
A number of key events have underscored the central role of decent work for achieving a new development paradigm for Africa. Such events include the African Union (AU) social policy resolution concerning sustainable development, decent work and green jobs (January 2015) and it launched Agenda 2063, which provides a vision for seizing new development and investment opportunities.

The end to poverty centenary initiative brings together key elements of the ILO’s work in promoting decent work and sustainable development. The ten policy outcomes and three enabling outcomes of the ILO Programme and Budget for 2016–17 will enable ILO resources to support the SDGs. They bring together significant areas of the ILO’s work that contribute to the 2030 Agenda and help define the role of the ILO in addressing the SDGs.

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. The ILO has been developing a number of strategic initiatives to enable the Organization to fully engage in national policy-making for sustainable development, namely the social, the economic and the environmental dimensions of the three pillars of sustainable development. The cross-sectoral nature of the ILO’s work makes it particularly well-placed to play a strategic role in the achievement of the SDGs.

Discussions for issues

What are governments planning to do as a national follow-up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda?

What are national trade unions and employers’ organizations’ plans for engagement with government and international partners?

Is the preparation of a national sustainable development strategy for ILO in the Partnership for Inclusive Development (PID) process of regional or national scope?

What sort of support will the ILO’s constituents wish to have from the Office? For example, are they asking for information on progress and policies, or is there a wish to have from the Office? For example, are they asking for assistance to plan and implement national follow-up regional or global strategies?

What role should the ILO aim to play in the continental African climate fund and the creation of a Regional Economic Community (RECs)?

How can the ILO’s triangular partnership best develop engagements with other international agencies, development cooperation agencies, and other actors to support the implementation of decent work for sustainable development?