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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Purpose of the document

This document summarizes key features of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, discusses their implications for the Organization and proposes points for decision regarding ILO follow-up action in the context of the end to poverty centenary initiative in the run-up to the 2019 session of the International Labour Conference, including the preparation of the Strategic Plan for 2018–21. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda has far-reaching implications for the Organization – constituents and Office. The ILO has a major opportunity to further the goals it set itself in the 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. The integrated approach of the Agenda calls for both a renewed drive by the ILO to offer constituents normative-based policy packages across the four pillars of decent work that are specific to country circumstances and closer collaboration with partner agencies. The ILO's long experience of tripartite partnership is a major advantage as the UN system seeks to develop the concept of multi-stakeholder partnerships around the Agenda (see draft decision in paragraph 44).

Relevant strategic objective: All.

Policy implications: The decisions of the Governing Body will guide ILO engagement with the UN and support to constituents.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: Taken into account in Programme and Budget proposals for 2016–17 and development cooperation resource mobilization.

Follow-up action required: Further engagement with UN partners on integrated approaches to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, discussions with constituents on possible support to national SDG strategies, further discussion at November 2016 Governing Body.

Author unit: Multilateral Cooperation Department (MULTILATERALS).

Related documents: GB.325/POL/6, GB.325/INS/15/2, GB.325/POL/ 7, GB.325/POL/1, GB.325/POL/3, GB.325/POL/2, GB.325/INS/5.

Introduction

1. The adoption by the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015 of *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*¹ creates a major opportunity for the United Nations (UN) as a whole and the ILO in particular to support member States in their commitment to ambitious sustainable development goals (SDGs) that reflect a broad consensus on a wide range of urgent and interconnected priorities.
2. As a result of the inclusion of significant components of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda in the 2030 Agenda, our Organization has a major opportunity and a significant responsibility to play a full and active role in the implementation of the SDGs including through support for national strategies for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda connects to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted by the UN Financing for Development Conference in July.² It also envisages a successful outcome to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris in December 2015 (COP21).
3. Following a brief summary of highlights of the UN Summit, this report is presented in two parts: Key features of the 2030 Agenda and Implementing the 2030 Agenda: The end to poverty centenary initiative.

The Sustainable Development Summit

4. The Summit was attended by 136 Heads of State and Government, as well as many civil society and private sector leaders. In the opening session, the UN Secretary-General described the 2030 Agenda as “a universal, integrated and transformative vision for a better world”. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia who led the preparation of the African Union position on post-2015 priorities said that “We must craft ambitious national responses towards implementation of the Agenda ... that will guide member states’ efforts to integrate and domesticate the new Agenda into local content that will engender national ownership in the implementation process”. Signalling the importance of the universal agenda, US President Barack Obama committed to implement all the SDGs in the United States and to continue supporting their implementation around the world. The speech of President Xi Jinping of China drew much attention for his pledge of US\$2 billion South–South Cooperation Fund in support of developing countries for implementation of the Agenda rising to \$12 billion by 2030 and debt relief for least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked and Small Island Developing States. President François Hollande of France announced the allocation of €4 billion to support the Agenda from 2020. Pope Francis, in a special and wide-ranging address, said that “the simplest and best measure and indicator of the implementation of the new Agenda for development will be effective, practical and immediate access, on the part of all, to essential material and spiritual goods: housing, dignified and properly remunerated employment, adequate food and drinking water; religious freedom and, more generally, spiritual freedom and education”.

¹ Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/7891Transforming%20Our%20World.pdf>.

² Available at: http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf.

5. During the Summit, the Director-General spoke in an interactive dialogue session on “Fostering sustainable economic growth, transformation and promoting sustainable consumption and production”.³ The Governments of Angola and Belgium hosted a high-level working lunch of the Group of Friends of Decent Work and Sustainable Development on the theme of “Development Cooperation and Partnerships for Delivering Decent Work”. Over 30 governments, as well as representatives of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the United States Council for International Business/International Organisation of Employers (USCIB/IOE), and civil society agreed that the collaborative effort which had helped to place decent work at the centre of the 2030 Agenda should be continued and called for the establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships to support the implementation of decent work outcomes.

I. Key features of the 2030 Agenda

6. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a historic political statement by world leaders committing to “a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative 17 Goals and targets”. The concept of sustainable development embraces three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced, integrated manner and emphasizing the need to protect human rights. Decent work features prominently in the Agenda, not only mainstreamed across the Goals and targets, but also as part of the vision of the new Agenda.

We resolve, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. We resolve also to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities.⁴

7. The Governing Body has received several reports on progress in the elaboration of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, most recently for the High-Level Section of its March 2015 session.⁵ Broad consensus on the Goals was achieved already in 2014 through the special Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.⁶ The final negotiations on the new Agenda from May to early July added a Preamble summarizing the vision, an opening Declaration of Commitments and Sections on Means of Implementation, the Global Partnership and Follow-up and Review.
8. Goal 8 is “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. The targets for this goal are:

- 8.1 sustaining per capita economic growth with a target of at least 7 per cent per year in LDCs;
- 8.2 enhancing productivity through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors;

³ See: http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/who-we-are/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_408979/lang--en/index.htm.

⁴ 2030 Agenda, para. 3.

⁵ GB.323/HL/1.

⁶ GB.319/INS/4.

- 8.3 promoting decent job creation, entrepreneurship, and the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs);
 - 8.4 decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation;
 - 8.5 achieving 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;
 - 8.6 reducing substantially the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training;
 - 8.7 eradicating forced labour and child labour in all its forms;
 - 8.8 protecting labour rights and promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment;
 - 8.9 promoting sustainable tourism that creates jobs;
 - 8.10 enhancing access to financial services.
9. The means of implementation mentioned under SDG 8 are: increasing Aid for Trade support to developing countries (8.a) and implementing the ILO Global Jobs Pact and a global strategy for youth employment (8.b).

Sustainable development goals

- Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts *
- Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15.** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

- 10.** Many of the SDGs connect to the ILO's mandate and the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda. Social protection, including national floors, is a target (1.3) for action under the poverty goal and is mentioned together with wage and fiscal policies as an important means of reducing inequality (10.4). In addition, the targets on eradication of extreme poverty (1.1) and reduction of poverty (1.2) will require ILO engagement and follow up. Technical and vocational skills are the topic of three targets under the education goal (4.3, 4.4 and 4.5). Other references relate to rural workers (2.3); workers in the health and education sectors (3.c and 4.c); unpaid care and domestic work (5.4); ending discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities (10.3); migrant workers (10.7); promotion of industrial employment (9.2); integration of small and medium-sized enterprises into value chains (9.3); resilience to climate-related hazards and economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (13.1); international law/standards on oceans and water conservation (14.c); rule of law (16.3); effective, accountable and transparent institutions (16.6); responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels (16.7); and fundamental freedoms (16.10).
- 11.** Goal 17 covers means of implementation and global partnerships. Specific targets addressing systemic issues call for enhancing policy coordination and coherence for macroeconomic stability and sustainable development; the promotion of multi-stakeholder partnerships and the strengthening of monitoring capacity.

Sustainable development indicators

- 12.** Work already under way in the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) on a global indicators framework will culminate in a report from the UNSC in March 2016 to the meeting of the High-level Political Forum⁷ in July 2016. The ILO is part of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators which is preparing proposed indicators for the UNSC. The global indicators will be a relatively short list compiled for the purposes of tracking global progress. The initial reports of the UNSC show that several relevant indicators are available for decent work targets and point to the ILO as a primary source and compiler of information for such global indicators. A general difficulty with such indicators, which applies particularly to those concerning decent work, is measuring progress on issues that are hard to quantify such as those with a qualitative content like social dialogue.

Implementation

- 13.** The Agenda sees action by countries as the main means of implementation supported by enhanced international action:

Cohesive nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be at the heart of our efforts ... At the same time, national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment,

⁷ The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is an annual UN meeting which will review progress on the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It meets once every four years under the General Assembly, where all states are represented, and in intervening years under the Economic and Social Council, which has a rotating membership of 54 countries balanced by region. It first met in 2013 under the General Assembly following its establishment by the 2012 Rio Summit on Sustainable Development.

including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems, and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance.⁸

A revitalized Global Partnership to facilitate intensive engagement in support of implementation of all the goals and targets, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources is envisaged. The Global Partnership is expected to evolve and embrace several multi-stakeholder partnerships built around the different Goals.

- 14.** A key support to the Global Partnership is the policies and actions outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. These relate “to domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade as an engine for development, debt and debt sustainability, addressing systemic issues and science, technology, innovation and capacity-building, and data, monitoring and follow-up.”⁹ Decent work was recognized as a core part of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which opens as follows:

We will promote peaceful and inclusive societies and advance fully towards an equitable global economic system in which no country or person is left behind, enabling decent work and productive livelihoods for all, while preserving the planet for our children and future generations.¹⁰

- 15.** The central role of productive employment and decent work and social protection in sustaining development and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda are further emphasized in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda:

... To enable all people to benefit from growth, we will include full and productive employment and decent work for all as a central objective in our national development strategies. We will encourage the full and equal participation of women and men, including persons with disabilities, in the formal labour market. We note that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, which create the vast majority of jobs in many countries, often lack access to finance. Working with private actors and development banks, we commit to promoting appropriate, affordable and stable access to credit to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as adequate skills development training for all, particularly for youth and entrepreneurs. We will promote national youth strategies as a key instrument for meeting the needs and aspirations of young people. We also commit to developing and operationalizing, by 2020, a global strategy for youth employment and implementing the International Labour Organization (ILO) Global Jobs Pact.¹¹

- 16.** The 2030 Agenda accords a key role to the private sector:

We will foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, while protecting labour rights and environmental and health standards in accordance with relevant international standards and agreements and other on-going initiatives in this regard, such as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the labour standards of the International Labour Organization, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and key multilateral environmental agreements, for parties to those agreements.¹²

⁸ 2030 Agenda, para. 65.

⁹ 2030 Agenda, para. 62.

¹⁰ Addis Ababa Action Agenda, para. 1.

¹¹ Addis Ababa Action Agenda, para. 16.

¹² 2030 Agenda, para. 67.

Review of progress

17. Regarding follow-up, the 2030 Agenda commits to “a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework” which is seen as making “a vital contribution to implementation and will help countries to maximize and track progress in implementing this Agenda”. Of particular interest to the ILO is that national reviews “will be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and will support reporting by all relevant stakeholders” and “will be people-centred, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind”. “National reports will allow assessments of progress and identify challenges at the regional and global level.” These will in turn “contribute to follow-up and review at the global level, including at the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF)”.¹³
18. The HLPF will have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level and promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies. Major groups, which include trade unions and business, will be invited to contribute to the HLPF meetings. These discussions will draw on an annual SDG progress report to be prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the UN system, based on the global indicator framework and data produced by national statistical systems. The HLPF will also receive an annual global sustainable development report, aimed at providing a strong evidence-based instrument to support policy-makers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development.
19. The HLPF, at the level of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), will be the global forum for discussion of voluntary country reviews of progress and thematic reports on the SDGs. These thematic reviews “will be supported by reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums which should reflect the integrated nature of the goals as well as the interlinkages between them”.¹⁴ In this context, the UN specialized agencies, such as the ILO, could play a role in the SDG’s accountability process.
20. Every four years, the HLPF will meet under the auspices of the General Assembly to “provide high-level political guidance on the Agenda and its implementation, identify progress and emerging challenges and mobilize further actions to accelerate implementation”.¹⁵ The next such HLPF will be in 2019 which coincides with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review process facilitating more coherent system-wide planning. The Agenda also calls on the UN development system to ensure coherent and integrated support to implementation.
21. To pull all these elements of global level follow-up together and plan the work of the HLPF, the UN Secretary-General will present a report to the 70th Session of the General Assembly in 2015 on arrangements and responsibilities for a coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level.

¹³ 2030 Agenda, paras 74(d) and (e), 77 and 80.

¹⁴ 2030 Agenda, para. 85.

¹⁵ 2030 Agenda, para. 87.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

22. Failure to address climate change effectively will compromise the ability of countries to reach many of the SDGs. Goal 13 specifically urges urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. The targets under this Goal include strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries and integrating of climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning and improving education, awareness raising, and human and institutional capacity. In addition, many other goals have climate-related targets. The SDGs were negotiated before the outcome of COP21 was known, so acknowledge that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. It is expected that the COP21 outcome will add more specific commitments to those in SDG 13.
23. The Paris COP21 will be a critical step towards reaching a new climate agreement that enables the international community to act with a long-term vision of a climate-neutral world in the second half of the century. As a universal agreement covering all sectors and all greenhouse gases, the expected Paris Agreement will have far-reaching implications for all economies, enterprises and workers. A formal recognition in the Paris Agreement of the importance of employment and the need for a just transition for all is essential to a climate change agreement that can be implemented effectively. It would provide the ILO and its constituents with an anchor (consistent with the 2013 ILC resolution concerning sustainable development, decent work and green jobs) to ensure that actions for climate adaptation and mitigation are based upon social protection floors, reduce the carbon footprint of enterprises and create decent work as part of a just transition for all.

II. Implementing the 2030 Agenda: The end to poverty centenary initiative

24. The central role accorded to decent work in the 2030 Agenda represents a major endorsement of the ILO's role in promoting sustainable development and thus accords the Organization a significant opportunity to play a strategic role in its implementation. It may be recalled that this was the objective set by the Governing Body when it first discussed the post-2015 development agenda in November 2012.¹⁶
25. In parallel to the process of elaborating the 2030 Agenda, the ILO has been developing a number of strategic initiatives in the run-up to its centenary. At its 322nd Session (November 2014), the Governing Body discussed the end to poverty centenary initiative, with the objective of bringing together all relevant areas of ILO action in a coherent strategy with clearly defined, concrete goals to implement the post-2015 development agenda. The end to poverty centenary initiative brings together significant areas of the ILO's work that contribute to the 2030 Agenda and help define the ILO's contribution to achieving the SDGs.¹⁷ Building on the Governing Body discussion of this paper, developing the initiative will constitute the theme of the Director-General's Report to the 2016 session of the International Labour Conference, during which delegates will have the

¹⁶ GB.316/INS/6. The Governing Body requested the Director-General to: (a) develop and implement a strategy for the adoption of full and productive employment and decent work as an explicit goal of the global development agenda beyond 2015, including a reference to the need for social protection floors (GB.316/PV(&Corr.)), para. 193(a)).

¹⁷ GB.325/INS/15/2.

opportunity to shape further the ILO's work on the end to poverty through their discussions in the plenary session. The other ILO centenary initiatives, such as the green initiative and the women at work initiative, will provide complementary support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, "transforming jobs to end poverty" will be the focus of the ILO's flagship *World Employment and Social Outlook* in 2016.

26. This section highlights, as a basis for the Governing Body's decisions, a number of steps the Organization can develop to take up the opportunities and responsibilities related to the 2030 Agenda. The strategic role of the ILO can be developed under the following themes: the importance of an integrated approach; policy development; partnerships; support to national strategies; and programming and development cooperation. Meeting the challenge of the 2030 Agenda will require a major effort to ensure that the ILO is able to align human and financial resources to focus on decent work for sustainable development and respond with agility to the needs of constituents and opportunities for partnerships.

The importance of an integrated approach

27. The 2030 Agenda stresses that the interlinked and integrated nature of the SDGs is of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized. Building and developing further the ILO's integrated approach can focus the way in which the pillars of decent work support sustainable development and interact with other dimensions of sustainability in the 2030 Agenda. As the Secretary-General said at the Summit, "We can no longer afford to think and work in silos".
28. Furthermore, the embedding of decent work in the 2030 Agenda marks a major step in follow-up of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (Social Justice Declaration), which it will be recalled enjoins the Organization to support and assist efforts by individual Members "to make progress on a tripartite basis towards all the strategic objectives, through country programmes for decent work, where appropriate, and within the framework of the United Nations system".¹⁸ The International Labour Conference evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration coincides with the first year of follow-up to the new Agenda creating an important opportunity to reflect strategically on how the ILO's active engagement on implementing the 2030 Agenda can serve to progress the aims of the Organization and, vice versa, how the ILO can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.¹⁹
29. The ILO has a mandate to focus on the implementation of SDG 8, and several other elements of the Decent Work Agenda targeted under other SDGs (see paragraph 10 above). Furthermore, the realization of other goals, such as achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (SDG 5) will engage the ILO given the centrality of gender equality in employment to women's empowerment. The UN, both through its intergovernmental and secretariat coordination mechanisms, will be considering how best to assure that the ambition of an integrated agenda is preserved while ensuring that the expertise of specialized agencies like the ILO is fully utilized.
30. The 2030 Agenda specifies that the relevant governing bodies should take action to review support to implementation and to report on progress and obstacles. At periodic intervals, aligned with the HLPF's consideration of thematic reviews, the Governing Body may

¹⁸ Social Justice Declaration (2008), Part II(A)(ii).

¹⁹ Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation (1946): <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/leg/agreements/nu.htm>.

therefore wish to place on its agenda consideration of a report on decent work for sustainable development with a particular focus on the end to poverty.

ILO policy development and the SDGs

- 31.** The ILO's forward planning of strategic priorities for policy development and action will enable the Organization to engage actively in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda from the outset. The ten policy outcomes and three enabling outcomes of the ILO's programme for 2016–17 are well-aligned with the SDGs. In addition, the ILO's global flagship programmes will enable key elements of the 2030 Agenda to be supported by ILO actions.²⁰ International labour standards will play a fundamental role in framing strategies to achieve SDG targets. Formalization of the informal economy, as discussed at the International Labour Conference over 2014–15 in the context of adoption of the new ILO Recommendation No. 204, is a major transformative driver of progress towards SDG 8.²¹ In addition to the evaluation of the Social Justice Declaration, at its 2016 session, the Conference will examine “Employment and decent work for peace and resilience”, and “Decent work in global supply chains”, both topics of great relevance to the 2030 Agenda. The theme of the Director-General's report to the 13th African Regional Meeting (Addis Ababa, 30 November–3 December 2015) is *Towards inclusive and sustainable development in Africa through decent work*.²²
- 32.** It will be important to continue to plan research work, as well as Governing Body, Regional Meeting and Conference agendas, with an eye to the evolving priorities under the 2030 Agenda. A key issue is the two-way relationship between economic growth and its inclusivity and the promotion of decent work. This in turn raises the question of the relationship between the UN development system and the Bretton Woods institutions around the coherence of macroeconomic policy advice to countries and the 2030 goals. Continued analytical work by the ILO on this issue can provide support to efforts to develop more coherence in the multilateral system.
- 33.** An important aspect of the ILO's integrated approach is the analysis of the implications of climate change on the labour market. This led to a clear understanding that climate change and related policy responses have major implications for employment, incomes and social inclusion, both in terms of positive and negative impacts. At the International Labour Conference in 2013, ILO constituents adopted a *Resolution concerning sustainable development, decent work and green jobs* which provides a framework to support just transition and decent work in the pursuit of climate change and sustainable development solutions. A tripartite expert meeting on 5–9 October 2015 is expected to formulate practical guidelines for the implementation of the Just Transition Policy Framework at the national level for consideration by the Governing Body.²³
- 34.** A further important aspect of follow-up to the 2030 Agenda is the development of suitable indicators. The ILO is actively engaged in the work of the UNSC at the global level. It can be anticipated that countries may wish to have more extensive indicators than the limited set that are being developed for global monitoring. The ILO is developing technical

²⁰ GB.325/POL/7.

²¹ GB.325/POL/1.

²² Available at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_409861.pdf.

²³ GB.325/POL/3.

guidelines for country analysis drawing on experience in supporting the Decent Work Country Profiles and other relevant experience.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

35. The 2030 Agenda calls for “a revitalized and enhanced Global Partnership and comparably ambitious means of implementation. The revitalized Global Partnership will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of all the Goals and targets, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources.”²⁴ The form of the Global Partnership will be developed in the coming months leading up to the 2016 HLPF. It is possible that several existing or new partnerships will be part of the approach.
36. As mentioned in paragraph 5, the high-level event organized by the Group of Friends of Decent Work and Sustainable Development in New York on 25 September supported the establishment of a multi-stakeholder partnership to support the implementation of decent work outcomes. The ILO is also an active partner in several multi-stakeholder platforms addressing the environmental dimensions of sustainability, notably the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE).²⁵ Youth employment is a major preoccupation in many countries, as is reflected in targets 8.5 and 8.6. In this respect, it is most timely that the UN Chief Executives Board is launching “The Global Initiative for Decent Jobs for Youth”. This multi-agency partnership led by the ILO aims to facilitate increased impact and expanded country-level action on decent jobs for youth through multi-stakeholder partnerships, the dissemination of evidence-based policies and the scaling up of effective and innovative interventions. This objective is directly linked to the achievement of the SDGs relating to youth employment. This initiative has built on the successful Social Protection Inter-agency Cooperation Board (SPIACB), which will play a major role in implementing target 1.3. Similar collaborative platforms are under consideration for a number of other targets, such as on forced and child labour, and on sustainable tourism. In some cases, the ILO will be the convenor; in others, a participant.

ILO support to national sustainable development strategies

37. National sustainable development strategies are the linchpin for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The ILO can therefore expect a significant volume of requests for technical assistance in preparing and then putting into effect the decent work dimensions of such strategies. Some countries may wish to prepare baseline analyses of decent work challenges as part of a process of identifying policy priorities and monitoring progress. It will be important for labour, employment and social affairs ministries, as well as social partners, to be well prepared both for strategic discussions on the role of decent work in inclusive growth and sustainable development, as well as specific priorities such as social protection or youth employment. The ILO may further be able to facilitate the development of tripartite approaches to national planning and policy development to implement the 2030 Agenda.
38. Office country-level support for SDG implementation will call for close collaboration with constituents and UN Country Teams. UN partnership programmes and ILO Decent Work Country Programmes will need to reflect the way in which countries decide to follow up

²⁴ 2030 Agenda, para. 60.

²⁵ <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/PAGE>.

the 2030 Agenda. The International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin (Turin Centre), is preparing awareness-raising and orientation materials for constituents and ILO staff and is working with the UN Staff College on similar programmes for UN Team Leaders and Resident Coordinators. In preparing for the implementation of the ILO Programme and Budget for 2016–17 close attention is being given to workplanning with a view to ensuring, as far as possible, the availability of technical specialists for country-level work.

39. The ILO is working actively with the UN Development Group on system-wide planning for 2030 Agenda implementation. The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review by ECOSOC in 2016 will also focus on the UN Development System's capacity to address Members' needs for 2030 Agenda implementation. The various coordination mechanisms under the UN Chief Executives Board are engaged in intensive discussions on how to respond to the new challenges. The ILO Director-General and his representatives are actively engaged in these discussions.

ILO programming

40. The Programme and Budget for 2016–17 reflects the ILO's commitment to work closely in partnership with other international organizations and with the UN system as a whole. In particular, the decision to adopt a transitional two-year strategic plan will allow the ILO to align its medium-term strategic planning framework with that of the UN as of 2018–21. The aim is to position the Organization well to be an influential player in the multilateral system in the course of the coming biennium and beyond. The next step is to align the implementation of the programme and budget with the framework for implementation envisaged in the 2030 Agenda. Over the coming two years, member States will be developing plans for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the UN system will need to be prepared to support them.

ILO Development Cooperation Strategy

41. The Governing Body will discuss the ILO's Development Cooperation Strategy for 2015–17.²⁶ The ILO and its development cooperation partners share a common commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The updated strategy thus aims to focus ILO development cooperation on programmes that support constituents' needs for assistance on the decent work components of the 2030 Agenda, ensure effectiveness of programmes, build the capacity of constituents to play their full role in the new Agenda and mobilize adequate resources to meet evolving priorities. In recent years, voluntary contributions have risen in importance. The scale and modalities of future UN funding for the SDGs is not yet clear, although some commitments were announced at the Summit, and may be further discussed at the ECOSOC in July 2016.

Conclusions

42. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has far-reaching implications for the Organization – both constituents and the Office. Forward planning has enabled the Organization to prepare already for the strategic role it is called to play in the implementation of the SDGs. The end to poverty centenary initiative is a vehicle for the ILO to further the goals it set itself in the 2008 Social Justice Declaration as well as the SDGs. The integrated, rights-based approach of the 2030 Agenda calls for both a renewed

²⁶ GB.325/POL/6.

drive by the ILO to offer constituents normative-based policy packages across the four pillars of decent work that are specific to country circumstances and closer collaboration with partner agencies. The ILO's long experience of tripartite partnership is a major advantage as the UN system seeks to develop the concept of multi-stakeholder partnerships around the Agenda.

43. The Governing Body may wish to return to discuss decent work and sustainable development with a focus on the end to poverty at regular intervals, bearing in mind that important aspects of the ILO's work will be covered under the Policy Development Section of its agenda, including development cooperation. The themes outlined in this paper will be developed further over the next two years and taken into account in preparation of the ILO's Strategic Plan 2018–21.

Draft decision

44. *The Governing Body requests the Director-General to:*

- (a) develop further the end to poverty centenary initiative as the ILO's vehicle for implementing the 2030 Agenda;*
- (b) encourage member States to involve the ILO and social partners in planning, implementing and monitoring the SDGs;*
- (c) develop enhanced capacity-building programmes for ILO constituents to engage in such national follow-up plans, bearing in mind the importance of strengthening statistical capacities for the monitoring of progress;*
- (d) continue to follow closely the evolution of the UN system's response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a view to ensuring that the ILO's policy role on decent work is well integrated into global, regional and national-level follow-up action;*
- (e) build multi-stakeholder partnerships to implement the sustainable development goals (SDGs), with a view to offering the ILO's technical and normative leadership on SDG 8 and related decent work goals, as well as building on the core role of tripartism;*
- (f) prepare proposals on the possible role of the Governing Body in examining progress on decent work for sustainable development as part of the UN system's examination of thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs, including cross-cutting issues;*
- (g) ensure alignment of the Office's workplans regarding the policy and enabling outcomes in the Programme and Budget for 2016–17 with priorities targeted in the 2030 Agenda;*
- (h) continue reinforcing the ILO's technical capacities to implement the end to poverty centenary initiative;*

- (i) develop proposals for the Strategic Plan 2018–21 to strengthen further the role of the ILO in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; and*
- (j) report to its 328th Session (November 2016) on progress in implementation of the end to poverty centenary initiative.*