



ONLINE

DECENT WORK

TRADE AND DECENT WORK FOR AFRICA

07 – 18 FEBRUARY 2022

 2 WEEKS, 20 HOURS

Information Note



International
Labour
Organization



Flanders
State of the Art



International Training Centre

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

The importance and interdependence between economic, social and environmental goals for achieving transformative and sustainable global change are the cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Within the 2030 Agenda and the means of implementation, international trade is promoted as an engine for innovation, a source of financing and a catalyst for inclusive growth and transformational change, all essential to eradicate poverty and contribute to economic and social welfare.

Equal emphasis is given to the importance of decent work to achieve sustainable development, captured in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 on “Decent work and economic growth”. There is no sustainable development without decent work. In this respect, formulating trade and labour market policies that are beneficial to inclusive economic growth and development, while enhancing workers’ rights, is essential for achieving the SDGs.

Trade has brought substantial benefits to both home and host countries, including enterprises in specific sectors and workers at all skill levels. In the past decades, trade, through participation in global supply chains, has been instrumental to social and economic development, and has lifted millions of people out of poverty. However, while there exist a broad consensus and ample evidence on the positive impact of trade for development, this does not necessarily happen by default.

In a sense, trade creates losers as well as winners, and a sense of insecurity is often associated with the distributional nature of its effects. These effects include, amongst others, higher job polarization (i.e. the decline of jobs paying wages around the middle of the wage distribution) and income inequality in many advanced economies, and increased rates of informality, exploitative work and regional inequality in developing and emerging economies.

The aim of this course is to better understand the trade and labour market nexus and its implications for the Africa region in terms of decent work and sustainable development. It considers broader labour market implications of trade and investment policies including employment, but also workers’ rights, working conditions and other aspects of decent work (such as OSH or social dialogue). The course aligns with broader policy and regional development frameworks including the African Union’s Agenda 2063; and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The overall objective of the training course is to build capacity, increase knowledge and improve dialogue between the participants concerning the trade and labour nexus by presenting analysis and discussing new findings on the effects of trade on the labour market.

At the end of the course, participants will be able to better advise their institutions on

- the linkages between trade and decent work,
- formulation of trade (and investment) policies to facilitate dialogue and support decent work.
- domestic policies for the promotion of sustainable development

The following topics will be addressed:

- a) ILO's Decent Work indicators and trade framework
- b) Informality, skills and leaving no one behind
- c) Trade and labour standards through labour provisions in trade agreements
- d) The ILO MNE Declaration

WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

The *course on Trade and Decent Work for Africa* is designed for representatives from government, employers' and workers' representatives, and other key institutions (regional organizations such as the African Union, African Development Bank, labour research institutions, academia,...) with a mandate concerning trade, investment and decent work.

Please note that the following requirements are essential to participate in the program:

- Commitment to attend the whole programme
- The ability to use and access a computer with internet
- Working knowledge of written/spoken English

HOW IS THE COURSE ORGANIZED?

Prior to the course participants will be given pre-requisite reading materials.

During the course, modules that will include the following components:

- I. Live webinars, with the group and course facilitators. The live webinars provide you with the content required for critical analysis of the subject.
- II. Activities and case studies for individual work or group work
- III. A list of essential readings for each module
- IV. Forum discussions, self-facilitated or facilitated by the trainers and tutors

Participants are expected to deliver a course assignment.

Certification: Participants who successfully complete the course will be awarded a certificate of participation. This entails regular participation to the learning sessions and completion of assignments.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THIS COURSE?

Cost of participation to attend the training course is covered through scholarships provided by the International Labour Organization through the ILO RESEARCH department.

Please submit your application by **04 February 2022** via the following link:

<https://oarf2.ilo.org/MIN/A9714598/en>

For more information, kindly contact us via mne-gsc@ilo.org

INFO

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT**

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