

▶ Global Coalition for Social Justice

INS/4 – Additional information (20 March 2023)

Rationale and priorities

Societies pursue social justice particularly by working to protect the most vulnerable and marginalized, end poverty, ensure equal opportunity, and mitigate inequality and dislocation. How well they succeed in this regard depends in large part on the strength of **enabling rights and social dialogue, employment, including the promotion of sustainable enterprises, labour and social protection and just transitions** within their economies. These are the initial four main planned focus areas of the Global Coalition for Social Justice. They are central to the decent work agenda and crucial for achieving social justice, building on the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008), as amended in 2022.

Each of these social dimensions of sustainable development has come under increased pressure in recent years due to a combination of economic shocks (COVID-19 and cost-of-living) and transformations (environmental, technological and demographic). Such immediate and longer term forces are exacerbating poverty, insecurity, inequality and dislocation in many countries. The international community urgently needs to strengthen support for efforts by countries to respond to such challenges which are likely to intensify in the coming years. Therefore, the ILO is organizing a Global Coalition for Social Justice -- to increase the level and effectiveness of international cooperation on these four critical social dimensions of economic progress.

In effect, the Coalition is an unprecedented global effort to reach beyond the ILO's own means of implementation to engage the multilateral system and international community more deeply and concretely in the Organization's social justice mission. The Coalition will act as a catalyst and serve as a conduit and amplifier for initiating or accelerating action in policy areas where the realization of the ILO's mandate in achieving decent work requires greater solidarity and coordination with other partners to create greater policy coherence and urgently address the multiple challenges impacting on the world of work.

Objectives

The Coalition pursues the overarching goal of enhancing social justice and decent work to leave no-one behind, and accelerate delivery of the 2030 Agenda. To achieve this goal the coalition will:

- assemble a wide range of stakeholders (see [below](#)) to increase effort and action at global, regional and national level to advance social justice for all, building on the ILO's experience of mobilizing tripartism as a proven means to advance social justice through social dialogue;
- advocate for the primacy of social justice in policy-making and decision-making at all levels;
- leverage the impact of the ILO's work through increased and better coordinated multilateral and multistakeholder action and greater policy coherence;
- build a platform for increasing political momentum on social justice, in line with the objectives of the UN Secretary-General's report "Our Common Agenda" and in support of successful outcomes of the UN Social Summit in 2025 (if confirmed).

Design

The Coalition will be built on the Decent Work Agenda, as laid down in the 2008 Social Justice Declaration and further reaffirmed in the Centenary Declaration. Additional focus areas may be added, in consultation with Coalition members.

The Coalition will exercise four **functions**:

- (i) global and national advocacy;
- (ii) research, statistics for knowledge-generation and sharing, and publications including the proposed biannual flagship-report on “The State of Social Justice”;
- (iii) national, regional and global policy dialogues and;
- (iv) action, partnership and resource mobilization in support of country needs.

In particular, the Coalition will be a vehicle for mobilizing the more networked form of multilateral cooperation on social justice considerations envisioned in both the Philadelphia Declaration and “Our Common Agenda”. The UN **Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions** will serve as a key mechanism for increasing programme support for countries on activities related to the Coalition. In addition, the Coalition could seek to develop tracks of strengthened technical cooperation and policy alignment on trade and supply chains with the WTO and FTA secretariats; macroeconomic policy and social protection financing with the IMF; climate change and just transitions with UNFCCC; development finance and investment in labour and social security standards implementation and in the care economy with the World Bank and regional development banks; technology and skills with the OECD; aspects of occupational safety and health and social health protection with the WHO; strengthen cooperation with OHCHR on advancing the narrative of international labour standards as human rights; and promotion of an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises with UNIDO and UNCTAD, inter alia. The precise nature and number of such initiatives will be determined through subsequent consultations with these and other institutions. They will, where relevant, align with and contribute to the work of the four priority Action Programmes.

Coalition members

The Coalition will be formed by:

- (i) governments;
- (ii) employers’ and workers’ organizations;
- (iii) relevant international organizations and development partners;
- (iv) businesses;
- (v) the academia; and
- (vi) relevant non-governmental organizations.

All concerned must be committed to the terms of engagement and to increasing efforts or investment in one or more of the Coalition’s priority areas.

Institutions under (i), (ii) and (iii) above are core members that do not need to meet any further eligibility criterion. Organizations under (iv), (v) and (vi) will be admitted upon decision by the Coalition’s steering committee, according to criteria to be developed by the secretariat (see below), and endorsed by the Steering Committee.

Governance

A Steering Committee will be created, composed of representatives of governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations, international organizations, plus other possible representatives of groups (iv), (v) and (vi) above. In respect of governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations, the ILO’s standard

representational criteria will apply, with due attention to geographical and gender representativeness. The Steering Committee will be led by two co-chairs, i.e. the ILO Director-General as a permanent chair plus one member elected by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will:

- Determine the Coalition’s strategic direction and leadership.
- Elaborate the Coalition’s work programme, broken down by focus area, and oversee the implementation of this work programme.
- Develop the terms of engagement, and admit members whose eligibility is not automatic.
- Support resource mobilization efforts.

The Steering Committee will meet three times a year, at least two of which will be at the time of the ILC and GB sessions.

The ILO (Office) will act as the Coalition’s secretariat and provide the Steering Committee with the necessary administrative support. CABINET staff will be dedicated to work on the Coalition, while other Office staff members will contribute staff time, in line with their existing priorities.

Timeline

Should the GB endorse the formation of the Coalition the following steps are envisaged:

- March – June 2023:
 - Heads of State and Government, as well as representatives of employers’ and workers’ organizations and relevant agencies of the multilateral systems will be invited to join the Coalition, and to deliver statements at the Social Justice Summit (proposed to be held during the 111th ILC, and constituting this year’s edition of the usual “World of Work” Summit).
 - The Office will organize two tripartite consultations (April and May 2023) to report back and seek guidance and endorsement from the ILO constituents on the progress made in approaching potential Coalition members, the criteria for engagement and in preparing for the Social Justice Summit (June 2023).
 - The Office will engage with other potential partners to explore their interest in joining the Coalition, and the results of such discussions will be communicated to constituents through regular channels.
- June 2023:
 - The ILC will be invited to debate the DG’s report on global social justice, and the comments of constituents will be incorporated into the development of the Global Coalition.
 - On 14-15 June 2023, the Social Justice Summit will formally announce the Global Coalition for Social Justice.
- July – September 2023:
 - The Coalition’s Steering Committee will be formed.
 - The secretariat will organize through ILO field offices national and regional dialogue in alignment with existing mechanisms and platforms, including UNCTs.
 - The coalition’s Steering Committee and work-programme will be subject to tripartite consultation.
- September 2023:
 - The Office could organize a side event at the UN SDG Summit to introduce the Coalition and call for a global joint effort to advance social justice.

- October- December 2023:
 - The Office reports to and consults the Governing Body on the progress made in forming the Coalition.
 - The Steering Committee endorses its first work programme.

From then onwards the Coalition will work in operational mode, hold regular meetings and provide regular updates, with a specific focus on the 2025 Social Summit (if confirmed). The first edition of the “State of Social Justice” report will be unveiled on or before that occasion. Regular reports on the Coalition will be provided to the GB.

Costs and funding

In principle, all Coalition members bear their own costs related to their participation. However, the work of the Coalition will occasion certain expenditures which, for the year 2023 will include: resources staffed from CABINET to perform preparatory work; the Social Justice Summit, covered from the RELMEETINGS budget for the ILC; potentially two Steering Committee meetings, at about \$20,000 per meeting (TBC); and regional and national consultations, at about \$100,000 (TBC).

These costs will be covered by reallocations from savings realized in the 2022–23 Programme and Budget. The Global Coalition will not have any additional budgetary implications for the proposed P&B 2024-25. The cost of the Steering Committee, at about \$20,000 per meeting will be absorbed within existing budgets. All the work specified in the P&B, especially technical support and capacity building for the ILO constituents will be undertaken as planned. More importantly, the P&B will benefit significantly from the Global Coalition, as it will provide an important vehicle to amplify the work of the ILO. For instance, the ILO’s work on thematic priority areas will be actively and more effectively promoted by the Global Coalition for greater visibility and impacts.

Costs associated with actions initiated by Coalition focus areas are expected to be shared across the participating entities. Appropriate funding sources, including voluntary contributions from Coalition member governments, foundations and the private sector may be sought. Generating the incremental resources needed to increase programme support for countries on activities related to the Coalition is envisioned to be achieved through the partnerships or development cooperation arrangements catalyzed by the Coalition.