



Governing Body

352nd Session, Geneva, 28 October–7 November 2024

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 11 October 2024

Original: English

Fifth item on the agenda

Developments in the United Nations system

Implementation of Our Common Agenda, the United Nations development system reform process and measures taken by the Office

Purpose of the document

This document presents recent developments in the United Nations (UN) system, including those related to the implementation of Our Common Agenda and to the reform process of the UN development system, and the measures taken by the Office to advance the ILO's priorities in the global multilateral agenda since the Governing Body's last discussion of this item, at its 349th Session (October–November 2023). The Governing Body is invited to request the Director-General to take into consideration its views in the ILO's ongoing work in support of the engagement of the tripartite constituents in UN processes and to prepare a further report on developments in the UN system for consideration at its 355th Session (November 2025) (see the draft decision in paragraph 74).

Relevant strategic objective: All.

Main relevant outcome: Output 8.1: Improved coherence in multilateral support for the development and financing of integrated policy responses for social justice through decent work; and output A.4: Expanded partnerships and development cooperation in support of the policy outcomes.

Policy implications: Yes.

Legal implications: None.

Financial implications: None.

Follow-up action required: Yes.

Author unit: Multilateral Partnerships and Development Cooperation Department (PARTNERSHIPS).

Related documents: GB.335/INS/10; GB.340/INS/6; GB.341/INS/7; GB.340/INS/18/6; GB.340/POL/6; GB.343/INS/3/2; GB.346/PFA/11; GB.346/INS/8; GB.349/INS/4; GB.349/INS/5; GB.349/INS/5(Add.1); GB.350/INS/6; GB.350/INS/6(Add.1).

► Introduction

1. In the face of unprecedented global challenges, including economic turmoil, climate change and social inequalities, the international community is increasingly adopting comprehensive frameworks for transformative action. These efforts also present significant opportunities to advance social justice, facilitate a just transition to a green economy and foster technological innovations that drive sustainable development. Our Common Agenda, launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2021, is an agenda of action that has emerged as a pivotal response to current and future challenges.¹ It offers a unified vision for accelerating progress on existing multilateral agreements, notably the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).
2. Our Common Agenda builds on and responds to the 12 critical commitments made by Member States in their declaration to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations² and proposes six priority areas, including the establishment of a renewed social contract anchored in human rights to usher in a new era for universal social protection, and the introduction of new measurements of progress to complement gross domestic product (GDP).³ The proposed path forward involves a series of events, including the Summit of the Future in September 2024, the Second World Summit for Social Development in November 2025 and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), in June–July 2025. It also involves initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Acceleration Actions and the SDG Stimulus. As described in more detail below, these events and initiatives offer a significant opportunity for the ILO to increase its impact within the United Nations (UN) system and beyond.
3. The discussion of the Governing Body will provide useful guidance for the ILO's further engagement and positioning within the UN system.

► The ILO's contribution to Our Common Agenda

4. The ILO, recognizing the potential of Our Common Agenda for the world of work, has engaged proactively in its implementation, through a number of processes and initiatives. Some of these are described below.

¹ United Nations, *Our Common Agenda: Report of the Secretary-General*, 2021.

² United Nations, *Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations*, 2020. The commitments are: to leave no one behind; to protect the planet; to promote peace and prevent conflicts; to abide by international law and ensure justice; to place women and girls at the centre; to build trust; to improve digital cooperation; to upgrade the United Nations; to ensure sustainable financing; to boost partnerships; to listen to and work with youth; and to be prepared for future crises.

³ The other priority areas are: the creation of new forms of global solidarity; the elimination of the "infodemic"; the increase in capacity to deliver for young people and succeeding generations and to be better prepared for the challenges ahead; and the building of a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system, anchored within the United Nations and with closer cooperation with the international financial institutions and the G20.

Summit of the Future

5. Finding its origin in Our Common Agenda, the Summit of the Future was held on 22 and 23 September 2024, ahead of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, under the title “Multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow”. It was preceded by two Action Days, in which more than 7,000 stakeholders participated. The objective of the Summit was to kick-start reforms for a renewed multilateralism that is fit to respond to today’s and tomorrow’s challenges, not least the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Following long and arduous negotiations, a Pact for the Future, including its two annexes, namely the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, was adopted by the General Assembly.⁴
6. Over the nine months before the Summit, the Office actively engaged in the preparation of all parts of the outcome document, providing input and sharing experiences with Member States, the social partners and relevant stakeholders. It also issued a written contribution to the Summit entitled “Managing global interdependence”.⁵ Through its membership to the SDG Digital Advisory Group, the ILO brought several world of work-related issues to the debate on the Global Digital Compact and provided input on youth employment to inform the Declaration on Future Generations. Throughout the preparations for the Summit activities, the Office ensured that the voices of its tripartite constituents were heard, by suggesting panellists and co-sponsoring events.
7. The Summit and the Action Days provided an opportunity for the ILO to share its perspective while showcasing its work. In his address to the Summit, the Director-General stressed the importance of promoting social justice, decent work and tripartite engagement in global governance. The International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin Centre) organized the *Beautifully Diverse* exhibition, which celebrated diversity and advocated for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. The *World Social Protection Report 2024-26*⁶ was launched in the margins of the General Assembly and a number of events were co-organized by the ILO, including on youth employment, the digital age, migration and just transitions. A high-level event of the Equal Pay International Coalition, co-hosted by the ILO, provided an opportunity to discuss solutions to narrow the gender pay gap.
8. The adoption of the Pact of the Future, including its two annexes, demonstrates the commitment of the international community to the United Nations and to multilateral cooperation at a time of profound transformations in the world order. While the outcome document provides a welcome vision for the future, laying the foundation for necessary reforms, the challenge ahead will be to unite Member States in implementing the commitments it contains, amid a fragmented geopolitical landscape.
9. The Pact for the Future sets out 56 action-oriented commitments in five broad focus areas,⁷ covering the three pillars of the United Nations: sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights. All the commitments are anchored in international law. Furthermore, the protection of human rights is featured in all the focus areas. Gender equality is mainstreamed throughout. The Pact sets out detailed agreements on the reform of the international financial

⁴ UN General Assembly, [resolution 79/1](#), The Pact for the Future, A/RES/79/1 (2024).

⁵ ILO, “[Summit of the Future: Managing global interdependence](#)”, 26 August 2024.

⁶ ILO, *World Social Protection Report 2024-26: Universal social protection for climate action and a just transition*, 2024.

⁷ The focus areas are: sustainable development and financing for development; international peace and security; science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; youth and future generations; and transforming global governance.

architecture to better represent and serve developing countries. Regarding the reform of the Security Council, one of the key priorities is to redress the under-representation of Africa. The controversial issue of the veto, however, which is a key element of Security Council reform, remains unresolved. The Global Digital Compact, the first multilateral framework for digital cooperation, foresees the establishment, within the United Nations, of an independent international scientific panel and a global dialogue on the governance of artificial intelligence (AI). An important element of the Declaration on Future Generations is the call for youth participation in decision-making at both the national and the global levels.

10. References to decent work are made in five paragraphs of the outcome document, including in relation to youth employment and poverty reduction and the commitments to promote universal health coverage and universal access to social protection. The Global Digital Compact, which is developed around five key objectives,⁸ includes a commitment to establish digital skills strategies to maximize the coverage of basic digital skills and make progress on advanced digital skills. The Declaration on Future Generations incorporates commitments to promote opportunities for lifelong learning, technical and vocational training, and digital literacy, thereby addressing the need for continuous education.
11. For the ILO and its constituents, the Summit's outcome document opens the door to new areas of cooperation, including on financing for development, AI and digital platforms, and measuring progress beyond GDP. It is worth noting that the Pact also includes a commitment to "secure an ambitious outcome" at the 2025 Second World Summit for Social Development.

Second World Summit for Social Development

12. In Our Common Agenda, the UN Secretary-General recommends holding a World Social Summit in 2025. In 2024, the UN General Assembly adopted two resolutions to facilitate the process. In the first, adopted on 26 February 2024, it decided to convene the "World Social Summit" in 2025 under the title "the Second World Summit for Social Development", to address the gaps and recommit to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action and its implementation and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.⁹ The General Assembly also requested that the President of the General Assembly appoint two co-facilitators, one from a developing country and one from a developed country, to facilitate the intergovernmental preparatory process leading up to the Summit consisting of its modalities and outcome. Subsequently, the Permanent Representatives of Belgium and Morocco to the United Nations in New York were appointed as co-facilitators.
13. In the second resolution, adopted on 16 July 2024, the General Assembly decided that the Summit would be held at the level of Heads of State or Government in Qatar from 4 to 6 November 2025.¹⁰ It specified that the Summit would adopt a concise, action-oriented political declaration, to be agreed upon in advance through intergovernmental negotiations in New York, that should have a social development approach and give momentum towards the

⁸ The key objectives are: close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the SDGs; expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all; foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights; advance responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance approaches; and enhance international governance of AI for the benefit of humanity.

⁹ UN General Assembly, [resolution 78/261](#), World Social Summit under the title "Second World Summit for Social Development", A/RES/78/261 (2024).

¹⁰ UN General Assembly, [resolution 78/318](#), Modalities of the "World Social Summit" under the title "the Second World Summit for Social Development", A/RES/78/318 (2024).

implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The General Assembly also encouraged Member States to include in their delegations to the Summit representatives of relevant stakeholders, such as representatives of workers and employers, with due regard to gender balance. Furthermore, it recognized the role and positive contributions of the ILO and its constituents in promoting social justice and decent work for all.

14. Although the intergovernmental negotiation process has not yet started, the ILO has been actively engaging with the co-facilitators and other key institutional stakeholders, including the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), to keep abreast of the developments taking place in New York. Representatives of the ILO Office in New York meet regularly with those of the United Nations and permanent missions of Member States to highlight the ILO's priorities for the Summit. According to the information available, the zero draft of the political declaration is expected to be issued in October 2024.
15. Furthermore, in April 2024, the ILO co-organized a high-level seminar in Chile with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), involving the heads of various UN entities, to discuss the Summit. In June, the Summit's co-facilitators met with the Director-General and other senior ILO staff and participated in a strategic dialogue with the constituents at the 112th Session (2024) of the International Labour Conference.
16. During its 349th Session (October–November 2023), the Governing Body established the Working Party on the New Social Contract for Our Common Agenda to prepare a tripartite input for the Summit.¹¹ The Working Party is composed of eight members representing governments, four members representing employers and four members representing workers, and it is chaired by the Government representative of Colombia.¹² The Working Party has met four times and has drafted key messages that will be submitted to the Governing Body at its current session for approval and transmission to the President of the General Assembly. The ILO will also release a series of policy briefs, based on research undertaken for flagship and other major reports, to support the engagement of its constituents in the various processes. The Director-General has appointed a Senior Adviser to support the work of the Working Party and facilitate internal coordination in the preparations for the Summit.

SDG Stimulus

17. Developed in response to the UN Secretary-General's calls for a stimulus package to help countries address immediate and long-term sustainable development challenges and get the SDGs back on track, the SDG Stimulus focuses on three areas for immediate action: tackling the high cost of debt and rising risks of debt distress; massively scaling up affordable long-term financing by at least US\$500 billion annually (mainly through multilateral development banks); and expanding contingency financing to countries in need.¹³ While the initiative has gained support from the G20 and within the UN system, with US\$100 billion in special drawing rights being redirected, enabling the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to assist countries with liquidity financing, and with multilateral development banks introducing reforms to expand lending for sustainable development by US\$300–400 billion, implementation remains slow, and socio-economic conditions and unsustainable debt exposure in many developing countries have worsened.

¹¹ GB.349/PV(Rev.1), para. 310.

¹² GB.350/INS/6 and GB.350/INS/6(Add.1).

¹³ United Nations, *United Nations Secretary-General's SDG Stimulus to Deliver Agenda 2030*, 2023.

18. To accelerate progress, the UN Secretary-General invited ten Heads of State and Government to form a Leaders Group.¹⁴ Their role is to advocate at the highest level for the SDG Stimulus, create coherence and alignment around its priorities, and connect key decision-making bodies to advance the agenda. The Leaders Group held its first meeting on 5 June 2024 in New York and advocated for equipping developing countries with the financial resources to invest in the 17 SDGs, which provide the blueprint for a more just and equitable future for all people and the planet by 2030. It recognized the call by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) for a surge in action now for the SDGs.
19. The ILO's contribution to the SDG Stimulus is engagement in the prospective reform of the international financial architecture from the point of view of the world of work. In this respect, in February 2024, the Director-General met with leaders of international financial institutions, including the IMF, the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation, to address global labour challenges. Discussions focused on the impact of AI on employment, social protection and economic inequalities. Both the ILO and the international financial institutions emphasized the need for collaboration, especially on data collection in low-income countries, and explored sustainable funding solutions. The discussions also highlighted the need for synergies in promoting decent work and social justice, with international financial institutions showing interest in informal collaboration with the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

SDG Acceleration Actions

20. Progress towards achieving the SDGs has, broadly speaking and for a number of reasons, been too slow. Early in the process, therefore, there was recognition of the need for acceleration action. In the political declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit, Heads of State and Government and high representatives stressed the need for concerted and accelerated action by all stakeholders at all levels to fulfil the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda.¹⁵ Coordinated by UNDESA via an online platform, SDG Acceleration Actions are initiatives voluntarily undertaken to speed up SDG implementation by governments and non-State actors. According to the latest available information, by August 2022, a total of 387 Acceleration Actions had been published, 76 per cent of which aimed to address multiple SDGs, leveraging interlinkages, while 24 per cent were focused on addressing a specific SDG. According to UNDESA, over 100 of these actions contribute to the achievement of SDG 8.¹⁶
21. More recently, the focus on SDG acceleration has been driven within the UN system through the framework of transformative actions and high-impact initiatives agreed on at the 2023 SDG Summit.¹⁷ In this context, there was a recognition that addressing decent work gaps will be critical for SDG progress across the board; accordingly, the ILO-led Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions ("the Global Accelerator") features as both a transformative action pathway and a high-impact initiative.

¹⁴ The membership of the Leaders Group includes the Heads of State and Government of Barbados, Brazil, Canada, France, India, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, South Africa and Spain.

¹⁵ UN General Assembly, [resolution 74/4](#), Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, A/RES/74/4 (2019), annex.

¹⁶ UNDESA, "Information brief on SDG Acceleration Actions", 19 August 2022.

¹⁷ UN General Assembly, [resolution 78/1](#), Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly, A/RES/78/1 (2023), annex.

ILO engagement in the financing for development discussion

22. The ILO Constitution mandates the Organization to examine and consider all international economic and financial policies to advance social justice and promote human and labour rights. In his report to the 112th Session (2024) of the International Labour Conference, entitled *Towards a renewed social contract*, the Director-General emphasized the importance of aligning social, economic and financial policies within the multilateral system and underscored the need to integrate a renewed social contract and social justice into multilateral policy frameworks to achieve a renewed and democratic multilateralism.¹⁸
23. The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) is a significant global forum addressing financial and economic development challenges. It will take place from 30 June to 3 July 2025, in Seville, Spain. Its aim is to accelerate the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to close the financing gap for the 2030 Agenda by creating frameworks, commitments and guidelines to influence national policies and international cooperation.
24. The ILO is seeking to integrate labour and social issues into the FfD4 process, for which an interdepartmental working group has been formed. Several ILO technical departments are drafting financing policy briefs on issues such as human-centred debt and financing frameworks, financing for social protection, just transition financing, macroeconomic development finance and foreign direct investment-based financing strategies for decent work. In addition, the ILO is working closely with UNDESA and other relevant UN entities on inputs that will support the intergovernmental process leading to an FfD4 outcome document. This will be key to ensuring that the development financing strategies of the FfD4 will be shaped by the Decent Work Agenda to advance social justice.
25. Reforming the international financial architecture is central to financing for development, particularly through the realignment of multilateral and public development banks to prioritize SDG impacts. This process offers significant opportunities for the ILO, which is strengthening its collaboration with the Finance in Common global network of over 500 public development banks. Through Finance in Common summits, joint declarations are being issued and implemented via thematic coalitions that share best practices and strategies. Recently, under the Global Accelerator, the ILO co-led a working group to leverage public development bank financing for just transitions, initiated by the Finance in Common Coalition for Social Investment.
26. Data are crucial for assessing progress and guiding actions towards achieving the SDGs. As a custodian agency, the ILO provides data to the United Nations on 14 SDG indicators, grouped under 5 of the 17 Goals, including: Goal 1 (no poverty); Goal 5 (gender equality); Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth); Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure); and Goal 10 (reduced inequalities). The ILO has been playing a key role in strengthening the capacity of 116 countries to produce high-quality labour statistics.

Global Coalition for Social Justice

27. Since its establishment in November 2023, the Global Coalition for Social Justice (“the Coalition”) has attracted over 300 partners, including 22 international organizations and the

¹⁸ ILO, *Towards a renewed social contract*, ILC.112/I(B), 2024.

five UN Regional Economic Commissions.¹⁹ Positive feedback from key UN agencies has played a pivotal role in shaping the Coalition's thematic development, particularly around joint, multi-stakeholder initiatives that leverage complementary mandates beyond the world of work to further advance social justice.

28. Extensive consultations have been held among partners to define jointly the ambition and operational scope of the Coalition. These began with a series of thematic webinars, which highlighted each of the Coalition's key focus areas and provided a platform on which partners could share their objectives and proposed actions. Notably, the World of Work Summit during the 111th Session (2023) and the Coalition's inaugural forum during the 112th Session (2024) of the International Labour Conference brought together a broad range of UN partners, who expressed unified support for a more coherent and collaborative agenda in advancing social justice.²⁰ Bilateral meetings have also been held to identify new or expanded on-the-ground key interventions to be co-led by UN entities. By the end of 2024, the Coalition aims to have finalized its thematic development and programme of activities, and to ensure that each key intervention is operational by 2025. The Coalition will also serve as a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices and concrete examples in support of social justice, positioning itself as a key solution provider for advancing social justice, especially in preparation for the Second World Summit for Social Development.

Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

29. The Global Accelerator, a UN initiative led by the ILO, has made steady progress over the last year.²¹ Further to its selection at the 2023 SDG Summit as one of the 12 high-impact initiatives, it is regarded as a key mechanism to help governments and the UN development system deliver on jobs and social protection transitions, in addition to the five other major transitions that have been identified as having transformative effects across the SDGs and as being pathways to accelerate their achievement.²²
30. By August 2024, 17 pathfinder countries had joined the Global Accelerator, committing to high-level political involvement and establishing governance structures at the national level to promote a whole-of-government approach. These countries, with the support of the UN system, the social partners, development partners and financial institutions, have been developing national road maps. These road maps focus on key policy reforms, integrated approaches, economic sectors, and strategic investments and partnerships to address social protection and decent employment gaps and facilitate just transitions. UN country teams in 14 of these pathfinder countries have benefited from the first funding round of the Joint SDG Fund window on decent jobs and universal social protection, which was to support road map

¹⁹ The full list of partners can be found on the Coalition's [website](#).

²⁰ See ILO, *World of Work Summit*, ILC.111/Record No. 8B, 2023; and ILO, *Plenary sitting: Inaugural Forum of the Global Coalition for Social Justice*, ILC.112/Record No. 9C, 2024. The participants at the inaugural forum included the heads of the World Health Organization, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

²¹ See: ILO et al., *Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions: First progress report January 2023–April 2024*, 2024; and the Global Accelerator's [website](#) for the latest updates. Information on the different elements of the Global Accelerator can be found in paras 8–11 of document [GB.349/INS/5](#).

²² The six transitions include: food systems; energy access and affordability; digital connectivity; education; jobs and social protection; and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. See: UNSDG, *"Six Transitions: Investment Pathways to Deliver the SDGs"*.

design and implementation. This includes a specific collaboration with the World Bank, namely the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

31. At the global level, the Global Accelerator Steering Group serves as a key platform for advocacy on policy coherence, financing for social development, international solidarity and influencing the global development agenda, including the FfD4 and the World Summit for Social Development. The G20 Development Ministerial Declaration for reducing inequalities, adopted in 2024, and the Ministerial Declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, also adopted in 2024,²³ underscore the strong political support that exists for the Global Accelerator.

► Progress in the implementation of the UN development system reform

Quadrennial comprehensive policy review

32. In May 2024, the UN Economic and Social Council held its final session on the 2020 quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) cycle, with contributions from the ILO. The data indicate that the UN development system is well-positioned to scale up actions towards the 2030 Agenda. Member States acknowledged the strengthened role of resident coordinators in uniting UN country teams and leveraging resources from diverse partners. Improvements were also noted in aligning UN planning with national priorities, enhancing policy coordination, joint planning and communication. The member entities of the UNSDG reported US\$553 million in efficiency gains, a 37 per cent increase over the previous year.²⁴
33. Despite the substantial progress made, the resident coordinator system continues to experience an annual funding gap of US\$54 million, hampering its ability to fully deliver. In addition, less than 30 per cent of regional coordinators reported the full alignment of all entity country programmes with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework ("the UN Cooperation Framework"), underscoring the need for enhanced coordination and joint results.
34. The UN General Assembly is scheduled to adopt a new QCPR resolution at its 79th session, in 2024, which will start a new four-year QCPR cycle. In this cycle and beyond, a key objective for the UN development system will be to lift the "engine room" capacities in every country.²⁵
35. According to data and additional insights from custodian agencies, the world is off-track to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Of the 135 targets, 17 per cent are progressing and expected to be achieved by 2030; nearly half (48 per cent) are exhibiting moderate to severe deviations from

²³ UN Economic and Social Council, *Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2024 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2024 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council on the theme "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions"*, E/HLS/2024/1 (2024).

²⁴ UN Economic and Social Council, *Implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system: Report of the Secretary-General*, A/79/72-E/2024/12, 2024.

²⁵ The four "engine room" capacities are articulated around means of implementation: (a) enabling shifts across policy and regulatory frameworks; (b) identifying pipelines of market-ready national projects; (c) convening partnerships for financing these initiatives; and (d) building institutions and capacity at scale to steer and sustain the transitions.

the desired trajectory, with 30 per cent showing marginal progress and 18 per cent indicating moderate progress; 18 per cent have stagnated; and 17 per cent have regressed below the 2015 baseline levels.²⁶ As the second half of the journey to 2030 begins, and according to key takeaways from the SDG Summit in September 2023, the world needs a renewed multilateral effort and the commitment of all stakeholders.

UN Funding Compact

36. The revised 2024 UN Funding Compact for UN support to the SDGs addresses ongoing funding challenges by simplifying commitments, enhancing flexibility and strengthening transparency. It aims to boost pooled and thematic funding to improve UN policy advice at the country level, in particular through key frameworks such as the UN Cooperation Frameworks and Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs).

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Decent Work Country Programmes

37. Since the last update on the UN development system reform to the Governing Body at its 349th Session (October–November 2023),²⁷ the ILO has participated in the design of DWCPs in 19 countries: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, Cambodia, the Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Gabon, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Panama, Samoa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.
38. In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, Barbados and Guyana are in the process of signing DWCPs, with ongoing efforts to link these to the UN multi-country sustainable development framework. In addition, the ILO provided support to the constituents during the country programme review of the Bahamas DWCP.
39. According to data collected by the ILO, as of mid-May 2024, out of 137 countries in which UN Cooperation Frameworks have been or are being elaborated, the social partners were or are being involved in the elaboration processes in 91 (66 per cent). This is comparable to the status in 2023, indicating a degree of stability with respect to the involvement of the constituents in key UN processes at the country level.
40. The ILO participates actively in the UN country teams, leading or co-leading UN Cooperation Framework pillars, results groups or working groups in several countries, including Argentina,²⁸ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Pakistan, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Seychelles, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Zambia. As a result, UN Cooperation Frameworks and DWCPs are increasingly aligned. By mid-May 2024, 44 per cent of countries with active or draft DWCPs had at least one

²⁶ UN Economic and Social Council, *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General*, A/79/79-E/2024/54, 2024.

²⁷ GB.349/INS/5.

²⁸ The ILO Country Office for Argentina has planned a survey to integrate the views of the national constituents into the current DWCP, which also provides for a tripartite monitoring committee.

DWCP priority directly reflected in their UN Cooperation Framework, an increase from 31 per cent the previous year.²⁹

41. The ILO has sought to engage with the constituents to ensure that their views are considered in evaluation, common country analysis and UN Cooperation Framework processes. It has promoted the inclusion of references to the ratification and application of international labour standards in common country analyses and UN Cooperation Frameworks.
42. Country-level support has been provided through capacity-building, in collaboration with the Turin Centre, to the ILO constituents and staff, UN officials and other stakeholders, on labour rights as human rights. In addition, capacity-building has been delivered in collaboration with the UN system Staff College to ILO and other UN system staff. The topic of international labour standards was included in an ILO interregional workshop that took place in May 2024 in Dakar, Senegal, on country programming and the stocktaking of DWCP experiences in the context of UN reform. The ILO has also prepared training packages for small island developing States on working with the UN system through peer learning.

Engagement and capacity-building of the social partners

43. The level of engagement of the social partners in common country analysis and UN Cooperation Framework processes has improved at the regional and national levels, but remains heterogeneous and dependent on the context. Good examples of the involvement of the social partners in these processes can be found in Argentina, Cabo Verde, Chile, Ethiopia, Guinea, Madagascar, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Senegal, Uruguay and Zambia.
44. The ILO has fostered growing collaboration with the UN Development Coordination Office in Latin America and the Caribbean, strengthening ties with the social partners and raising awareness among resident coordinators of the Decent Work Agenda. Discussions are ongoing to establish regular meetings between the different stakeholders. Similar engagement efforts are under way in the Asia and the Pacific region.
45. In general, challenges remain for both resident coordinators and UN country teams in terms of positioning the ILO's social partners within the UN system, especially trade unions, which are often seen as part of the wider civil society. At times, significant advocacy efforts by the Office are required. In Bahrain, such efforts resulted in the participation of representatives of workers' organizations in the preparation of the UN Cooperation Framework. However, uncertainty remains as to whether the input of these representatives will be fully considered by the UN country team.
46. Even though challenges persist, the ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) has made strides in building the capacity of workers' organizations, which remains a cornerstone of its strategy, with field specialists playing a critical role in supporting the engagement of trade unions with the United Nations. Positive examples of such engagement exist in Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Somalia and Ukraine.

²⁹ In Africa, out of 18 active DWCPs, 12 have at least one priority or outcome that is reflected verbatim in the UN Cooperation Framework, namely; Benin, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Zimbabwe. Moreover, capacity-building for the constituents was conducted in Cabo Verde, Guinea and Senegal.

47. ACTRAV's capacity-building efforts have included the introduction of new tools and guidance. In this regard, it organized regional online academies for workers' organizations from the five regions in May 2024, followed by face-to-face training at the Turin Centre in October 2024. This training is part of a global academy series conducted in the regions with the aim of supporting trade union representatives in effectively integrating the SDGs into their unions' agendas, aligning organizational objectives with the broader sustainability framework, and proactively engaging in national and international SDG processes.
48. Moreover, a publication on good practices in trade union engagement in the UN system was issued in July 2024, together with a working paper highlighting the strategies used by trade unions in Asia to influence the SDGs. ACTRAV is conducting an evaluation of the engagement of trade unions in the 2030 Agenda to deepen the understanding of the importance of workers' contributions to UN programming, partnerships, and policy design and implementation processes.
49. It has also facilitated South-South learning through research studies on trade union engagement with the SDGs in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and in Asia and the Pacific, promoting the exchange of good practices across regions. These efforts underscore the ILO's commitment to enhancing the role of workers' organizations in advancing the UN development agenda.
50. Similarly, the ILO Bureau for Employers' Activities (ACT/EMP) has implemented a series of activities at the country level to build the capacity and facilitate the engagement of employer and business membership organizations (EBMOs) in UN planning processes. Engagement with EBMOs has improved as a result, although results vary depending on factors such as ILO presence, awareness of EBMOs among UN country teams and the alignment of the agendas of EBMOs with UN Cooperation Frameworks.
51. In several countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, Eswatini, Guatemala, Malawi, Pakistan, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania, significant progress has been made in enhancing the collaboration between EBMOs and UN country teams, directly or through the ILO. For instance, in Bangladesh and Pakistan, EBMOs lead private sector collaboration with the United Nations through task forces supported by the ILO that develop advocacy resources based on private sector priorities.
52. In Egypt, EBMOs have enhanced their involvement with the UN country team through various UN entities, including by attending UN country team retreats to discuss socio-economic challenges and priorities. This has led to the establishment of a committee aimed at coordinating the private sector's role in achieving the SDGs, with a focus on education, skills development and job creation. In Guatemala, the EBMO collaborated with the UN country team to map private sector social programmes, which served as the basis for a joint advocacy effort to promote comprehensive development and identify opportunities for synergy.
53. At the regional level, the Office collaborated with ECLAC and the International Organisation of Employers in the Latin America and the Caribbean region to convene a high-level dialogue on the role of the private sector in promoting productive development policies. The participants emphasized the importance of enhancing the participation of EBMOs in national and subnational policy processes.
54. In Eswatini, the ILO facilitated engagement between employers' and workers' organizations and the UN country team, with plans to support social dialogue through promotional activities.
55. Nevertheless, EBMOs continue to face competition from other business groups and private sector networks, such as the Global Compact local networks, established or facilitated by the

United Nations. While promoting productive collaborations with such groups where possible, the ILO remains committed to supporting EBMOs in overcoming these challenges and enhancing their engagement with UN country teams and their role in national development agendas.

Global and regional mechanisms

56. Effective cooperation and coordination are central to the reformed UN development system. The Director-General participates in meetings of the UNSDG's Principals and the related Core Group. The high-level political forum on sustainable development, held annually under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, offers the ILO and its constituents a platform to review the progress made in the implementation of the SDGs and to advocate for decent work and social justice. The ILO's statement at the ministerial segment of the forum in 2024 highlighted the importance of the social dimension of sustainable development and the 2024 Ministerial Declaration of the forum acknowledges this perspective, mentioning decent work, the fight against forced labour, social protection, just transitions and the Global Accelerator.
57. The ILO contributes to UN and international policy processes, addressing global priorities such as climate change, plastic pollution, biodiversity loss, heat stress and critical energy transition minerals. These efforts align with the UN Secretary-General's call in Our Common Agenda for all countries to embrace the ILO *Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all*.
58. At the regional level, peer support groups, issue-based coalitions and regional collaborative platforms help promote ILO initiatives and integrate the Decent Work Agenda into the SDG acceleration efforts. The ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific participates in the Regional Collaborative Platform's Data and Statistics Working Group, in joint capacity-building activities with other UN entities, including annual training for data and monitoring officers working in the Resident Coordinator's Office, and in regular statistics meetings.
59. The ILO also participates in peer support groups, which allows it to review and comment on common country analyses and UN Cooperation Frameworks before finalization and to engage with UN entities on recent developments at the regional level. For example, the ILO contributed to the "Six Transitions: Investment Pathways to Deliver the SDGs" initiative, mobilizing expertise for the jobs and social protection transition in Global Accelerator countries and beyond. The Global Accelerator's Technical Support Facility has developed new guidance and tools that will be disseminated by the UN Development Coordination Office to countries prioritizing these transitions. The aim is to provide comprehensive guidance notes and leverage the expertise of multiple agencies to enhance impact across the SDGs.
60. At the global level, the ILO and the World Bank co-chair the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030). Furthermore, the Multi-stakeholder Engagement to implement the Global Accelerator and the World Bank's Social Protection and Jobs Compass together form an integrated technical and financing mechanism implemented in pathfinder countries to foster collaboration on jobs and social protection between the United Nations and the World Bank. The Global Accelerator was also highlighted in the context of the work of the G20 Development Working Group in 2024.
61. The ILO co-chairs the Issue-based Coalition on Equitable Growth and Financing for Development in the Latin America and the Caribbean region with the United Nations Development Programme and ECLAC. It is also engaged in the issue-based coalitions on climate change and resilience, governance for peace, justice and strong institutions, and human mobility. For human mobility, the ILO has designated two focal points to a new task

force aimed at developing a coordinated UN approach to migration and displacement, focusing on structural causes and policies. In addition, the ILO co-chairs working groups on youth (with the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)), populations left behind (with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS), and evaluation (with the United Nations Population Fund) and participates in working groups on gender and on communications and partnerships.

62. The ILO Regional Office for the Arab States co-chairs two issue-based coalitions: one on migration and the other on social protection. The former organized a regional webinar on climate change and migration in the Arab region, focusing on a just transition and labour mobility as adaptation strategies. This webinar was part of a series of global and regional consultations aimed at sharing experiences and developing recommendations for a just transition. The Issue-based Coalition on Social Protection, co-led by the ILO and UNICEF, launched a regional capacity-building initiative on social protection for 2020–21, with plans to consolidate and expand it to 2023–24. The ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific co-chairs the Issue-based Coalition for Inclusive Economic Growth and Recovery.

International labour standards and human rights at work

63. In December 2023, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations held its annual meeting with the Chairs of Treaty Bodies monitoring UN human rights treaties. This meeting marked the 75th anniversary of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87).³⁰ Discussions highlighted the links between the effective enjoyment of human rights – encompassing fundamental civil liberties as well as economic, social and cultural rights – and respect for democratic institutions and efforts to combat poverty and inequality.
64. The ILO co-led the [Interagency Network on Human Rights, Leaving No One Behind and Sustainable Development](#) from January 2023 to June 2024 to support the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights. In this framework, the ILO co-organized and participated with other UN entities, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in advocacy and awareness-raising activities focusing on the importance of human rights, including labour rights, for sustainable development.
65. In the context of the Global Coalition, the ILO has identified “Realizing labour rights as human rights, ensuring human dignity and meeting basic needs” as one of six key areas requiring immediate action. The action is a key part of the ILO's partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Global Refugee Forum

66. The ILO participated in the second Global Refugee Forum, held in Geneva in December 2023, and made – and is actively pursuing – a number of pledges, including multi-stakeholder pledges, to support the practical implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. The ILO's main pledge, to advance equality and non-discrimination in labour market access and labour protection in forced displacement contexts, emphasized the need to increase equality of opportunities and outcomes in the world of work for refugees and migrants in mixed migration contexts, other forcibly displaced persons and host communities, with special attention to

³⁰ ILO, *Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (articles 19, 22 and 35 of the Constitution): General Report and observations concerning particular countries*, ILC112/Report III(A), 2024, paras 60–73.

women, persons with disabilities, young people, and workers and enterprises in the informal economy. The ILO is also involved in and is contributing to other pledges, such as those on economic inclusion and social protection; accelerating and better leveraging humanitarian-development-peace nexus approaches in forced displacement settings; and protection for refugees and migrants at risk of or affected by trafficking in persons.³¹ It is important to highlight that, under the 2024 UN Common Pledge 2.0 on refugee inclusion, to which the ILO has made a commitment, a mapping of countries whose government and UN country team pledges align with the ILO commitments for labour market inclusion and ILO projects is being developed.

Peace and resilience: Promoting the Decent Work Agenda

67. While not a humanitarian organization, the ILO is increasingly playing a role in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus by actively contributing to UN policies and frameworks that promote peace and resilience through decent work. In the preparation of the UN Secretary-General's policy brief *A New Agenda for Peace*,³² the ILO's position paper highlighted social justice and a human rights-based approach. Moreover, the ILO participated in the consultations for the 2025 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture and has participated in the work of various groups, such as the Peacebuilding Strategy Group. The ILO has successfully advocated for the provision of protection to frontline workers under the World Health Organization's pandemic prevention, preparedness and response accord and has contributed to UN initiatives on internal displacement, ensuring that emphasis is placed on promoting employment and social protection for displaced people. It has also collaborated with the UN Nexus Academy to enhance cooperation on decent work for vulnerable populations across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in the Arab States. Within this context, the ILO has also promoted fundraising dialogues to address the current situation in the Middle East, with a focus on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including through joint assessments and programming across the nexus.

Reporting on results

68. The ILO contributed to the preparation of the 2024 report by the Chair of the UNSDG, coordinated by the UN Development Coordination Office.³³ This report showcases the UN development system's 2023 contributions to the SDGs, highlighting the ILO's key achievements, including measures to:
- expand social protection coverage through social protection floors and enhanced access to healthcare and income security;
 - promote the ratification of international labour standards, such as the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155), and the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190);
 - advance migrant worker rights via awareness campaigns and fair recruitment platforms;
 - support policies for a just transition to environmentally sustainable economies;

³¹ Further information on the pledges can be found on the [website](#) of the Global Compact on Refugees.

³² United Nations, *A New Agenda for Peace: Our Common Agenda policy brief 9*, 2023.

³³ UN Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group*, E/2024/5, 2024.

- strengthen social dialogue and labour relations frameworks.

69. In addition, results related to SDG achievements have been featured on the [South-South Meeting Point](#) virtual space platform, which also provides online training, with courses in 2023 and 2024 focusing on the integration of the Decent Work Agenda into SDG acceleration efforts.

Partnerships and resource mobilization

70. In 2023, the UN system contributed US\$25.1 million to the ILO. This funding resulted from an expanding portfolio of inter-agency collaborations and joint programmes, many of which were facilitated by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. By July 2024, an additional US\$11 million was approved, with further projects expected in areas such as migration and peacebuilding. As part of the Operational Steering Committee of the Joint SDG Fund, the ILO helps shape the strategic direction of funding in line with the UN reform and acceleration agenda.
71. Although 2023 saw a reduction in Joint SDG Fund implementation – with the total allocated funding falling from an average of US\$6–6.5 million in previous years to US\$1.9 million – the ILO is preparing for a renewed expansion of its collaborations, with 24 new initiatives and projects under discussion, with a total worth of approximately US\$7 million, to start before the end of 2024, in particular in the framework of the Global Accelerator.
72. The ILO is enhancing its partnerships with various multi-partner trust funds to advance its work in various areas, with a focus on migration, peacebuilding, education and promoting decent jobs and universal social protection. One such partnership is with the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund, with ILO engagement leading to a three-fold increase in contributions over the past three years and with US\$9 million currently invested in projects. Also, through the Global Accelerator, the ILO continues to expand its portfolio by fostering innovative partnerships with the World Bank to ensure streamlined processes and cohesive support for national partners. Further initiatives include policy reforms to ensure safe journeys for workers, backed by the UN Road Safety Fund, and efforts to enhance disability inclusion through the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
73. By August 2024, the ILO was implementing 83 projects in collaboration with 18 UN entities. Most of these initiatives were funded through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office and covered a broad area of work, ranging from social protection to gender equality. They covered 68 countries across all regions. Moreover, the ILO was leading 15 multi-agency programmes, with a value of US\$78 million.

► Draft decision

74. **The Governing Body took note of the current developments at the United Nations (UN) level and requested the Director-General to:**
- take into consideration the views expressed by the Governing Body in the ILO's ongoing work in support of the engagement of the tripartite constituents in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and common country analysis processes;**
 - prepare a further report on developments at the UN level and the measures taken by the Office in that regard for consideration by the Governing Body at its 355th Session (November 2025).**