

# **Globalisation, Decent Work & Role of Labour Standards in the economy**

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# Bureau for Workers Activities (ACTRAV) – part of International Labour Office



- ➔ Main link between ILO & the Trade Unions;
- ➔ Disseminates policies & programmes of the ILO to trade unions & reflects interests of TUs in the programmes & actions of the ILO;
- ➔ Supports workers' Group in ILO's decision making bodies & other activities;
- ➔ Seeks to promote actions by unions for Decent Work, ratification of ILO Conventions and develops activities to strengthen TUs & Workers Rights at the international & national levels;



# **Globalization, Changing world of work & Labour Standards**

**Participants views...**

# Some features of current development model

- Shift from development cooperation to free trade - Open markets for trade, investment & capital flows;
- More competition between *Unequally placed countries* - Equality of “access”  Equality of “opportunity”
- Withdrawal of ‘State’ from its economic & regulatory role; (*markets Know the best, will self regulate*)
- Redistribution of income towards the rich (privatization, tax policies, technology, Financialization, etc.);
- Implications of export led development model & risks of being a supply chain nation;

# Decent Work – for inclusive growth & shared prosperity

- *So, what is Decent Work?*

Work that is **productive**,  
gives fair income,  
**security** in the workplace & **social protection** for the family,  
**equal opportunities** & treatment,  
better prospects for - personal devt & social integration,  
**freedom to organize & participate** in decision making

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**concept of decent work encompasses both  
individual and collective dimensions (C 87 & 98)**

# Few lessons from 'crisis'

- Over dependence on exports & western markets
- For economic & social stability - countries also need domestic markets – how to develop & expand domestic market?
- Reduce widening inequalities: need for wages, incomes & social protection policy in the country - to ensure equitable sharing in growth/productivity, widen the sources of domestic demand
- Labour standards & development: role of right to organize, collective bargaining & social security

## FoA – Not just fundamental human right BUT also a Development Policy

- FoA & CB are not just about workers rights but are also instruments of State policy to achieve objectives of social justice & for promoting sustainable economic growth
- Role in economic development – promotes sharing in growth, improves workers purchasing powers & thereby widens domestic markets and demand – putting money in workers pockets will help growth
- Similarly – Social Security is not just pensions for the workers BUT it is domestically raised investment capital for country to invest – benefits also the employers

*Work should lift you out of poverty,  
Not keep you there*

**... therefore need for Decent Work**

*In Asian context, what changes are needed  
in development & labour policies for  
promoting decent work?*