



**Conclusions
of the 16th High Level Meeting
between
the International Labour Organization and the European Commission
Brussels, 5 July 2022**

On 4-5 July, the European Commission (Commission) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) held their 16th High Level Meeting (HLM). This meeting followed the renewal and adjustment of their Exchange of Letters in 2021 to reflect the broadened scope of the cooperation between both organisations.

The Commission and the ILO have noted with satisfaction that their cooperation has continued to lead to tangible improvements in the world of work and the creation of decent working conditions, as set out in international labour standards and supported through social dialogue.

Led by the intention to maintain and further their well-established and multi-faceted cooperation and adapt it to existing and new challenges, the ILO and the Commission reiterated their commitments to realise the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has hit economies, companies and workers and their families hard everywhere, and to promote a human-centred recovery while advancing the socially-just digital and green transition. Participants noted that the *ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work* and the *European Pillar of Social Rights and its Action Plan* provide a rich framework for cooperation, and that the ILO's *Global Call to Action for a Human-centred Recovery* and the European Commission Communication on *Decent Work Worldwide for a global just transition and sustainable future* are especially relevant in the current social, economic and geopolitical context.

Based on these joint policy priorities, participants furthermore discussed the joint promotion of international labour standards through trade agreements, how to promote decent work in global supply chains and committed to promoting occupational safety and health following the landmark *amendment to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work* in June 2022 to explicitly include the right to a safe and healthy working environment.

Furthermore, in a dedicated session the Commission and the ILO discussed the socio-economic impact of the war in Ukraine.

The high-level segment of the meeting was preceded by a number of technical sessions dedicated to specific areas of cooperation of mutual interest indicated in the conclusions.

The following conclusions were agreed during the HLM, to shape the policy context and set out the priorities for ILO-EU cooperation in these areas until the next meeting.

General Conclusions

General conclusions

The Commission and the ILO have established a long-standing fruitful cooperation and have joined forces to promote and realise decent work opportunities and the promotion of international labour standards around the world.

Both organisations are strongly committed to build on and harness their partnership to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to address the pressing, human, social, economic and environmental challenges, including the post-Covid-19 recovery in the framework of their respective mandates. Their cooperation to this end is guided on relevant strategic documents, including the *ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work*, the *European Pillar of Social Rights* and its *Action Plan*, as well as ILO's *Global Call to Action for a Human-centred Recovery* and the European Commission *Communication on Decent Work Worldwide for a global just transition and sustainable future*.

Both organisations have agreed to further strengthen their cooperation by:

- Strengthening coordination and policy coherence to promote social fairness and justice, decent work and international labour standards in the EU, in third countries as well by shaping the global agenda, including in the context of international fora such as the G7 and G20, and within the multilateral system;
- Joining forces to continue to promote the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 8, promoting a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and fostering actions to ensure a just digital and green transition, including through joint actions at international and multilateral levels and through development cooperation, focusing on all aspects of decent work;
- Intensifying exchanges, reinforcing contributions to each other's initiatives (including through consultations and 'calls for evidence') and analytical work on jobs, growth and investment, non-standard forms of employment (including platform work), care work, youth employment, informal economy, social economy, global supply chains, just transition to a carbon-free economy, skills development and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), social protection, gender equality, labour market inequalities, migration and refugees, working conditions, occupational safety and health (OSH), child labour, forced labour, freedom of association and discrimination at work, social dialogue including capacity-building measures, as well as digitalisation and other long-term trends in the world of work;
- The Commission will support also the work of the ILO to develop a measurement framework to monitor the progresses towards a more decent world of work;
- Keeping each other regularly informed on the promotion and implementation of international labour standards and of human rights in the EU and in partner countries;
- Promoting contacts and exchanges of information between EU Delegations and ILO Offices at country level and other mechanisms to strengthen the contribution to each other's work;
- Consulting each other on issues of common interest requiring immediate attention;
- Explore opportunities for further cooperation.

Strategic Orientations for ILO-EU Cooperation in the global agenda

Building back better for a sustainable future by leveraging the green and digital transition

The Commission and the ILO are strongly committed to building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and to build a sustainable future by leveraging a socially just green and digital transition. Such transformative transitions harbour the potential for large social and economic gains. To harness these positive gains, a proactive approach is needed to put in place measures to prevent and cushion any negative distributional effects of these transitions which tend to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable. The ILO's Global Call to Action for a Human-centred recovery as well as the Commission Communication on Decent Work Worldwide both call for strengthened efforts towards an economic and social recovery from the ongoing crises that is fully inclusive, sustainable and resilient. The ILO's *Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all* and the EU's *Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality* provide common, closely aligned compasses for achieving a just transition.

Given the close alignment of the policy priorities between the Commission and the ILO, both organisations intend to:

- Continue the close collaboration and share information on research and analytical work concerning the green and digital transitions, with a particular focus on shaping a human-centred recovery and advancing socially just green and digital transitions;
- Explore opportunities for collaboration on innovative research and exchange of experiences in the field of the twin transitions in the EU and in global fora, in particular on the topic of 'green jobs' as part of follow-ups to the Communiqué of G7 Employment Ministerial Meeting (Wolfsburg, 24 May 2022) and on just transition aspects in the context of the Clean Energy Ministerial, notably the initiative on "Empowering People: Skills & Inclusivity for Just Transitions" which is co-led by the European Commission, together with Canada and the U.S.A., and to which the ILO is an international partner;
- Jointly promote research findings and best practices aimed at supporting programmes and projects that assist socially just green and digital transitions at the country and global levels, as well as in international fora;
- Explore areas to strengthen multilateral collaboration around global initiatives of joint interest, such as the Climate Action for Jobs, in follow-up of the COP26 Just Transition Declaration, the Initiative of the UN SG to invest in jobs and social protection for a just transition, and the Green Jobs for Youth Pact initiative;
- Reinforce each other's initiatives and invite each other to and participate in each other's meetings and events on the above topics.

**Socio-economic
impact of the war on
Ukraine**

The Russian Federation's unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022 shocked the global world order. The unlawful actions had a far-reaching impact on the people of Ukraine – nearly 7 million people forcibly left Ukraine, almost 8 million are internally displaced and the impact on the economy and world of work is devastating. The ILO and the EU have early on strongly condemned the Russian Federation's actions and called on the Russian Federation to immediately cease its military actions, unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. The ILO Governing Body in March adopted a strong Resolution concerning the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine from the perspective of the mandate of the International Labour Organization., condemning Russia's actions, expressing its unwavering support for the tripartite constituents in Ukraine. The March Governing Body decided to suspend technical cooperation assistance to the Russian Federation and suspend invitations to the Russian Federation to discretionary meetings. In June, the Governing Body reiterated its call for the Russian Federation to immediately and unconditionally cease its aggression against Ukraine. It requested the ILO DG to prepare for consideration at the Governing Body's October–November session, detailed options for the possible relocation of the ILO's Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, which is currently based in Moscow.

The Commission and the ILO intend to:

- Support reconstruction efforts, including as regards the creation of decent and inclusive jobs;
- Support Ukraine in their efforts to aligning their legislation and policies with the EU acquis and policy frameworks;
- Continue their joint work in preventing forced labour and human trafficking in Ukraine, including by working with the private sector and the labour inspectorate and where appropriate, explore further joint action;
- Keeping in mind the multi-faceted impact of the war in Ukraine, continue efforts to support activities aimed at ensuring fair recruitment and avoiding exploitation of vulnerable workers;
- Exchange on relevant activities in Ukraine and invite each other to relevant meetings and events;
- Continue and explore further collaborative efforts combining humanitarian, early recovery, and development approaches in response to the socio-economic impact of the Russian aggression affecting Ukraine and its neighboring countries, particularly Moldova.

Decent Work in Supply Chains

Ensuring decent work in supply chains has been high on the agenda of both organisations. The “Building blocks for a comprehensive strategy on achieving decent work in supply chains” as agreed in the tripartite expert meeting on options to ensure decent work in global supply chains will guide the ILO’s work in this area.

In this spirit, the ILO and the Commission will continue their cooperation to promote decent work in supply chains and intend to:

- Explore joint actions to ensure respect for labour rights throughout the supply chain, to accompany the proposal for the Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence and the forthcoming European Commission’s proposal on prohibiting products made with forced labour from the EU market, to support ratification of, compliance to, and enforcement of international labour standards;
- Explore joint actions on building the capacity of labour administration and inspection, support compliance and promoting responsible business conduct among enterprises, in particular SMEs, based on the MNE Declaration and other relevant frameworks and instruments, including through the promotion of ILO tools for business such as the ILO Helpdesk for Business, self-assessment tools for enterprises, training opportunities, ILO business networks;
- Exchange on legislation and policies relevant to international labour standards and their application in supply chains;
- Several ILO instruments are listed in the proposal for the Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CS3D). In light of this, the ILO and the Commission endeavour to cooperate in the design of future accompanying measures to ensure effective implementation of the CS3D in contribution to achieve decent work in supply chains;
- Identify opportunities to effectively implement the Durban Call to Action to end Child Labour and to inform and complement ongoing support and future interventions;
- Explore opportunities to promote collective action approaches to address decent work deficits in supply chains, bringing together all relevant stakeholders – at the national, sectoral, regional, and/or global levels, as appropriate – based on analysis of root causes, the recognition of the state’s duty to protect labour rights and business enterprises’ responsibility to respect labour rights, and the need for meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement, taking into account the forthcoming EU rules on sustainability due diligence;
- Support greater transparency and traceability in supply chains by promoting research and collection of comparable data, including by taking account the developments under the Commission Strategy for Financing the Transition to a Sustainable Economy, such as the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, with a focus on replicable quantitative and qualitative methods to collect, analyse and disseminate disaggregated data and knowledge;
- Explore further joint actions focused on holistic supply chain approaches drawing on existing good practices;
- Explore how to support EU sectoral dialogue committees on contributing to effective due diligence in their respective sectors in order to promote decent work in global supply chains as announced in the Communication on Decent Work Worldwide, also taking into account the forthcoming EU rules on sustainability due diligence and its provisions on stakeholder engagement.

<p>Promotion of International Labour Standards: Trade and labour</p>	<p>The ILO and the Commission have established a fruitful cooperation on the promotion of labour standards in the context of the EU's trade policy and more generally in their joint development cooperation that has already led to tangible results on the ground and supported the ratification of ILO Conventions.</p> <p>Both organisations agree to maintain and strengthen their cooperation and intend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen their cooperation with respect to the promotion and effective implementation of fundamental principles and rights at work; • Strengthen their cooperation to promote the efforts of ILO members towards the ratification and effective implementation of fundamental conventions in the context of trade and investment agreements; • Explore further joint work to support the implementation of ILO Conventions that EU trade partners have ratified, in particular the ILO Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No 81) and the ILO Tripartite Consultation Convention, 1976 (No 144); • Explore more areas of cooperation resulting from the addition of a safe and healthy working environment within the framework of fundamental principles and rights at work; • Explore possibilities for cooperation where the ILO can further support the Commission at various stages in respect of its exchanges on trade arrangements and agreements with its partner countries; • Recognise the positive outcomes of their Trade4Decent work programme, hold regular discussions on how to monitor and increase the impact of their cooperation in respect of specific thematic areas (due diligence, core labour standards) and sectors as well as at country level. Reinforce stronger links between EU Delegations and ILO country offices; • Continue to disseminate the results of their cooperation.
<p>Promoting Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)</p>	<p>For decades, occupational safety and health has been at the heart of ILO and EU policies and legal frameworks for the world of work. The COVID-19 pandemic has also clearly shown how crucial OSH is for protecting workers' health, as well as for the functioning of our society and the continuity of critical activities.</p> <p>Over the last few years, the fundamental importance of a safe and healthy working environment to decent work has been underlined in the European Pillar of Social Rights, its Action Plan, the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027, the Commission Communications on Decent Work Worldwide and on the Power of Trade Partnerships, among others, as well as the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work.</p> <p>The EU first raised the possibility of including OSH in the ILO's framework of fundamental principles and rights at work at the 2017 International Labour Conference. Following years of work, in June 2022 at the 110th ILC, the tripartite constituents of the ILO decided to make a healthy and safe working environment the fifth fundamental principle and right at work and recognising the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155) and Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187) as fundamental – a historical milestone towards decent working conditions for all.</p>

	<p>Both organisations intend to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase and support each other's efforts to assist governments, workers' and employers' organisations as well as other relevant stakeholders such as enterprises to ensure safe and healthy working environments for all workers, including in in supply chains. • Exchange views and cooperate on the promotion of ratification and effective implementation of C155 and C187, including through the EU trade and investment agreements, as appropriate. • Continue their joint activities to support and promote OSH around the world, including in joining effort for global and regional advocacy for stronger OSH systems and for work promoting a safe and healthy working environment in global supply chains. • Exchange information and best practices in promoting occupational safety and health, including in the area of mental health and psychosocial risks. • Exchange on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic, including as regards better coordination between occupational safety and health and public health structures.
--	---

Issues addressed in technical meetings	
<p>Working towards the elimination of forced labour and child labour</p>	<p>The eradication of child labour and forced labour is very high on the Commission's agenda as demonstrated by its zero-tolerance approach to child labour in its policies, including trade policy, and the upcoming new legislative initiative on a ban to import goods made from forced labour to the EU and the EC proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence directive.</p> <p>The ILO has been a driving force on SDG target 8.7, which aims to eradicate child labour, forced labour and human trafficking. The ILO progresses this work through its relevant international labour standards, their implementation at global and country level, and research and partnerships in their development cooperation.</p> <p>Given these strong, shared policy priorities, the Commission and the ILO intend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jointly review and assess opportunities to strengthen collaboration to accelerate progress toward achieving SDG target 8.7, including through the 8.7 Accelerator Lab Initiative. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collaborating to support the implementation of the Durban Call to Action on the elimination of child labour; ○ Cooperating, with the ILO as the lead UN implementing agency, on implementing the new EU action to tackle child labour in selected supply chains where the prevalence of child labour is high and for which trade with the EU is significant; ○ Considering complementary targeted actions in specific countries where the prevalence of child labour or forced labour is very high and where EU delegations have identified human development, education, social protection, agriculture, vocational education and training and decent work as objectives in their multi-annual indicative programmes (MIPs).

Issues addressed in technical meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the exchange of best practices resulting in the reduction of child labour and forced labour, including within Team Europe; • Exchange information on upcoming initiatives, including on the upcoming EU legislative initiative to ban imports of products made by forced labour to the EU and the accompanying support to implement the future Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence legislation; • Organise technical briefings for EU staff at headquarters and in relevant delegations on thematic areas on child labour and forced labour, including on the global estimates and exploring further awareness raising actions for the estimates; • Explore the production of specific forced labour estimates in the EU-27. <p>The Commission will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support Alliance 8.7 and progress work on becoming a member.
Unlocking the social and economic potential of care	<p>Given the importance of the care economy in the context of gender equality, the social and economic need for adequate and quality care due to demographic and other mega trends, as well as its potential for job creation, the Commission and the ILO intend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways to collect more reliable and disaggregated data on trends in the care sector, including in relation to the composition of the workforce and the situation of specific categories of care economy workers; • Support each other's efforts to promote access to high quality and affordable care in the form of childcare and long-term care services; adequate social protection transfers and benefits; adequate care leave policies such as maternity, paternity and parental leave; family-friendly working arrangements and care-relevant services and promote the extension of access to social security for the, as yet, unprotected categories of care workers; • Support national systems of care leave policies, also in line with the EU Directive (EU) 2019/1158 on work-life balance for parents and carers, with a view to ensuring shared caring responsibilities between women and men; • Promote the development of needs-based assessments and assessment of the social, economic and financial impact of coverage gaps in the care economy and advocate for the necessary investments and reforms to address these gaps, including through gender-responsive macro-economic and sectoral policies; • Promote the creation of decent jobs in the care economy, particularly for young women and men, and improving the working conditions of existing care workers; • Promote the ratification of international labour standards, in particular those Conventions that have a direct impact on care, such as Conventions Nos 100, 102, 111, 183, 156, 189 and 190 in the EU and worldwide; • Explore the potential for joint work to promote policies in line with the ILO's 5R Framework for Decent Care Work: (i) recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work (the 3 Rs); (ii) reward paid care work, by promoting more and decent work for care workers; and (iii)

Issues addressed in technical meetings	
	<p>guaranteeing care workers' representation, social dialogue and collective bargaining rights;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider ways to make more robust links with gender when exploring future measures, including drawing upon the EU's Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021–2025 (GAP III); • Explore, support and promote measures to improve access to high-quality affordable care as a key driver of women's labour market participation; • Explore potential for a follow-up to the 10th anniversary event of C189 on Domestic Workers in 2021, including guidance for implementation of the Convention; • Identify possible strategic areas for cooperation to support the implementation of the European Care Strategy, including the Commission proposals for a Council Recommendation on long-term care and recommendation on the revision of the Barcelona Targets on Early Childhood Education and Care.
Decent work in fishing and maritime sector worldwide	<p>The ILO and the European Commission intend to continue, building on previous experience, to engage in a more structured exchange of information and cooperation, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to promote decent work in fisheries in line with the objectives of the ILO, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and in cooperation with third countries in the context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, the EU International Ocean Governance Agenda and the EU Common Fisheries Policy; • Focussing their efforts to ensure fair recruitment of workers in the shipping and fishing sector in labour supplying countries, supporting efforts to improve compliance and enforcement of applicable laws and standards in the fishing and maritime sector; • Supporting capacity building efforts of relevant actors; • Facilitate the exchange of information and good practices with third countries on these issues; <p>In the area of fishing, the Commission and ILO intend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold regular meetings and explore the possibility of participating in each other's trainings and to exchange information relevant to the implementation and supervisions of relevant instruments; • Continue their collaboration, including through joint projects, to promote decent work and sustainable fishing, also in line with the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188) and other relevant international standards; • Explore cooperation opportunities for capacity building, within the EU and in non-EU States, with a particular focus on those States where ratification and/or implementation will likely result in particularly notable environmental and societal benefits; • Share information and tools concerning the flag and port State inspection of fishing vessels, including with the aim to support initiatives strengthening the enforcement of these directives; • Explore follow up discussion on possible support for fishing training programmes including collaboration with the European Fisheries

Issues addressed in technical meetings	
	<p>Control Agency for the training of fisheries inspectors and representatives from other relevant national authorities (pilot testing of ILO tools in selected Member States);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider identifying key third countries for potential joint cooperation to address and tackle decent work deficits in fishing. <p>In the area of shipping the Commission and ILO intend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to hold regular meetings and explore the possibility of participating in each other's training and to exchange information relevant to the implementation and supervision of relevant instruments; • Continue cooperating in the promotion of ratification and effective implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, with partner countries as well as cooperate in the implementation of the corresponding EU directives in the EU, including through exchanges of information regarding implementation, and address challenges in application identified by the Commission and the ILO such as the regulation of recruitment agencies, social security, seafarers' employment agreements and the effective enforcement of the limits to hours of work and rest; • Explore how to better ensure synergies of training delivered by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC/ILO). <p>The ILO intends to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw on the EU social partners guidelines on medical examination of fishers in the upcoming meeting of experts to produce joint ILO-IMO guidelines for medical examination of fishers (2023); • Invite the Commission to the meeting of experts to produce joint ILO-IMO guidelines for medical examination of fishers (2023). <p>The Commission intends to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue its engagement in the ICCAT Working Group on labour standards and other RFMOs as appropriate (e.g. IOTC); • Continue promoting the ratification and effective implementation of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (No. 188) and other relevant international standards, including the IMO Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F).
Youth employment	<p>With 2022 being the European Year of Youth, the importance of enabling and supporting young people in employment is highly relevant, especially with a view to the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people.</p> <p>To facilitate the transition from education and training to employment and effectively integrate young people into the world of work, the Commission and the ILO intend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide policy support and mutual learning activities to help strengthen the infrastructure and measures (including the assessments) for the reinforced Youth Guarantee; • Explore ways to cooperate on efforts to reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET);

Issues addressed in technical meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote measures for decent job creation including active labour market programmes, employment services and Labour Market Information Systems (LMIS) for disadvantaged young people; • Intensify exchanges on each other's initiatives and analytical work on promoting decent jobs for youth; • Continue to jointly promote the rights at work for youth in light of new forms of work and employment relations and jointly advocate for the ratification of international labour standards; • Promote opportunity driven skills development responsive to the labour market needs; • Explore possibilities to co-create comprehensive interventions in emerging new sectors (e.g. digital and green economies) with high employment potential to boost opportunities for young people in Africa, including on skills development responsive to opportunities in the labour market, public employment services, youth entrepreneurship and sustainable self-employment, and job creation with the private sector; • Support the harmonization and portability of skills, possibly including in the context of labour migration; • Explore possible ways of working together to facilitate research and analysis on key labour market transitions issues, particularly for young women; • Continue to empower young people to engage, participate and lead at political, social and economic levels in relation to labour activities (such as worker representative bodies and trade unions).
Labour market inequalities	<p>The Commission and ILO intend to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep each other informed about respective activities and initiatives to address labour market inequalities and other forms of inequality; • Explore joint cooperation to address labour market inequalities in line with the priorities of both organisations at the global and/or country level; • Cooperate and share information in the preparation of the tripartite meeting of experts on decent work in the platform economy and invite the Commission to participate in the meeting as an observer and the follow-up work (Geneva, October 2022). <p>The ILO intends to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform and invite the Commission to participate in the tripartite policy discussion on pay transparency that will be organised on Equal Pay Day, (17 September 2022) in the context of Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC); • Inform about the results of the first ever global survey on violence and harassment in the world of work by the ILO, Lloyd Registrar Foundation and Gallup to be launched in October 2022; • Share the Global Wage Report 2022/23 which will be launched in November/December 2022.

Issues addressed in technical meetings

Decent work and the social and solidarity economy

The social economy represents 2.8 million organisations and entities in the EU and accounts for more than 13 million paid jobs and 6.3 per cent of the work force. The SSE can provide innovative solutions to many of the current global challenges, particularly that of climate change. It has gained further momentum and attracted greater interest in recent years, largely due to the increased recognition of its economic, environmental and social transformative potential – which is yet to be fully harnessed.

The first ever general discussion on decent work and the social and solidarity economy (SSE) was held at this year's ILC and resulted in a definition for the sector as well as robust conclusions which broadly align with the recently adopted European Commission *Action Plan for the Social Economy*. The Action Plan includes over 60 actions to be implemented by 2030. It highlights the Commission's intention to strengthen dialogue and collaboration on the social economy with key international partners.

The ILO and the EC share the belief that it is necessary to develop conducive framework conditions for the social (and solidarity) economy and advance the decent work agenda.

While governments should adopt or update SSE strategies and measures, that recognise SSE values and principles and take into account their specific needs, the ILO and EC have identified the following topics to be of mutual interest and suitable for further cooperation:

- Strengthen collaboration to raise awareness about the SSE and its potential in the EU, in non-EU countries and in the global agenda;
- Jointly promote the development of a conducive environment for SSE entities including by supporting policy frameworks that take into account the potential and specifics of the SSE, promoting inclusive employment, decent working and living standards;
- Support the development of comprehensive national strategies and measures to harness the positive impact of SSE entities in tackling pressing challenges, such as creating decent work in the care economy, contributing towards fair and inclusive green and digital transitions and social innovation;
- Share information on their research and analytical work on social economy with a view to ensuring complementarity, raising awareness about available tools and resources, and improving the knowledge base on issues such as the contribution of SSE to decent work and gathering qualitative and quantitative data on social economy;
- Support their respective constituents and Member States through capacity building to harness the full positive potential of the SSE, including by developing methodological frameworks that measure SSE's social impact;
- Explore strengthening their cooperation for capacity building of non-EU countries to further integrate the SSE into national policy frameworks and support measures, with a particular focus on the EU Southern Neighbourhood region.

Issues addressed in technical meetings

Skills development and comprehensive policies to ensure fair and just twin (green and digital) transitions

The EU Green Deal, the European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, the Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality and the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work and the recent ILO resolution concerning skills and lifelong learning (2021) offer ambitious, coherent and timely frameworks for the Commission and the ILO to step up their collaboration to foster the twin transitions.

The Commission and ILO intend to:

- Promote digitalisation and greening of TVET, innovative pedagogical practices and skills development systems, and promote and support the professional development of staff (e.g. teachers, trainers, technicians, and managers) in the context of twin transitions;
- Share expertise and best practices, but also existing tools from respective agencies, thus maximizing synergies to avoid duplication of efforts -- including but not limited to the ESCO taxonomy of skills for the green transition, the European sustainability competence framework (GreenComp) and the European Digital Competence Framework (DigComp) as well as the ILO upcoming tools such as Greening TVET and skills development: A practical guidance tool and How to implement the Digital Transformation of TVET programs: A practical tool for getting started with the blended transformation of TVET curricula;
- Continue existing collaboration on just transition, including by developing joint analysis, case studies and monitoring tools and promoting exchange of best practices regarding drivers, role, extent and impact of labour and skill shortages in the green and digital transition, with a focus on 'green jobs' and investment needs for reskilling, upskilling and labour market transitions in the green and digital transitions, also in the context of REPowerEU. Further contribute to the evidence base for related discussions in global fora, including as part of the follow-up to the 2022 Communiqué of G7 Employment Ministerial Meeting, in the implementation of Just Transition guidelines/recommendations, and in relation to the Green Jobs for Youth Pact initiative;
- Invite each other to relevant events to foster knowledge transfer/dissemination of reports, good practices and country experiences in the area of just transition policies in general, and skills development for digital, climate-neutral and sustainable economies and societies, including the Preparatory Technical Conference on Just Transition in Q3 or Q4 of 2023;
- Explore the potential for the empowerment of individuals to up- and re-skill while drawing on existing work, including the recently adopted Council Recommendations on individual learning accounts, on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability and on ensuring a fair transition towards climate-neutrality, as well as the most recent ILO Resolution XVII adopted by the Conference on 11 December 2021 concerning Skills and lifelong

Issues addressed in technical meetings

learning, as well as the recently approved general Conclusions of the standard-setting committee on quality Apprenticeship in June 2022;

- Explore how to maximize the use of data in skills anticipation, leveraging initial ILO studies on the use of big data, as well as work by Cedefop in this area;
- Promote and foster social dialogue and effective cooperation with the public and private sectors as an integral part of the institutional framework for the generation of policies and training programmes that facilitate and drive the twin transitions;
- In support to partner countries, explore possibilities of cooperation to strengthen the relevance of skills provision to labour market opportunities, including support to enhance policy coherence and coordination of skills development in broader employment strategies, socially just digital and green transition policies, regulations and measures.