of missing data;

¹⁵ www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/dgo/speeches/index.htm.

¹⁶ www.worldbank.org/financialcrisis/.

¹⁷ www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/dgo/speeches/somavia/2009/imfc.pdf.

- analysis of the distributional impacts of the crisis on employment;
 - inventory of crisis response and recovery policy interventions.
24. The work on the inventory of crisis response and recovery policies will build on that undertaken by the ILO following the earlier request by the G20. The joint working group will coordinate the updating of the existing 54 country profiles already prepared by the ILO and add new countries. The Global Jobs Pact will be the organizing framework for the policy analysis. The expanded inventory will help policy-makers and constituents give effect to the Global Jobs Pact.¹⁸

United Nations

Millennium Development Goals: Mid-term review

25. The General Assembly decided¹⁹ to convene a high-level plenary meeting in New York from 20 to 22 September on expediting progress to achieve the MDGs by 2015, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the matter in March 2010 that would, together with the annual MDG Report and the report of the MDG Gap Task Force, serve as inputs for consultations ahead of the high-level meeting.
26. The ILO was designated as lead agency for one of two subgroups dealing with MDG 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and submitted a general paper on addressing targets 1.A (Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than US\$1 a day) and 1.B (Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people). The latter incorporates the new indicators negotiated by the ILO in 2007. The WFP and FAO lead the second subgroup. The ILO has also been involved in consultations on the review exercise in general.
27. The General Assembly requested the Assembly President to organize and preside over two days of informal interactive hearings, no later than June 2010, with non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector, and prepare a summary to be issued prior to the high-level plenary meeting.

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

28. In December 2008, the General Assembly set full employment and decent work for all as the theme for the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–17).²⁰ In February 2009, the High-level Committee on Programmes agreed to establish a time-bound cluster group of committee members, jointly led by UNDESA and

¹⁸ ILO, 2009: *Protecting people, promoting jobs: A survey of country employment and social protection policy responses to the global economic crisis*, ILO report to the G20 Leaders' Summit, Pittsburgh, 24–25 September 2009.

¹⁹ Resolution No. A/64/L.36 (provisional number).

²⁰ www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/RES/63/230.

the ILO, to prepare a draft coordinated, substantive and coherent system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication on full employment and decent work.²¹

29. In a resolution adopted in December 2009²² the General Assembly underlined the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based and inclusive economic growth, including full, productive employment generation and decent work for all, and reaffirmed its commitment to promote opportunities for that purpose.

United Nations Development Group

30. The UNDG is one of the three high-level committees of the CEB, dealing with operational and country-level development issues. UNDAF is the strategic programme framework that describes the collective response of the UN system to national development priorities. The 2007 triennial comprehensive policy review²³ encourages the UN development system to intensify its collaboration at the country and regional levels towards strengthening national capacities and the UNDAF. In 2009 an extensive exercise was undertaken leading to the adoption of a document to improve guidance on UNDAFs: *How to prepare an UNDAF? Part I: Guidelines for UN Country Teams; Part II: Technical guidance for UN Country Teams*. In this guidance package, which was approved by the UNDG in November, the ILO and its constituents enjoy a much better position than previously. International labour standards, the CEB *Toolkit*, the ILO's gender audit methodology, fundamental principles and rights at work, the social partners and South–South cooperation are now included in the document. In particular, international labour standards are referred to in the section on UN country teams' mission. The social partners, with specific reference to employers' and workers' organizations, are listed in three different parts of the text, which now provides a better basis for ensuring an impact on development operations related to the world of work at the country level.

31. UN country teams have to apply the following programming principles, which are intended to strengthen the quality and focus of UN responses to national priorities based on common values and standards:

- human rights-based approach;
- gender equality;
- environmental sustainability;
- results-based management;
- capacity development (the central thrust and main purpose of UN country teams' cooperation).

A coherent UN country team approach uses these five interrelated programming principles but may add other key cross-cutting issues that may be relevant in a particular country context.

²¹ www.un.org/esa/socdev/social/documents/poverty/CEB_2009_1.pdf.

²² A/C.2/64/L.56, www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/C.2/64/L.56.

²³ UN General Assembly: *Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system*, 2008 (A/RES/62/208).

32. In 2009, the ILO contributed to a capacity-building programme entitled “Working with the United Nations”, the main purpose of which was to help ILO staff and constituents handle complex UN operations at the country level while mainstreaming the Decent Work Agenda and the Global Jobs Pact.

United Nations reform

(a) *Establishment of a consolidated UN body on gender*

33. The General Assembly decided to strengthen the institutional arrangements to support gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, into a composite entity. The new body will be led by an Under-Secretary-General. This decision marks the culmination of a long process of negotiations, to which the ILO made a substantial contribution.²⁴

34. The new entity will be a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and report to the General Assembly through ECOSOC. The Commission on the Status of Women will play a crucial role in guiding its work and an Executive Board will oversee its operational activities. The composite entity is intended as the centre of the gender equality architecture of the UN system, which comprises the capacities of the whole system working for gender equality and women’s empowerment. It will combine the mandates and assets of the four existing gender equality entities, and will perform new and additional functions to close the gaps and address the challenges in the work of the UN system in the area. It will provide coherent and timely support to member States in their efforts to enhance their capacity to achieve gender equality, consistent with the principle of national ownership.²⁵ The new entity will function at three levels – country, regional and headquarters, as discussed at the recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which undertook a 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly.

(b) *System-wide coherence*

35. In a resolution on system-wide coherence,²⁶ the General Assembly adopted a wide range of measures and requested proposals concerning the governance of operational activities for development of the UN system, improving the funding system of such activities, evaluation of the Delivering as One initiative, and the simplification and harmonization of business practices. An initial set of follow-up proposals has been submitted by the Secretary-General.²⁷

²⁴ The decision is contained in A/RES/63/311. The Secretary-General’s proposals to give effect to the decision may be found in document A/64/588.

²⁵ www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html.

²⁶ A/RES/63/311.

²⁷ A/64/589.

Strengthening the governance of operational activities
for development of the UN system for enhanced
system-wide coherence

36. The General Assembly requested further proposals for the improvement of governance of UN operational activities and for modalities to govern the submission and approval of common country programmes, on a voluntary basis, bearing in mind the importance of national ownership and effective intergovernmental oversight. It also requested proposals on the establishment of an independent evaluation mechanism to assess system-wide efficiency, effectiveness and performance. It further requested the CEB to provide it with regular briefings and regular reports and to ensure effective interaction with ECOSOC and relevant intergovernmental bodies.

Improving the funding system of operational activities
for development of the UN system

37. The General Assembly emphasized that increasing financial contributions to the UN development system was key to achieving the internationally agreed development goals and stressed that core resources, because of their untied nature, remain the bedrock of UN system operational activities for development. It noted with concern the continuing imbalance between core and non-core resources and the potential negative impact of non-core funding on the coordination and effectiveness of operational activities for development at the country level, while recognizing the value of thematic trust funds, multi-donor trust funds and other voluntary non-earmarked funding mechanisms. It urged donors and other countries in a position to do so to substantially increase their voluntary contributions to the core and regular budgets of the UN development system, to contribute on a multi-year basis, in a sustained and predictable manner, and to undertake voluntary commitments to provide a greater share of system-wide contributions to operational activities for development as core and regular resources. The Secretary-General was asked to adjust accordingly the statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development.

Delivering as One

38. The General Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to support “programme country pilot” countries to undertake expeditiously their own country-led evaluations with the participation of relevant stakeholders and with the technical support of the United Nations Evaluation Group; and requested the Secretary-General to urgently undertake an independent evaluation of lessons learned from such efforts.

Harmonization of business practices

39. The General Assembly called for further progress in the simplification and harmonization of business practices within the UN development system, and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the CEB, to regularly inform ECOSOC about progress being made and challenges encountered in this regard.

**Towards global partnerships:
Relations with the private sector**

40. In a resolution entitled “Towards global partnerships”, the General Assembly articulated the views of UN member States on the rapidly evolving relationship between the UN and the private sector. It reaffirmed the critical role of the private sector in supporting UN goals, including the MDGs, and stressed the importance of a value-based approach

when engaging business. Stressing the importance of managing private-sector relationships in a coherent manner throughout the UN system, the General Assembly welcomed the revised *Guidelines on cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector*, issued by the Secretary-General on 20 November 2009. It also encouraged the UN system to continue to place greater emphasis on partnership impact, transparency, accountability and sustainability. The resolution acknowledged the significant progress achieved by various UN agencies, funds and programmes in this area. It also recognized the central function of the Global Compact Office in providing stewardship for this emerging relationship, including its efforts to strengthen the capacity of the UN to partner strategically with the private sector.

41. The new UN and business partnerships web site,²⁸ which gives expression to the *Guidelines* and provides extensive information on business partnerships in various areas of UN activity, offers a process whereby users can match business resources with the expressed needs of UN organizations and accordingly places private sector actors in direct contact with the programmes and agencies concerned.

General Assembly resolutions addressing ILO concerns

42. An unprecedented large number of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its recent session address issues of concern to the ILO and embody its principles. These include the following: legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty;²⁹ the role of the UN in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence;³⁰ women in development;³¹ the international financial system and development;³² protection of the rights of migrants;³³ the situation of human rights in Myanmar;³⁴ the situation of human rights in Iran;³⁵ violence against women migrant workers;³⁶ and implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly.³⁷ Further details are available on request.

²⁸ <http://business.un.org/>.

²⁹ A/C.2/64/L.4/Rev.2, www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/C.2/64/L.4/Rev.2.

³⁰ A/C.2/64/L.61, www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/C.2/64/L.61.

³¹ A/C.2/64/L.58, www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/C.2/64/L.58.

³² A/C.2/64/L.19, www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/C.2/64/L.19.

³³ A/C.3/64/L.41/Rev.1.

³⁴ A/C.3/64/L.36.

³⁵ A/C.3/64/L.37.

³⁶ A/C.3/64/L.18/Rev.1.

³⁷ A/C.3/64/L.9/Rev.1.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: 15th Conference of the Parties
(Copenhagen, 7–18 December 2009)

43. This Conference,³⁸ which was attended by more than 45,000 people including more than 130 Heads of State and Government, followed two years of negotiations on a wide range of issues. There was little rapprochement on such issues as the level of global emissions reduction needed; the nature of the agreement (binding or non-binding); whether or not countries' obligations depended on past, current or future emissions, their level of development or their classification as developed or developing or by other criteria. Agreement was reached however on some important issues, such as the need for developed countries to support adaptation to climate change, capacity-building needs in developing countries and the need to tackle emissions from deforestation processes. The outcome was the Copenhagen Accord.³⁹
44. The ILO organized a number of side events during the meeting. These concerned: “addressing the social consequences of climate change” (with UNDP, UNIFEM, WHO, UNICEF and ISDR), where the ILO highlighted the multidimensional nature of climate change, beyond the environmental impacts and including the effect on employment and livelihoods, health, gender and sustainable development; the “Green Economy: Implementing a New Climate Deal”, which focused on how investing in targeted sectors can help reduce carbon dependency while creating new areas of economic growth, decent jobs, and delivering on the MDGs (speakers included the Ministers of Environment of Brazil, Congo and Nepal); and “Economic recovery and green jobs: Win–win for development, climate and labour?” (with UNEP and ITUC), which addressed the economic downturn, unemployment, the plight of the working poor and rising income inequalities in the context of climate change. The ILO followed negotiations in the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action, in particular on the need to ensure that the transition towards a low carbon emission society included a just transition for the workforce and the creation of decent work.
45. Countries signing the Accord emphasized their strong political will to urgently combat climate change and their agreement to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention – to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a safe level. Countries also agreed that enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required.
46. Although the Conference did not fulfil the expectations of many, in particular because the Copenhagen Accord does not include legally binding emission reduction commitments, all countries clearly expressed their willingness to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change in the framework of sustainable development.
47. Many countries, developed and developing alike, referred to positive aspects of mitigation efforts such as employment creation, poverty alleviation and pollution reduction.

Geneva, 16 February 2010.

Submitted for information.

³⁸ http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_15/items/5257.php.

³⁹ http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_15/application/pdf/cop15_cph_auv.pdf.