MODULE #6
Mobilizing Action
At the international level, follow-up action should be in two phases

- The first phase would publicize and build support for the Report’s proposals and objectives. The second phase would start actions to change the current process of globalization in line with the Report’s policy recommendations.

- In the first phase, all actors should use the Report as a basis for discussion and analysis; to consider its policy proposals; to take up recommendations; and to develop plans for advocacy and action. The purpose is to move from confrontation to dialogue and use the Report as a platform to build consensus to take corrective action.

- Achieving a fair globalization depends on the political decisions of the most powerful actors to move forward, including those in authority to decide in government, parliaments, business, society and international organizations. Many recommendations can be implemented through ongoing negotiations in existing multilateral frameworks. Others will require new frameworks and policy initiatives.

- The second phase should focus on greater policy coherence and better policy development, consisting of several elements,
  - Action at the national level to follow up Report recommendations on local, national, and regional policies
  - Initiatives for greater policy coherence within the multilateral system
  - A process to develop specific policies to implement the key recommendations, with involvement of all concerned stakeholders
  - Establishment of a Globalization Policy Forum among interested international organizations
  - More systematic research to provide essential technical inputs and strengthen the knowledge base
At the national level, follow up action could include

- Special attention to strengthen national governance, achieve greater coherence in national policies on issues of global governance, adopt the goal of decent work for all as a central policy objective, and social dialogue in the policy formulation process.

- National dialogues organized by the Commission created new opportunities for exchange and interaction between many different groups concerned with globalization. Governments and other actors should move the dialogue forward. The dialogues identify problems, disseminate information, share good practices and consider alternative policy responses. The outcomes would feed into the work of multilateral agencies.

- Multilateral system reform should make it more democratic, participatory, transparent and accountable. The system should be strengthened to discharge it pivotal role effectively, including renewed political commitment to multilateralism. All countries must acknowledge their common interest in, and obligation to a strong, effective multilateral system capable of supporting a fair, productive and sustainable global economy.

- Moving towards values-based globalization requires coherence of action on values between different international organizations within the multilateral system. It also requires more effective international promotion and realization of universal values. As a first step, all international organizations should apply their mandates in ways that respect human rights consistent with their obligations under international law.
The multilateral system is under-performing in ensuring coherence among economic, financial, trade, environmental and social policies to promote human development and social progress. In particular, international organizations need to be given a clear political mandate to achieve greater policy coherence.

At the national level, regular reviews should be conducted of the social implications of economic, financial and trade policies. National ownership of the entire process is indispensable. Regarding employment, the ILO’s Employment Policy Convention provides a framework which could be used as the basis for a global approach.

At the international level, new Policy Coherence Initiatives (PCI) should be undertaken by relevant organizations on key issues designed to develop integrated policy proposals on specific issues. All Executive Heads of the multilateral system should consider issues for Policy Coherence Initiatives with other agencies.

Highest priority should be given to the question of global growth, investment and employment creation through a Policy Coherence Initiative.

Other priority cross-cutting issues could include poverty reduction, gender inequality and the empowerment of women, the integration of the informal economy into the economic mainstream, the protection of core labour rights, education, health, food security and human settlements.
Follow-up requires a process to transform specific recommendations into operational policies. That can be achieved through Policy Development Dialogues designed to bring about agreement and concrete implementation of specific proposals in the medium to long term. They could also start or deepen discussions on issues receiving little attention so far.

The dialogues would engage administrators, politicians, parliamentarians, business, labour, civil society, and other groups under-represented in formal governance structures. They would include those who have important expertise in relevant fields, those whose interests are at stake, and those with responsibilities in the implementation of change.

Each dialogue’s agenda and participants could vary, depending on the stage of the debate and the subject involved and could include,

- Building a multilateral framework for the cross-border movement of people.
- Corporate social responsibility for a fairer globalization. ILO should convene this forum with IOE and ICFTU playing major roles.
- A development framework for FDI, which balances the rights and responsibilities of investors (domestic and international), host and home countries, taking into account the social impact
- Globalization, adjustment and social protection to build a policy agenda to strengthen social protection in the global economy. It would engage UNDP, the World Bank, WTO, IMF and ILO among others.
- Global capacity building on education and skills for information technology to widen the benefits from globalization.
- The contribution of regional and sub-regional integration to a fairer globalization.
- Gender equality as an instrument for a more inclusive globalization bringing together the United Nations, UNDP, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and other relevant actors.
Beyond the focused policy dialogues, there is a need for a broader platform for exchange of ideas among people with different perspectives on globalization. Bringing differing views into dialogue enriches understanding and is an essential step towards finding common cause and ways forward.

For this reason, we recommend creation of a Globalization Policy Forum among interested international organizations, as part of a sustained effort to make dialogue between different points of view the foundation of a fairer globalization. It would examine key issues relevant to the social dimension of globalization.

The Forum will be a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogues and to build public support for proposals emerging from them. It would bring together the UN’s multilateral agencies with other organizations, groups and individuals who are concerned with the social dimension of globalization.

The Forum would regularly assess the social impact of policies in the global economy and tap the knowledge, resources and perspectives of all participating organizations in monitoring trends on the social impact of globalization and key policy issues.

The ILO should take the initiative to follow up this recommendation in cooperation with interested international organizations. Participating institutions could also make an important contribution by preparing a regular “State of Globalization Report”, reflecting the experience and perspectives of their constituencies.
Research support

• The task ahead is to generate the political will to turn commitment into action. Progress demands a more open exchange and improved dialogue among all concerned. In this context, knowledge development is essential to make globalization a positive force for people throughout the world.

• Relevant institutions and networks should collaborate and invest in a common research effort on the social dimension of globalization, engaging the multilateral system as well as NGOs. The main multilateral organizations should develop joint research programmes on the key issues. General support should be given to existing multidisciplinary task forces and policy forums that bring together researchers.

• A regular academic conference and journal on the social dimension of globalization would help to maintain open intellectual debate and provide a route for the regular publication of empirical research. There is a strong case for developing this on a regional basis, so as to ensure that all regions of the world can engage with such initiatives.

Institutional support

• ILO and other interested organizations should give operational assistance to the overall follow-up of this Report. There will clearly be a need for extra-budgetary resources to implement many of these initiatives. Donor countries and other funding institutions should provide support because of the international community's substantial stake in fairer globalization.

• Members of the Commission will monitor reactions to the Report, support campaigns and debates, and promote policy action in different fora. They will remain engaged to carry forward recommendations.
1. What are the two phases of follow-up to this Report?
2. Why is national follow-up so important?
3. How is the multilateral system under-performing in ensuring coherence?
4. What should be included in Policy Development Dialogues?
5. How can a Global Policy Forum advance a fair globalization?
6. What can knowledge development and research add to the social dimension of globalization?
End of the Toolkit

Thank you!