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Progress made in the elaboration of the implementation plan on the priorities defined in the Punta Cana Declaration

Summary: In response to the decision made by the Governing Body at its 355th Session (November 2025), this document provides information on progress made in respect of the elaboration of the implementation plan on the priorities defined in the Punta Cana Declaration.

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Related documents: [GB.355/INS/13](#); [AMRM.20/D.2](#).

► Background

1. The 20th American Regional Meeting was held from 1 to 3 October 2025 and concluded with the adoption of the Punta Cana Declaration for democracy, peace, decent work and social dialogue: Uniting the Americas for a future with sustainable development and social justice.¹
2. In paragraph 22 of the Declaration, there is a call to the Office requesting it to “**develop, in consultation with constituents, a regional implementation plan with clear targets based on the priorities set out in this Declaration** to enable follow-up of the Organization’s work in the Americas, to be presented to the Governing Body at its 356th Session (March–April 2026)”.
3. Furthermore, at the 355th Session of the Governing Body (November 2025), the following decision was taken regarding the report of the 20th American Regional Meeting:²

The Governing Body requested the Director-General to:

[...]

- (c) submit to the Governing Body a document for information at its 356th Session (March 2026) and develop, in consultation with the constituents from the region, an implementation plan with clear targets based on the priorities defined in the Declaration to monitor the Organization’s work in the Americas, for submission to the Governing Body at its 358th Session (November 2026);
- (d) incorporate, in the biennial programme implementation report submitted to the Governing Body, information on the implementation of the Punta Cana Declaration.

► Proposed implementation plan

4. The implementation plan³ will be developed taking into account the structure of the Programme and Budget for 2026–27⁴ and considering the nine policy outcomes already approved by the International Labour Conference at its 113th Session (2025); consultations will continue with the tripartite constituents in the region.
5. In line with this proposal:
 - (a) The structure of nine outcomes and thirty-seven outputs with the corresponding indicators of the Programme and Budget for 2026–27 will be applied, as these are the mechanisms for presenting information and follow-up typically used at the ILO.⁵

¹ AMRM.20/D.2.

² GB.355/INS/13/Decision.

³ The implementation plan is aligned with previous experiences, such as the follow-up to the Singapore Statement adopted at the 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (December 2022), taking into account the guidance provided by the Strategic Programming and Management Department.

⁴ ILO, [Programme and Budget for 2026–27](#), 2026.

⁵ The number of target countries is currently under review (February–March 2026) in order to align it with the number established in the Programme and Budget for 2026–27 approved in June 2025.

- (b) Each of the 14 priorities of the Punta Cana Declaration will be linked to the indicators of the Programme and Budget for 2026–27 (see the appendix). The selection of specific indicators will be made in consultation with the tripartite constituents.
 - (c) The updated number of target countries for each indicator of the Programme and Budget for 2026–27 will be used, so that the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme and Budget for 2026–27 can be monitored simultaneously, thereby avoiding duplication and parallel systems to present information. This process will be completed in the first quarter of 2026.
 - (d) The implementation plan will not duplicate existing ILO reporting bodies or require the allocation of financial resources.
6. The implementation of the proposed plan will not entail a loss of comprehensiveness between thematic areas and will incorporate cross-cutting issues such as the promotion of gender equality, tripartite social dialogue and international labour standards for each of the thematic areas.

Example of a link between the Punta Cana Declaration and the Programme and Budget for 2026–27

- 7. One of the priorities of the Declaration is the commitment to the prevention and elimination of child labour and the protection of young people who have reached the minimum working age, which coincides with output 1.4 of the Programme and Budget for 2026–27. Both priorities can be linked and the proposed indicator can be used to measure the progress to be achieved in this thematic area (see the table below).
- 8. Using indicator 1.4.2 to monitor the effect given to this priority, it can be said that “in relation to the priority concerning the prevention and elimination of child labour, in 2025 only four countries had measures in place to combat child labour, forced labour or trafficking in persons. By 2027, 11 countries will have adopted such measures”.
- 9. It would also be possible to use more than one indicator per priority of the Punta Cana Declaration if the tripartite constituents so decide.
- 10. Countries must be committed in order for the indicator to be achieved in each target country and consequently for each priority of the Declaration to be met.

	Description	Number of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean
Priority of the Punta Cana Declaration	Paragraph 20. We reaffirm our commitment to the prevention and elimination of child labour and the protection of young people who have reached the minimum working age, in accordance with the fundamental principles and rights at work.	The same number of countries as in the Programme and Budget for 2026–27
Output and indicator of the Programme and Budget for 2026–27	Output 1.4. Increased capacity of the constituents to advance the effective respect, promotion and realization of the fundamental principles and rights at work. Indicator 1.4.2. Number of countries that have taken action on child labour, forced labour or trafficking in persons.	Baseline: 4 Target: 11

► Appendix

Proposed links between the Punta Cana Declaration and the outputs of the Programme and Budget for 2026–27

Paragraph	Priorities of the Punta Cana Declaration	Outputs of the Programme and Budget for 2026–27
1 (Point 6)	Guarantee the protection of the fundamental principles and rights at work : freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; and a safe and healthy working environment. To make progress towards this goal, it is essential to align national labour legislation and practices with international labour standards, strengthen labour administration and inspection, and ensure swift and effective access to justice, together with robust mechanisms to prevent and resolve labour disputes . This requires strengthening the capacities of the competent authorities to secure compliance with the law and ensure modern and effective labour inspection.	1.4 Promotion of the fundamental principles and rights at work 2.3 Social dialogue, labour relations and labour justice 2.4 Administration, inspection and good governance of work
2 (Point 7)	Promote an institutional, economic and social environment that, as part of the digital transition, drives inclusive and sustainable development, generating full and productive employment in support of decent work. This requires integrated policies on formalization, promotion of sustainable enterprises and support for innovation and private investment; the adoption of new technologies; improvements in the systemic productivity and competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and their better integration into value chains; the strengthening of labour skills; and the adoption of new models of production within a framework of decent work for the benefit of workers, enterprises and society.	3.1 Comprehensive employment policy frameworks 4.1 Integrated frameworks that promote an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises 4.2 Responsible business conduct 4.3 Access of enterprises to financial and business development services 4.4 Transition of enterprises to the formal economy 9.2 Coherence to facilitate the transition to the formal economy 9.4 Coherence to advance decent work outcomes in supply chains

Paragraph	Priorities of the Punta Cana Declaration	Outputs of the Programme and Budget for 2026–27
3 (Point 8)	Ensure comprehensive and sustainable social protection through systems based on the principles of universality, solidarity, equality, equity and non-discrimination, alongside policies on the transition from the informal to the formal economy.	7.1 Social protection policies 7.2 Sustainable financing and sound governance of social protection systems 7.3 Social protection for life and work transitions and structural transformations 9.2 Coherence to facilitate the transition to the formal economy
4 (Point 9)	Advance comprehensive public policies for the respect, promotion and realization of the fundamental principle and right to a safe and healthy working environment through a system of defined and differentiated rights, responsibilities and duties. Consolidate a culture of prevention based on tripartite social dialogue with the effective participation of governments, employers and workers.	1.4 Promotion of the fundamental principles and rights at works 6.1 Safe and healthy working environments 2.3 Social dialogue, labour relations and labour justice
5 (Point 10)	Strengthen wage policies, including the operationalization of living wages, in accordance with the conclusions adopted by the Meeting of Experts on Wage Policies, including Living Wages held in February 2024, through wage-setting processes and collective bargaining.	6.2 Adequate wage levels and decent working time
6 (Item 11)	Strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law by revitalizing continuous institutionalized, effective and robust social dialogue through the effective participation of the most representative independent organizations of employers and workers, as a legitimate mechanism for strengthening governance of the world of work while guaranteeing fundamental rights, and for building consensus and designing inclusive public policies.	2.3 Social dialogue, labour relations and labour justice 2.1 Increased institutional capacity of employer and business membership organizations 2.2 Increased institutional capacity of workers' organizations
7 (Point 12)	Promote a just transition towards societies that are resilient to climate change, combining environmental, economic and social sustainability with productive dynamism and decent work. This transition must generate green jobs, encourage innovation and business investment – particularly by MSMEs – and facilitate the adaptation of the fabric of production. At the same time, it must protect those most affected by natural disasters and promote inclusive and sustainable pathways for development.	9.3 Just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies

Paragraph	Priorities of the Punta Cana Declaration	Outputs of the Programme and Budget for 2026–27
8 (Point 13)	Bridge skills gaps, which requires modernizing vocational training systems, promoting comprehensive public policies and public–private partnerships, facilitating skills certification and ensuring that training responds to the real demands of the fabric of production and promotes the labour market integration of young people, women, persons with disabilities, migrants and other marginalized populations.	3.2 Skills and lifelong learning systems 3.5 Decent work for youth
9 (Point 14)	Close the digital divide as an essential means of ensuring an inclusive future of work. This requires strategic investment in infrastructure and connectivity, public policies that promote innovation and collaboration between sectors, and digital skills programmes that ensure equitable access to technology. Taking advantage of digital transformations must be framed within a decent work approach and respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work, ensuring safe and equitable working conditions, taking into account the ongoing standard-setting discussion within the ILO on decent work in the platform economy.	8.1 Strategies to create decent job opportunities in the digital economy 8.2 Promotion of inclusive and effective governance for the digital economy 8.3 Taking advantage of the digitalization of services for decent work
10 (Point 15)	Integrate gender equality as a cross-cutting theme in all labour policies, promoting concrete measures to reduce wage gaps and participation gaps, guarantee equal access to training and leadership, and recognize the value of care work.	5.1 Transformative agenda for gender equality, non-discrimination and inclusion
11 (Point 16)	Renew the tripartite commitment to strengthening regional policies, national legislation and effective social dialogue, including collective bargaining, in order to prevent and eliminate violence and harassment in the world of work, in accordance with the Violence and Harassment Convention (No. 190) and Recommendation (No. 206), 2019.	5.3 Prevention of violence and harassment at work
12 (Point 17)	Strengthen, develop and implement integrated and coherent national care policies and systems that promote decent work and gender equality.	5.2 Promotion of decent work in and through the care economy
13 (Point 18)	Encourage the ratification and effective implementation of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), to safeguard the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples.	5.1 Transformative agenda for gender equality, non-discrimination and inclusion

Paragraph	Priorities of the Punta Cana Declaration	Outputs of the Programme and Budget for 2026–27
14 (Item 19)	Promote fair labour migration in the Americas; strengthen coherence between employment and migration policies; promote bilateral and multilateral agreements on safe, orderly and regular labour migration; ensure fair recruitment; and facilitate access to decent work for migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers and returnees, especially women and young people.	6.4 Frameworks to govern labour migration
15 (Item 20)	Reaffirm our commitment to the prevention and eradication of child labour and the protection of young people who have reached the minimum working age, in accordance with fundamental principles and rights at work.	1.4 Promotion of the fundamental principles and rights at work

Note: The shaded cells indicate the need to define which priority of the Declaration will be assigned to that output of the Programme and Budget for 2026–27, given that there is more than one possible alternative.