

Reference document concerning the item “Update on the Global Coalition for Social Justice” (GB.358/INS/9)

► Status update by thematic area

1. This reference document complements the report to the Governing Body on the Global Coalition for Social Justice (GB.358/INS/9) by providing a more detailed account of the ongoing consolidation of the key interventions and the progress achieved since the previous update in November 2025. This document further outlines the proposed focus, coordination arrangements and priorities for the next phase of implementation, with an emphasis on more targeted collaboration, realistic deliverables and measurable results.
2. Consistent with the Coalition’s principles and terms of reference, the key interventions are partner-led and retain flexibility in their scope, activities and implementation arrangements, reflecting the respective mandates, priorities and capacities of the partners involved. The assessment of the 14 key interventions highlighted varying levels of operational maturity, including in governance arrangements, available resources, delivery capacity and partner engagement. As part of this process, the initial set of 14 key interventions has been reduced to 10. This consolidation goes beyond a simple regrouping of interventions, bringing together under the six broader thematic areas initiatives that aim to address similar thematic challenges, while sharpening their focus on a more limited number of realistic deliverables and measurable results. This involves building on interventions that are already operational and demonstrating results, strengthening synergies between complementary initiatives, and adjusting the level and modalities of the Coalition’s support where implementation capacity or partner engagement remains limited. The intention is also to reduce fragmentation, avoid duplication of coordination structures and concentrate efforts where the Coalition can bring the greatest added value with clearly defined priorities, targeted deliverables and proportionate coordination arrangements.
3. As some key interventions build on existing programmes and partnerships, they retain their own governance arrangements, programmes of work and priorities. Nonetheless, to strengthen coherence across key interventions, avoid siloed approaches and expand opportunities for peer learning and the exchange of experience among partners, core groups are created under thematic areas as appropriate. These core groups are intended to provide a space for partners engaged in related initiatives to exchange experiences, identify complementarities and explore opportunities for cooperation, including by connecting existing initiatives and engaging additional interested partners. Core groups are further intended to facilitate exchanges and cooperation among partners leading or implementing initiatives, without duplicating their functions or interfering with their established arrangements. As per the terms of reference of the Coalition, these core groups have no decision-making or oversight functions in relation to these initiatives; rather, they provide an additional space for their partners to identify synergies and pursue mutually beneficial collaboration, while respecting their respective mandates and institutional arrangements.
4. The results and impact reported under these key interventions, remain attributable to the programmes and initiatives through which they are delivered. The Coalition’s added value lies in supporting and amplifying these efforts by enhancing their visibility and reach, fostering new partnerships, facilitating knowledge exchange and peer learning, promoting policy coherence, and creating opportunities for broader collaboration and collective action around shared objectives.

1. Addressing inequalities, informality and poverty

5. This thematic area brings together actions seeking to address inequalities, including the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC), Empowering Youth for Social Justice and the emerging intervention on transition to formality. The proposed focus is to address the structural drivers of inequalities, informality and poverty through integrated approaches that improve access to rights, opportunities, employment and social protection, tackling both distribution and redistribution, and stimulate peer-to-peer learning while preserving the distinct policy and operational tracks of the initiatives concerned. Coordination will be undertaken by two core groups: one comprised of partners leading initiatives on inequalities, equal pay and youth empowerment, and the other focusing on transition to formality, including implementing partners and financial and technical partners. The two groups retain distinct workstreams but will exchange experiences and identify opportunities for joint country-level action.

Action and results

6. The progress made and collaboration already initiated under the Coalition in 2025 and 2026 provide a basis for this consolidation. EPIC, chaired by the Government of Brazil and vice- chaired by the Government of Canada, reached 80 members by the end of 2026, and broadened participation by governments, employers' and workers' organizations and enterprises. A global guide on pay equity and new global estimates of the gender pay gap was launched, complemented by a gender-neutral job evaluation tool for governments. Global advocacy and peer exchange were strengthened through: an event on equal pay rights at the Commission on the Status of Women (March 2026); a high-level event on the margins of the International Labour Conference (June 2026); International Equal Pay Day (September 2026); and EPIC technical exchanges, alongside advocacy, technical cooperation and peer learning at global and country levels.
7. Under the Empowering Youth intervention, the ILO and the UN Youth Office mobilized partners around the Youth Call to Action on decent jobs for youth, adopted by more than 100 young participants and partners at the 2025 Global Youth Employment Forum in the Republic of Korea (December 2025). The Youth Empowered for Social Justice webinar series, launched through the YouthForesight Knowledge Facility with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), a policy note on youth employment and social protection in Global Accelerator pathfinder countries, the Global Employment Trends for Youth 2026 and the emerging PROSPECTS4Youth intergenerational network with UNICEF and the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) further strengthened knowledge exchange and promoted youth participation. The ILO and UN Youth Office also convened an event with Coalition partners on World Youth Skills Day in New York (15 July 2026), while engagement with the UN Sustainable Development Goals Fund is being pursued around youth employment and social protection in Global Accelerator pathfinder countries.

Forward objectives and milestones

8. Going forward, this thematic area will support the development of integrated country approaches to inequalities and disseminate evidence from implementation; promote ratification and effective implementation of relevant ILO instruments and human rights standards on equality and non-discrimination; advance the Youth Call to Action and the Global Roadmap for Eradicating Poverty Beyond Growth; promote the implementation of the tripartite global road map on the transition to formality (to be adopted by the Governing Body at its 358th session) and strategic partnerships for national implementation; and align political commitment, financing and technical support behind country-owned action on hunger, poverty and vulnerability. Work on equal pay will seek to build on EPIC's 80-member base, strengthen

country-level implementation and increase capacity-building initiatives undertaken by members, while youth-focused collaboration will continue through the UN Youth Office, UNICEF, UNHCR, Global Accelerator networks and other Coalition partners.

2. Advancing rights and ensuring human dignity

9. This thematic area consolidates initiatives centred on the realization of human rights and labour rights through inclusive economic and social systems. It comprises the Human Rights Economy and related work on the elimination of child and forced labour through Alliance 8.7, occupational safety and health, social protection, the care economy, the social and solidarity economy, and access to rights and justice. Its proposed focus is to place international labour standards, fundamental principles and rights at work and relevant human rights instruments at the centre of national development and labour market policies, while creating stronger links among relevant initiatives. Collaboration will be organized around country pilots and thematic workstreams, allowing partners to contribute through technical assistance, standard-setting and implementation support, advocacy, research and peer exchange. Coordination arrangements are being developed with the ILO, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) as co-convenors, building on the collaboration established to date and involving partners contributing to related initiatives and implementation.

Actions and results

10. Since the last reporting period, this thematic area moved from conceptual development to operational delivery through country engagement in Kenya and the Republic of Moldova, led by the Governments, in collaboration with social partners, UN entities and regional partners. The pilots support labour law reform, strengthening of institutions and the implementation of international labour standards, social rights and related human rights instruments. Wider collaboration also advanced on child and forced labour, social protection, occupational safety and health, access to justice, and the social and solidarity economy, through, for example, the promotion of the Marrakech Global Framework for Action against Child Labour (adopted in February 2026), the global ratification campaign for the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), and the launch of the Group of Friends on the Social and Solidarity Economy (June 2026).

Forward objectives and milestones

11. In 2026–27, the implementation of the national pilots in Kenya and the Republic of Moldova will continue with potentially broader support from Coalition partners and documented as case studies for possible scaling up. Other deliverables include: development of joint evidence and advocacy products on the economic and social value of integrating labour rights and human rights into national policies; securing partner commitments for the implementation of the Marrakech Global Framework and Alliance 8.7; advancing the campaign for ratification of Convention No. 102; and mobilizing a renewed global commitment and expanded partnerships for action to advance the effective realization of the fundamental principle and right to a safe and healthy working environment, as a key outcome of the 24th World Congress on Safety and Health at Work co-organized by the ILO, the International Social Security Association (ISSA) and the Government of Senegal (April 2027).

3. Expanding decent work and sustainable enterprises

12. This thematic area groups the Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work and Social Justice, Responsible Business for Inclusive and Sustainable Societies and Sustainable Investment for Social Justice. Its proposed focus is to promote and support productive employment, sustainable enterprises and inclusive economic transformation by linking enterprise productivity, responsible business conduct and sustainable finance. Consolidation under a common framework is intended to provide a clearer offer to partners working with enterprises, investors and economic institutions and to connect country-level enterprise support with international standards and finance. It will be coordinated by one core group, comprised of partners already active in the three key interventions and related initiatives. Existing initiative-specific governance, including the Strategic Advisory Committee for Productivity Ecosystems, will continue to guide technical delivery while the core group identifies synergies and opportunities for joint action.

Actions and results

13. Phase I of the Productivity Ecosystems programme in Ghana, South Africa and Viet Nam, funded by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland, was completed in July 2026 and exceeded most targets according to an independent evaluation. Results included institutionalization of Ghana's first national productivity statistics, now used in labour and trade policy, which helped generate an estimated 2,500 jobs and a collective bargaining agreement covering 2,000 workers; in South Africa, more than 400 worker representatives were trained in evidence-based social dialogue and more than 170 suppliers were upgraded, with average productivity gains of 46 per cent; and in Viet Nam, the programme supported the new Employment Law and reached more than 660 small and medium-sized enterprises, with productivity gains of up to 30 per cent. In Egypt, technical working groups supported sector reforms in leather tanning and marble, with participating enterprises reducing worker turnover from 25 to 12 per cent. Analytical work, including through the BRICS forum, strengthened the evidence base, while new funding supported implementation in Ukraine from April 2026.
14. On responsible business conduct, the number of national focal points for the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, as amended in 2022 (MNE Declaration), appointed by Member States has reached 23; a global community of practice was established; and, cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and OHCHR in Latin America and the Caribbean, and European Union-funded cooperation in Southern Africa supported country-level delivery. Country and regional examples included: Türkiye, with the appointment of a national focal point; India, through a bipartite road map; Montenegro, through work on responsible business conduct for small and medium-sized enterprises; and, the West African Economic and Monetary Union, where investment promotion agencies committed to responsible investment for more and better jobs at an event involving the UN Trade and Development, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the OECD, IOE and ITUC. The International Training Centre of the ILO (ITCILO) courses, including a global course on human rights due diligence, reached more than 5,600 participants, and a regional report on the MNE Declaration in the Americas was completed.
15. On sustainable investment, banking guidance on decent work targets developed with the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative was launched at COP30 in November 2025. An evidence-based narrative linking sustainable investment to decent work outcomes was developed with the Geneva Graduate Institute and other partners and presented to the Coalition partners in December 2025. Collaboration on impact measurement with national guarantee institutions extended to Northern Africa, and the intervention contributed to the development

of the Conceptual Foundations as well as launching the beta version of the Disclosure Framework of the [Taskforce on Inequality and Social-related Financial Disclosures](#).

Forward objectives and milestones

16. In August 2026, Phase II of the Productivity Ecosystems was launched in Ghana, South Africa and Viet Nam; SCORE training will be scaled up and a sector monitor launched in Egypt; tripartite and enterprise capacity will be strengthened in Ukraine; a global knowledge product will be produced; and resources will be mobilized for expansion to additional countries, under the guidance of the Strategic Advisory Committee. Responsible business conduct will be advanced in ten Latin American countries and four African countries. The number of national focal points for the MNE Declaration will be increased from 23 towards a target of 25, alongside a stronger community of practice. Additional case studies will be documented and tools and training for enterprises, particularly SMEs, expanded, including through ILO business networks on child labour, forced labour and disability inclusion. Sustainable investment work will focus on publication and dissemination of the evidence-based narrative, operationalizing the Just Transition Finance Hub and engaging financial institutions, development finance institutions and guarantee networks on decent work impact measurement and investment solutions. Engagement will also be pursued through the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group, the Finance in Common Summit, the Agri-PDB Platform and the 2026 Building Bridges Summit, where a call for action for the financial sector to join this initiative was launched.

4. Providing protection and building resilience

17. This thematic area brings together the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the Initiative on Living Wages. Its proposed focus is to strengthen income security and resilience to economic, social and environmental shocks by connecting employment creation, social protection and adequate wages. The two interventions retain different implementation models and partner networks, but their placement under a common area reinforces protection and adequate income as mutually supporting pillars of social justice. Two core groups will be maintained. The Global Accelerator Steering Group brings together supporting governments, pathfinder countries, UN entities, international financial institutions, public development banks, civil society organizations and social partners, including the ITUC and the IOE. The Living Wages core group is being established with interested partners.

Actions and results

18. The Global Accelerator expanded to 21 pathfinder countries, 15 of which endorsed national road maps, including eight in 2026. Implementation advanced through 15 UN joint programmes and 32 UN-World Bank joint programmes, supported by diagnostics, technical assistance on integrated policy approaches, financing, institutional capacity building and monitoring frameworks. Two funding rounds were launched in the first half of 2026, one covering seven pathfinder countries moving from design to implementation through UN joint programmes, and another covering 12 countries implementing UN-World Bank joint programmes. Cooperation with public development banks expanded, including with the Asian Development Bank, Agence française de développement and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The South-South cooperation and peer learning included regional forums, regular steering group meetings and an ITCILO capacity-building forum in February 2026, reaching 120 participants; a knowledge product on results to date was disseminated in April 2026. At country level, Uzbekistan adopted a new Social Insurance Law aimed at extending protection to the 44 per cent of workers currently without coverage, Viet Nam extended social pensions to an additional 1.6 million older people; and Albania piloted long-term care services linking support

for older people and persons with disabilities with decent employment opportunities, particularly for women.

19. The Initiative on Living Wages was presented at the Second World Summit for Social Development (Doha, 2025) and began organizing its core group. It complements the ILO Living Wage Programme and has identified six initial implementation countries: Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, India and Viet Nam.

Forward objectives and milestones

20. The Global Accelerator will focus on accelerating implementation of national road maps and scaling up integrated approaches to decent jobs, social protection and just transitions. Priorities include supporting policy and institutional reforms; and developing and implementing sustainable financing strategies. Joint UN–World Bank operational alignment will be strengthened, new funding rounds advanced, and partnerships with development banks, climate funds and donors expanded. The Hub of Expertise will provide specialized technical assistance on demand, including in fragile settings and on climate-related transitions. Results measurement and the GA Observatory will be operationalized, while country experiences, impact research and knowledge products will inform peer learning and the scaling up of effective approaches. The Global Accelerator will continue engaging in major global policy and financing events, including the SDG Summit, to showcase its role as a concrete mechanism for translating global commitments into country-level implementation.
21. The Initiative on Living Wages will support living wage frameworks in Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, India and Viet Nam, promote alignment of living wage initiatives with ILO principles and expand global, regional and country dialogue. Subject to resources, planned milestones include: two to three joint guidance products with multilateral partners; two global technical dialogues in 2027, respectively on the root causes of low pay and on wage data; one regional dialogue in Lima, Peru, in November 2026, and two regional dialogues in 2027; one subregional dialogue in 2027; and, two to three country-level dialogues per year in the implementation countries.

5. Strengthening the social dimension of sustainable development

22. This thematic area brings together the Partnership for Cotton, A Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All and AI for Social Impact. Its proposed focus is to ensure that decent work and social justice are integrated into climate, digital and economic transitions and into sustainable value chains. It seeks to strengthen policy coherence and engagement in the multilateral system, while recognizing that the three interventions address distinct policy fields and operate through different partner configurations. Three distinct coordination arrangements are maintained: (i) the Partnership for Cotton Steering Committee, co-convened by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; (ii) the Just Transition International Advisory Board, co-chaired by the Governments of Barbados and Germany; and (iii) a core group is being established for AI for Social Impact, co-convened by the ILO and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which will be comprised of partners who have been active since its launch.

Actions and results

23. In 2025–26, the Partnership for Cotton entered its operational phase. At the Fourteenth WTO Ministerial Conference in Yaoundé (26–29 March 2026), it launched an investment promotion platform and attracted requests for participation from Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and

Togo. In July 2026, its Steering Committee endorsed a two-year work plan and progressive expansion from five to ten participating countries.

24. The Just Transition intervention established its International Advisory Board. Its first ministerial meeting, held on 11 June 2026 and co-chaired by Barbados and Germany, launched the Just Transition Policy Gateway. Signatories to the Call to Action on social dialogue for a just transition increased from 11 to 16, with new signatories including the Nigeria Labour Congress, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines and the Ministries of Labour of Barbados, Kenya and Nigeria. Global policy engagement included: COP30 in Belém in November 2025, where a Just Transition Pavilion and side events brought together governments and employers' and workers' organizations; a high-level ILO event in January 2026 on decent work and social justice in the new nationally determined contributions, involving governments and social partners from four continents; and the Hamburg Sustainability Conference in June 2026.
25. AI for Social Impact, co-convened by the ILO and the ITU, advanced through three major activities in 2026. In February, the Network of AI Observatories, supported by the ILO, the Government of France and the OECD, convened at the Paris Conference on AI and the world of work: one year on, hosted by the French Government. National observatories from Brazil, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reviewed progress since the 2025 AI Action Summit. In March, an ILO-ITU global dialogue brought together governments, employers' and workers' organizations and other Coalition partners to take stock of commitments made at the 2025 AI Action Summit and the 2026 AI Impact Summit in India and identify areas for international cooperation on human-centred AI. In April, an AI Policy Lab organized by the ILO, ITCILO and Politecnico di Torino brought together 22 participants from different regions to examine impacts on jobs, skills and working conditions and identify policy responses.

Forward objectives and milestones

26. In 2026–27, the Partnership For Cotton will strengthen national coordination and monitoring, prepare flagship national and regional programmes, mobilize public and private investment for textile and apparel manufacturing through financial partnerships and de-risking mechanisms; expand market access through engagement with global brands and retailers, sustainability certification and international promotion of African cotton and textiles; and progressively expand from five to ten participating countries, contributing towards the longer-term objective of 500,000 decent jobs, particularly for women and young people.
27. For the Just Transition intervention, targets for 2026–27 are to increase Call to Action signatories from 16 to 30; advance implementation in 11 countries – Azerbaijan, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines and South Africa – with coordinated partner support in at least four: Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa; strengthen the social dimension of nationally determined contributions, with work directed towards 50 countries; expand use and outreach of the Policy Gateway with international organizations and development partners; and maintain engagement in global processes.
28. On AI for Social Impact, priorities are to develop knowledge, practical tools and capacity-building materials, continue to develop the Network of AI Observatories, convene meetings and webinars, and strengthen social dialogue on AI governance.

6. Promoting social dialogue and strengthening institutions

29. This thematic area is centred on the intervention Advocating for Social Dialogue as a Governance Tool for Promoting Social Justice. Its proposed focus is to advance social dialogue as a stand-

alone policy objective and to strengthen its use across all other thematic areas, including in just transition, digitalization, wage-setting, enterprise development and formalization. This reflects the ILO's tripartite mandate and the role of strong labour market institutions in translating international commitments into nationally owned policies and results. It will be coordinated by one core group, bringing together relevant partners, and will support advocacy, knowledge exchange and practical collaboration while maintaining close links with constituents and with the core groups of the other thematic areas.

Actions and results

30. In 2025–26, several national initiatives were deployed, including Cyprus's capacity-building programme on integrating a social justice perspective into policymaking; Ireland's promotion of labour standards and labour inspection during its EU Council Presidency; Iraq's Social Dialogue Forum as a mechanism for addressing labour market challenges; and Nigeria's adoption of its first National Industrial Relations Policy. International advocacy continued through the Second World Summit for Social Development, the World Day of Social Justice and the 2026 International Labour Conference, alongside regional initiatives promoting tripartism and social dialogue. Regional and global training covered social dialogue, just transition, digitalization and industrial relations. The ITCILO Academy on Social Dialogue and Industrial Relations, online programmes and a learning tool for ILO officials on mainstreaming social dialogue and tripartism together reached more than 3,550 participants from 120 Member States.

Forward objectives and milestones

31. This thematic area will support implementation of the 2026 International Labour Conference conclusions of the recurrent discussion on social dialogue and tripartism and the forthcoming plan of action; expand advocacy and peer learning; strengthen evidence on the contribution of social dialogue to policy outcomes; mobilize partnerships; and provide technical support to national institutions. Planned activities include a second summer school on social dialogue, an online master's programme in Industrial and Employment Relations and the ITCILO Global Conversation Series on Access to Labour Justice, alongside further training, guidance and research to strengthen national social dialogue institutions.