

Launching of ILO South-4-Care Platform & first edition of the Learning Hub on the care economy in the Arab States region

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) knowledge exchange and capacity-building for countries at different levels of development

Background and Justification

The [Resolution](#) concerning decent work and the care economy, adopted by the International Labour Conference (ILC) in 2024, and the related [Plan of Action on Decent Work and the Care Economy](#) (2025-2030), adopted subsequently by the ILO's Governing Body, recognize that urgent action is needed to ensure decent work in the care economy and promote decent work by ensuring access to care for all. To this end, they call on the ILO to *"enhance further its expertise on the care economy through strengthened research and improved dissemination and communication on decent work and the care economy in economies at different levels of development"* (para. 31(g)); *"collect and share best practices"* (para. 31(j)), *"provide, with the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, [...], technical capacity-building for the design, adequate financing, implementation and monitoring of inclusive policies for the care economy, including mainstreaming care into all other relevant policies"* (para. 31(l)); *"reinforce the capacities of tripartite constituents to engage in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of national care policies"* (para. 31(m)), among the areas of focus of ILO's efforts. Paragraph 31(p) of the Resolution explicitly calls for the creation of a **South-South platform** to promote decent care work and facilitate collaboration, sharing of experiences, and fostering of inclusive and sustainable care economies among developing countries. Then, the Plan of Action includes the launch of this South-South platform, "South4Care", with relevant partners, in order to foster knowledge exchange and capacity-building on care policies in developing countries (para. 32).

To give effect to the Resolution and the Plan of Action on Decent Work and the Care Economy, the ILO is launching a South-South platform on the care economy called **"South-4-Care"**. This will include two components, an online knowledge component (Component 1) and a capacity building component (Component 2). For Component 1, the **"South-4-Care Platform"** will be developed and hosted as a new tab on the [ILO Global Care Policy Portal](#)¹. For Component 2, which will be powered in collaboration with the ILO International Training Centre (Turin), a **"South-4-Care Learning Hub"** will be delivered biennially to tripartite constituents from the Global South, leveraging [South-South and Triangular Cooperation \(SSTC\)](#), with each edition rotating across regions.

Component 1: South-4-Care Platform

Online knowledge component hosted as a "new space" on the ILO Global Care Policy Portal.

Component 2: South-4-Care Learning Hub

Capacity building component → powered in collaboration with the ITC-ILO and delivered to constituents at different levels of development

The **first edition of the South-4-Care Learning Hub (Component 2)** will take place **online on ITC/ILO E-Campus (1-11 September)**, and an **in-person from 15-18 September, 2025, in Doha, Qatar**, as a **3.5-day capacity-building event**. This Learning Hub will serve as a key platform for enhancing the shared understanding of the care economy and facilitating the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practices. Participants will explore solutions to key challenges in the care economy across countries at different stages of development. A central focus of the Learning Hub is to promote decent work and strengthen the care economy through **South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)**. By integrating

¹ The Portal is key ILO knowledge hub on care policies. It will be expanded to include a new dashboard to monitor and document country measures at national and local, sectoral, and workplace levels, including collective bargaining agreements (CBAs), workplace cooperation and public-private partnerships (PPPs); and centralize ILO knowledge and data on the key thematic areas of the Resolution with inputs from all ILO Departments and field Offices.

ITC-ILO's expertise in training delivery with the South-4-Care Platform's emphasis on South-South cooperation and knowledge sharing, the Learning Hub will become a flagship ILO tool for advancing the ILO Resolution on the Care Economy. To maximize its global impact, the Learning Hub will **rotate among ILO regions** and will be linked, where possible, to the **ILO Global Coalition for Social Justice**.

The **official launch event** for both the **South-4-Care Platform** and the **Learning Hub** is scheduled for **15 September 2025, in Doha, Qatar**. This high-level gathering will convene high-level tripartite constituents and key partners from all five ILO regions. It would also leverage the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

Objectives of the South-4-Care Learning Hub and Launch Event

The **South-4-Care Learning Hub** aims to:

1. **Disseminate and raise awareness** on the importance of the ILO Resolution concerning decent work and the care economy and its implications for ILO constituents globally, as well as the Plan of Action on decent work and the care economy, as well as how best to implement it.
2. **Create a common understanding of the care economy, and measures to strengthen the care economy** among ILO tripartite constituents in the Arab States region as well as those from other regions.
3. **Strengthen capacities of ILO tripartite constituents to design and implement integrated and coherent care and support policies and systems** for decent work and gender equality and implement the newly adopted ILO Resolution concerning decent work and the care economy.
4. **Strengthen cooperation and partnership** among ILO tripartite constituents, with focus on economies at different levels of development, and other key international and regional partners.
5. **Identify key action points for strengthening the care economy at the regional and the country level and per constituent group**, which also reflect opportunities for South-South collaboration and beyond. The results could include commitments to pilot regional and inter-regional initiatives (e.g., exchange programmes for policy experts, joint research on care models, piloting and scaling-up promising initiatives), exploring financial mechanisms for care-related investments and fiscal space, and monitoring progress through a peer-learning framework.

The **Launch event** aims to:

1. **Raise awareness and mobilize interest and support** in promoting the South-4-Care Learning Hub as a key space for continued regional engagement, and knowledge and experience exchanges in advancing decent work and the care economy.
2. **Promote diversity in leadership, pathways, initiatives and models** for advancing decent work in the care economy.
3. Create a foundation for **fostering long-lasting partnerships** to advance decent work in the care economy.
4. **Reinforce the ILO's leading role**, partnerships and policy coherence in the multilateral system on the care economy, leveraging the Global Coalition for Social Justice.
5. **Ensure sustainability of South-4-Care** by strengthening South-South partnerships and cooperation among governments, employers and workers' organizations, as well as financial partners, and international organizations, while allowing for continued national, regional and interregional engagement, and knowledge and experience exchanges, especially as the initiative moves from region to region.

Participants

The Learning Hub is made up of participants and resource persons, including ILO constituents from each ILO region according to relevance of experiences in implementing practices on decent work and the care economy.

The high-level launch event will include Ministers of Labour from all five ILO regions, with equal regional representation; and high-level representatives from employers' and workers' organizations (IOE and ITUC); ILO Regional Directors (Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia); South-4-Care Learning Hub Participants and Resource Persons; Representatives from the UN system (UN Women, OHCHR, UN ESCWA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ADB, UNICEF, WHO, UNDP); Development banks and Development partners.

Format

The first edition of the South-4-Care Learning Hub will take place in two phases:

- Online (1-11 September 2025) via the ITC-ILO E-Campus
- In-person (15-18 September 2025) in Doha, Qatar

The **hybrid high-level launch event** will be held **in person** in **Doha, Qatar**.

Interpretation will be available in **English and Arabic**, with additional languages (French and Spanish) subject to tripartite constituents' needs.