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Developments in the United Nations system

Purpose of the document

This document responds to the request by the Governing Body at its 346th Session (October–November 2022) for a report on the developments in the United Nations (UN) system since that session. It covers progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, the follow-up to the UN Secretary-General's report *Our Common Agenda* and the implementation of the reform of the UN development system, highlighting the measures taken by the Office in that regard. It should be read in conjunction with document GB.349/INS/5(Add.1), which provides an update on the outcome of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held on 18 and 19 September 2023.

The Governing Body is invited to request the Director-General to take its views and guidance into account regarding the ILO's further contribution to and engagements in the UN system. It is also invited to request the Director-General to provide an updated report to it at its 352nd Session (October–November 2024) on the developments at the UN level and the measures taken by the Office in that regard (see the draft decision in paragraph 50).

Relevant strategic objective: All.

Main relevant outcome: Programme and Budget for 2022–23 – Enabling outcome A: Improved knowledge and influence for promoting decent work. Programme and Budget for 2024–25 – Output 8.1: Improved coherence in multilateral support for the development and financing of integrated policy responses for social justice through decent work; and output A.4: Expanded partnerships and development cooperation in support of the policy outcomes.

Policy implications: Yes.

Legal implications: No.

Financial implications: No.

Follow-up action required: Yes.

Author unit: Department for Multilateral Partnerships and Development Cooperation (PARTNERSHIPS).

Related documents: [GB.341/INS/7](#); [GB.340/INS/6](#); [GB.340/POL/6](#); [GB.340/INS/18/6](#); [GB.343/INS/3/2](#); [GB.335/INS/10](#); [GB.346/PFA/11](#); [GB/346/INS/7](#); [GB.346/INS/8](#); [GB.349/INS/4](#).

► Introduction

1. The world is facing multiple crises, including the devastating impact of a global pandemic, the multiplication of natural disasters often linked to climate change, the resurgence of conflicts and wars, unprecedented humanitarian challenges and rising debt burdens, all disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable countries and people. These multiple crises are impeding employment growth and putting pressure on job quality. After decades of decrease, global poverty and hunger are on the rise again, while inequalities and discrimination keep growing.¹
2. This unfavourable global situation calls for more and better international cooperation as a matter of urgency. It also obliges the United Nations (UN) system to provide meaningful responses to the criticism regarding its governance structure and the effectiveness of its action. This is the objective of the ambitious reform agenda first put forward by the UN Secretary-General in 2018.
3. The ILO has constructively engaged in this reform agenda since the outset, in particular the reform of the UN development system. The period in the lead up to the 2024 Summit of the Future and the 2025 World Social Summit (see paragraph 16) provides enhanced opportunities to further advance the ILO's mandate, its tripartite governance structure and the voice of its constituents in the international agenda. In particular, the Global Coalition for Social Justice, if endorsed by the Governing Body at its present session, could be an important vehicle to advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to anchor social justice at the heart of a renewed multilateral system.
4. The discussions of the Governing Body will provide useful guidance for the ILO's further engagement in the three priority areas outlined in this document.

► Making progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

5. The SDG Summit was convened on 18 and 19 September 2023 by the President of the UN General Assembly, marking the half-way point to the deadline set for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). In his report to the Summit, the UN Secretary-General paints a worrying picture, indicating that, out of the 140 SDG targets that could be evaluated, only 15 per cent are on track to be achieved, 48 per cent are moderately or severely off track and some 37 per cent have stagnated or regressed compared to the 2015 baseline. It is estimated that, under current trends, in 2030, only 18 per cent of the targets will have been achieved globally and that 575 million people (7 per cent of the world population) will be living in extreme poverty and hunger.²

¹ ILO, *Leaving no one behind: Building inclusive labour protection in an evolving world of work*, ILC.111/Report V, 2023 and ILO, *Inequalities and the world of work*, ILC.109/IV(Rev.), 2021.

² UN, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special edition – Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet*, 2023.

6. In the report and the related policy brief launched by the ILO at the SDG Summit, the Office notes that the global prospects for achieving Goal 8 by 2030 are bleak overall.³ It also recognizes that the prospects are deeply imbalanced, with some dimensions of Goal 8 showing a greater likelihood of being achieved than others. In its report, the Office puts forward a number of proposals aimed at accelerating progress towards all the economic, social and environmental targets, stressing the need for stronger cooperation at all levels.
7. With a view to fundamentally changing course on the SDGs, the UN Secretary-General, in his report to the SDG Summit, called on world leaders to deliver a Rescue Plan for People and Planet centred around three major breakthroughs: equipping governance and institutions for sustainable and inclusive transformation; prioritizing policies and investments that have multiplier effects across the goals; and securing a surge in SDG-related financing and an enabling global environment for developing countries. A key proposal for addressing the SDG-related funding gap is the implementation of an SDG stimulus plan, the objective of which is to mobilize US\$500 billion per year in financing for sustainable development up to 2030.
8. The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions is part of the Rescue Plan. With its three mutually supportive pillars, the Global Accelerator has the potential to generate powerful synergies and offers sustainable and integrated solutions to create a virtuous cycle of development. Investments in social protection and decent employment enhance human capabilities, productivity, income security and inclusive development which, in turn, generate higher tax revenues and greater fiscal space for further investment in decent jobs, social protection and just transitions.⁴
9. To guide the development and coordination of the Global Accelerator in pathfinder countries and at the global level, the Global Accelerator relies on a steering group, which brings together key stakeholders, including tripartite partners. In addition, it hosts a technical support facility that supports the implementation of the initiative by bringing together national and international expertise from the UN system as well as development and financial partners.⁵ Thanks to generous contributions from the Governments of Belgium, Germany and Spain, the Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection Window has been established as one of the mechanisms of the Joint SDG Fund to provide funding for joint UN action to support the implementation of the Global Accelerator in pathfinder countries. The Government of Germany is championing collaboration on the Global Accelerator with the World Bank and the ILO (as well as with other UN agencies).
10. In February 2023, in tandem with the numerous expressions of high-level support for the Global Accelerator by governments (including the G20 leaders), international financial institutions and the social partners, the UN Deputy Secretary-General sent a letter on the subject to all UN resident coordinators, triggering considerable interest in the Global Accelerator from around the UN system and wide-ranging discussions with resident

³ ILO, *Transformative change and SDG 8: The critical role of collective capabilities and societal learning*, 2023 and ILO, *Sustainable Development, Decent Work and Social Justice: An update on progress towards SDG 8*, Policy brief, 2023.

⁴ The three pillars of the Global Accelerator are: the in-country implementation of integrated employment and social protection strategies and policies; the mobilization through national financing frameworks of public and private domestic and international resources; and the improvement of multilateral cooperation on jobs and social protection for just transitions, including with international financial institutions and public development banks.

⁵ The technical support facility is a truly “One UN” mechanism, including global coordination by the ILO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-WOMEN).

coordinators, UN country teams and individual agencies in more than 20 countries. Eight governments have officially confirmed their interest in joining the initiative, and six more may be ready to do so in the near future.

11. The Global Accelerator was selected from a pool of 120 proposals as one of 12 high impact initiatives to be presented at the SDG Acceleration Day on 17 September 2023, as part of the preparation for the SDG Summit, when high-level representatives from pathfinder countries presented their national road maps, donors highlighted the support they have mobilized, the social partners underlined its relevance to their members and representatives of UN agencies and the World Bank explained how their work on the Global Accelerator contributes to their mandate.
12. Information on the outcome of the SDG Summit can be found in document GB.349/INS/5(Add.1).

► Shaping Our Common Agenda

13. *Our Common Agenda*⁶ is the UN Secretary-General's response to the Declaration made in 2020 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations,⁷ in which Member States made 12 critical commitments⁸ and reaffirmed the centrality of the United Nations to deliver on these commitments. Through *Our Common Agenda*, the UN Secretary-General sounds the alarm for humanity, which he notes is at a tipping point, and invites the international community to create a reinvigorated multilateralism underpinned by global solidarity, able to address current and future challenges in a timely, effective and fair way.
14. Informed by consultations and research, *Our Common Agenda* sets out an action programme that includes over 90 recommendations and proposals with gender equality and human rights as cross-cutting issues. It is centred around six priority areas, namely: the creation of new forms of global solidarity; the renewal of the social contract; the elimination of the "infodemic";⁹ the definition of new measures of economic prosperity and progress; the increase in capacity to deliver for young people and succeeding generations and to be better prepared for the challenges ahead; and the building of a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system, anchored in the United Nations and with closer cooperation with the international financial institutions and the G20.
15. Many of the proposals in *Our Common Agenda* are of direct relevance to the ILO's work and offer a unique opportunity to place the promotion of decent work and social justice at the heart of a renewed global development agenda. To this end, the support of the ILO's constituents and the development of innovative partnerships with external entities will be crucial.

⁶ UN, *Our Common Agenda: Report of the Secretary-General*, 2021.

⁷ UN, *Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations*, 2020.

⁸ The commitments are: to leave no one behind; to protect the planet; to promote peace and prevent conflicts; to abide by international law and ensure justice; to place women and girls at the centre; to build trust; to improve digital cooperation; to upgrade the United Nations; to ensure sustainable financing; to boost partnerships; to listen to and work with youth; and to be prepared for future crises.

⁹ An "infodemic" can be defined as an excessive amount of information about a problem that is typically unreliable, spreads rapidly and makes a solution more difficult to achieve.

16. Two events will be of major importance in this regard, as described below:

- Building on the SDG Summit, the Summit of the Future, to be held on 22 and 23 September 2024, is described as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance, reaffirm existing commitments, including on the SDGs, and move towards a reinvigorated multilateral system. The outcome is expected to be an intergovernmentally negotiated Leaders' Pact for the Future, mobilizing high-level political support to breathe new life into the multilateral system with improved governance, financial means and technical assistance. A series of policy briefs has been issued by the Office of the Secretary-General with the support of various UN agencies, including the ILO, to inform the agenda of the Summit.¹⁰
- The organization of a World Social Summit in 2025, 30 years after the 1995 Copenhagen World Summit for Social Development, is a recognition of the need for a stronger social dimension in the multilateral agenda. While the consensus reached in Copenhagen on the need to put people at the centre of development, reduce poverty, achieve full employment and foster social integration remains valid today, the current growing socio-economic disparities call for an enhanced focus on social justice in national and global policymaking.

17. The elements of *Our Common Agenda* most relevant to the ILO's priorities, the ILO's contribution to them and potential areas for further engagement are outlined below. It is worth noting that the ILO has also contributed to *Our Common Agenda* through the UN Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation on issues related to just transitions, the formalization of the informal economy and productive ecosystems.

- A key feature of *Our Common Agenda* under the first critical commitment (to leave no one behind) is the UN Secretary-General's proposal for a renewed social contract, anchored in human rights.¹¹ Acknowledging that the exact architecture of social contracts is to be determined by the actors at the national level, the UN Secretary-General's vision is focused on the need to build, or rebuild, trust in economic and political institutions through improved governance, rule of law and access to justice for all. It further puts the inclusion, protection and participation of people at the core of any social contract. A new era for social protection is called for, building on existing ILO initiatives in this area. *Our Common Agenda* also refers to the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work as a guiding document informing social contracts. The ILO's governance model of tripartism and social dialogue, underpinned by respect for workers' fundamental rights, has proved to be instrumental, not only in realizing the founding vision of the ILO, but also in shaping social contracts at the country level. Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining play a particular role as they enable both workers and employers to participate in the definition of social contracts. Guided by its 100 years of experience and the vision of its constituents, the ILO stands ready to play a leading role in the discussions on a new social contract hinged upon the respect of fundamental principles and rights at work, and in which the role of the social partners and the outcomes of social dialogue are fully recognized. Both the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

¹⁰ The *Our Common Agenda* policy briefs are on the themes of: fulfilling commitments to future generations; putting in place an emergency platform; including young people in global decision-making; measuring human progress beyond gross domestic product; reaching a Global Digital Compact; committing to integrity in public information; reforming the international financial architecture; advancing the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space; agreeing on a New Agenda for Peace; transforming education; and creating a UN 2.0.

¹¹ In *Our Common Agenda*, "social contracts" are defined as the set of norms and institutions through which people solve shared problems, manage risks and pool resources to deliver public goods.

have recently renewed their support for the ILO to take a key role in the discussions related to the new social contract at the multilateral level.¹² The establishment of the Global Coalition for Social Justice could contribute to shaping social contracts centred on the imperative of social justice.

- *Our Common Agenda* refers to the establishment of the High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, which has identified six transformational shifts in global governance to improve effectiveness.¹³ One of them is the need to rebuild trust in multilateralism through enhanced inclusion and accountability and less hierarchical decision-making in the UN system. The ILO's tripartite model of governance has informed this reflection and one of the Board's recommendations is to give more voice to civil society and trade unions and better include the private sector.¹⁴
- Linked to *Our Common Agenda* is the proposal for a new global deal to help Member States deliver global public goods and address major risks. The proposals include an ongoing dialogue and biennial summit centred around a sustainable and resilient global economy between the UN, the international financial institutions and the regional development banks. It also entails the creation of an emergency platform to swiftly respond to complex global crises.
- Proposals to reform the financial architecture occupy a central place in *Our Common Agenda*. The overall objectives of such reform are to increase investments to achieve the SDGs, while making the international financial institutions more responsive to the needs of low and middle-income countries, including by boosting their voice and representation on boards. The *Our Common Agenda* policy brief on the subject lists several action-oriented measures aimed at writing new rules to strengthen the global economic governance and promote financial stability and sustainability. In addition to a massive scale-up of climate and development finance, the measures proposed focus on reinforcing global financial safety nets, providing liquidity to countries in need and lowering the costs of sovereign borrowing. The ILO is contributing to an inter-agency exchange organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the objective of which is to target in a cost-effective way investments to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.
- The "Going beyond GDP" track of *Our Common Agenda* proposes a paradigm shift in the measurement of progress to capture data on the activities that societies truly value. The ILO is contributing to this work, including through its input to the *Our Common Agenda* policy brief on the subject, which recommends the creation of a high-level group of independent experts tasked with the identification of key indicators going beyond gross domestic product (GDP) by March 2024 to be submitted to the Summit of the Future. Importantly, a revised and expanded approach to measuring development progress beyond GDP holds much potential for the ILO's vision of a rebalancing towards social justice.

¹² IOE, "Employers' position on a New Social Contract", 2023, and ITUC, *A new social contract: Congress statement*, 2022.

¹³ High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilaterals, *A Breakthrough for People and Planet: Effective and Inclusive Global Governance for Today and the Future*, 2023.

¹⁴ The other proposed transformational shifts are: empowering equitable, effective collective security arrangements; ensuring abundant and sustainable finance that delivers for all; regaining balance with nature and providing clean energy for all; achieving a just digital transition that unlocks the value of data and protects against digital harms; and managing current and emerging transnational risks.

- The *Our Common Agenda* policy brief on establishing a Global Digital Compact presents a vision for an open, free, safe and secure digital future for all, underpinned by an inclusive global framework for multi-stakeholder action. A wide consultation informed the development of the proposed Compact, in which the ITUC took part.¹⁵ The key objectives of the framework are the reduction of digital divides, the prevention of the abuse and misuse of technologies and data, and the creation of open, transparent and accountable governance arrangements. The framework relies on human rights and international labour rights. The discussions around the Global Digital Compact in the lead up to the Summit of the Future could inform the ILO standard-setting process on decent work in the platform economy at the 113th Session (2025) of the International Labour Conference.
- The proposed New Agenda for Peace to be endorsed during the Summit of the Future suggests that peace can be pursued only alongside sustainable development and human rights and on the basis of the principles of solidarity, trust and universality. It calls for a new multilateralism that is adjusted to a more fragmented geopolitical landscape and that must respond to the emergence of new potential conflict domains. The ILO's contribution to this work is based on the universal recognition that peace cannot flourish without social justice.
- *Our Common Agenda* puts the well-being of future generations at its centre and this objective is mainstreamed throughout it. At the Summit of the Future, Member States will be invited to adopt a Declaration on Future Generations, setting out their firm commitments. Other proposals include the appointment of a Special Envoy for Future Generations. The ILO has provided inputs to the UN system Common Principles on Future Generations, which are meant to guide UN work in this area. It has also contributed to UN work on youth engagement, focusing on the Youth Recovery Barometer.

► Implementing the UN development system reform

Quadrennial comprehensive policy review

18. In May 2023, in its operational activities for development segment, the UN Economic and Social Council considered the progress made in repositioning the UN development system and reviewed the functioning of the reinvigorated resident coordinator system. All data gathered under the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the UN system point to a strengthened resident coordinator system fostering more coherent, accountable and effective UN support to countries and bringing UN country teams closer together in advancing the 2030 Agenda. The resident coordinators were praised for their leadership in rallying UN country teams around effective responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and cascading crises. A UNDESA survey revealed that over 88 per cent of host countries reported that resident coordinators effectively led the delivery of strategic support for national plans and priorities.¹⁶
19. Notwithstanding these positive results, pressing issues on funding and joint results must be addressed. The resident coordinator system suffers from an annual gap of US\$85 million and the Joint SDG Fund is far short of the UN Funding Compact target of US\$280 million per year. Regarding joint results, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review acknowledged that

¹⁵ ITUC, *Trade Unions Key Messages: Global Digital Compact*.

¹⁶ UN Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group*, 2023.

collaboration among UN entities needs improvement, including a shift towards more joint development results, and that more needs to be done to leverage robust partnerships with both international financial institutions and the private sector.

UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Decent Work Country Programmes

20. Since the last update on the UN reform to the Governing Body, at its 346th Session,¹⁷ ILO field offices have participated or are participating actively in the design of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) and in the Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) aligned with them, in several countries and territories, including: Albania, Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, India, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Palau, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Vanuatu.
21. According to data collected through ILO offices, by mid-May 2023, out of 134 countries in which UNSDCFs have been or are being elaborated, the social partners are or were involved in the elaboration processes in 89 countries (66 per cent). Despite regional diversity, it is encouraging to see that, in two thirds of the countries with UNSDCFs, the social partners were involved to a certain extent in the elaboration process. This marks clear progress compared to previous years and efforts will be pursued to continue to increase their participation.
22. Regarding the alignment between UNSDCFs and DWCPs, the same source of information indicates that, by mid-May 2023, in 20 out of 64 countries with active or draft DWCPs (31 per cent), at least one of the DWCP priorities was reflected verbatim in the UNSDCF. Field offices continue to engage with resident coordinators and UN country teams to ensure that the tripartite agreements reached in DWCPs make their way into the UNSDCFs.
23. A good example is where the ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for the South Cone of Latin America led the preparation of the last two common country analyses and actively participated in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation processes of the UNSDCFs in Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.
24. Another good example is the recently adopted DWCP for India (2023–27), which is firmly anchored in outcome 4 of the “prosperity” pillar of the UNSDCF for India that covers the same period and is jointly led by the ILO. The DWCP further contributes to other pillars related to people, the planet and resilience.
25. Where possible, the ILO has promoted the role and contribution of the social partners in the various working groups created by UN country teams, in particular in results groups, as is the case in Botswana, South Africa and Tunisia. This has resulted in an increased recognition of the role of the social partners in specific policy areas.
26. At the global level, since January 2023, the ILO has been co-chairing the Inter-agency Network for Human Rights, Leaving No One Behind and Sustainable Development, which was launched in 2020 to support the UN Secretary-General’s *Call to Action for Human Rights*. In this capacity, the ILO participated in a series of regional training sessions for resident coordinators and their

¹⁷ GB.346/INS/8.

offices on the implementation of tools facilitating the integration of human rights, including labour rights, in common country analyses and UNSDCFs.

27. While, globally, field offices report an improvement in the division of labour among UN country team members and, in some cases, opportunities for new strategic partnerships, competition among agencies has not disappeared. Furthermore, the heavy coordination process continues to put a strain on the workload of decent work country teams, programme staff and directors. These problems are exacerbated in the case of non-resident agencies.

Recent trends in the engagement with the social partners

28. The level of engagement between the social partners, resident coordinators and UN country teams in the programming processes of the UN development system varies across countries. In some cases, the collaboration between them has strengthened while, in others, resident coordinators have shown little interest in tripartism and in collaborating with the social partners. Despite overall progress, in some countries, the social partners continue to experience challenges regarding their participation in consultations and their involvement in UN processes.
29. There are signs of improved engagement with employers' organizations, partly due to a greater alignment between DWCPs and UNSDCFs. It has been noted that resident coordinators are increasingly recognizing the role and partnership value of the private sector in advancing national development agendas and achieving the SDGs, as they have become more aware of the role and contribution of employer and business membership organizations as representative organizations of business.
30. In Bangladesh, Botswana, Cambodia, Ecuador, Eswatini, India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Pakistan, Peru, South Africa and Viet Nam, employers' organizations have either developed specific submissions to UN country teams or have participated in consultations with the support of, or through, the ILO. In Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Employers' Federation set up the Bangladesh Private Sector Working Committee to facilitate the private sector's contribution to the SDGs. In India, the Confederation of Indian Employers led a private sector consultation exercise facilitated by the ILO and developed a set of strategic priorities that are reflected in the UNSDCF for India, under the outcome on economic growth and decent work.¹⁸ In Pakistan, the Employers' Federation of Pakistan led the establishment of the Pakistan Business Task Force to promote the participation of the private sector in the implementation of the UNSDCF. In addition, an online course was delivered at the Private Sector Forum organized by the Southern African Development Community with the support of the International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin Centre), to promote the business case for the private sector's support to the SDGs.
31. As regards workers' organizations, positive cooperation has been instituted with UN country teams in Armenia, Bangladesh, Namibia, the Philippines, Somalia and Ukraine. In countries where written and evidence-based contributions were provided, including Argentina, Morocco, the Republic of Moldova and the Philippines, trade unions were able to influence the UNSDCFs.

¹⁸ The Confederation of Indian Employers is a national peak-level organization bringing together the All India Organisation of Employers, the Employers' Federation of India and the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises.

32. To support such engagement, workers' organizations have often relied on guidance materials published by the ILO.¹⁹
33. Furthermore, capacity-building efforts to promote the effective participation of trade unions in UN processes continued during the reporting period. For example, in May 2023, 25 trade union representatives from around the world took part in a five-day event on trade union actions on sustainable development, held on campus at the Turin Centre. A massive open online course for trade unions on UNSDCFs and the Decent Work Agenda is now available on the Turin Centre's e-Campus. In Nigeria, the Nigeria Labour Congress has included the UNSDCF as a subject in its education programmes.
34. In addition, research is being undertaken on the engagement of trade unions in the achievement of the SDGs and UNSDCFs in small island developing States in the Caribbean and in Asia and the Pacific to share experiences and identify lessons and emerging practices. A related key objective is to analyse how South-South and triangular cooperation can favour learning and the exchanges of good practices. More research is needed to gather evidence on how the engagement of the social partners leads to tangible results and on how the ILO's Decent Work Agenda is being promoted in this context.

Regional and global mechanisms

35. The reformed UN development system continues to offer enhanced cooperation opportunities, as the Office engages actively in various global coordination groups. The Director-General participates in meetings of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group's Principals and the related Core Group.
36. The regional collaborative platforms are now working well across the regions and the ILO is involved through regional directors and their deputies. The platforms provide an opportunity to promote ILO technical and policy initiatives and to engage in UN processes with a regional scope. Involvement in these mechanisms can, however, be very resource-intensive; accordingly, the ILO needs to be selective and strategic in furthering the Decent Work Agenda.
37. At the regional level, the annual preparatory regional meetings for the high-level political forums are used as a good opportunity to promote decent work and social justice via the technical and analytical inputs and participation of regional offices.
38. Good practices and innovative approaches in engaging with the reformed UN development system have emerged in all regions. A good example is the cooperation between the Economic Community of West African States and the Caribbean Community, through which good practices on labour migration are being shared between the two regional bodies, including through in-person exchanges at the Turin Centre in June 2023.
39. Issue-based coalitions and related workstreams have proven to be useful for mainstreaming the Decent Work Agenda and social justice in the planning processes of the UN development system, as described below:
 - In Africa, the ILO convened, together with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, a UN task force on knowledge management, with the participation of 15 UN agencies. The task force supports the work of issue-based coalitions across the region, including through

¹⁹ Such guidance material includes: ILO, *United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation and the Decent Work Agenda: A Trade Union Reference Manual*, 2020, and ILO, *The likely impact of COVID-19 on the achievement of SDG 8: A trade union opinion survey*, 2021.

an expertise repository from participating agencies, a database of UN experts, the creation of communities of practices and a pilot COVID-19 knowledge management hub.

- In the Arab States, the Issue-Based Coalition on Migration convened jointly by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the ILO, the International Organization for Migration and the League of Arab States, has been drawing on the diverse expertise of participating UN agencies relating to climate change and migration. In addition, the Issue-based Coalition on Social Protection, which is co-chaired by the ILO and UNICEF, spearheaded the development and roll-out of a regional inter-agency social protection capacity development programme and the creation of a pool of regional Arabic-speaking experts, raising expertise and knowledge in the region.
 - In Latin America and the Caribbean, the UN development system launched a revamped approach to issue-based coalitions under the Regional Collaborative Platform for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will involve the ILO co-chairing two working groups. Furthermore, the ILO continues to co-chair the revised issue-based coalitions on equitable growth and financing for development and takes an active part in the three other issue-based coalitions for the region.
40. In Asia and the Pacific, the Decent Employment for Youth Programme is a successful platform for inter-agency cooperation. The ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization are working with tripartite partners to allow 3,000 young women and men in Cambodia to obtain decent and productive employment opportunities, supporting the socio-economic growth of the country.

Guidance for mainstreaming decent work in integrated national financing frameworks

41. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in 2015, encouraged the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, public and private, to support national priorities for sustainable development. Member States agreed to use integrated national financing frameworks to support their national sustainable development strategies. As decent work and social justice are cross-cutting policy drivers of the different dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, it is critical to ensure that decent work objectives are well reflected in these frameworks. To this end, the ILO partnered with the UNDP to provide practical guidance to ensure a decent work perspective through all the building blocks of the integrated national financing frameworks and guide engagement through dialogue between governments, national constituents and supporting international development partners. The joint guidance was published in 2023 and will be used in capacity-building activities for the constituents and UN country teams.²⁰

Partnerships and resource mobilization

42. At the beginning of 2023, the United Nations Development Group's *Guidance on establishing, managing and closing multi-donor trust funds* was updated to support the achievement of the commitments made in the UN Funding Compact, including through the opening-up to innovative partnerships and new financing modalities. Nevertheless, the implementation of

²⁰ ILO and UNDP, *Guidance on mainstreaming decent work in INFFs: Working draft*, 2023.

the Compact remains behind schedule, mainly because of a slow delivery of predictable and flexible funding.

43. The number of ILO engagements in joint programmes funded by both multi-partner trust funds and direct inter-agency development cooperation projects progressively increased over the first semester of 2023. However, the total amount of new financial contributions received by the ILO during that period remained low compared to 2022, reaching just over US\$11.5 million in July 2023. The Office and country offices are nevertheless actively pursuing resource mobilization efforts to enable the ILO to meet the UN Funding Compact target of 15 per cent extrabudgetary resources mobilized for UN joint activities.
44. A sign of the recognition of the ILO's expertise at the country level is the significant increase in new direct funding for inter-agency partnerships with a wide range of UN entities, including UNDESA, UNICEF and the World Food Programme, totalling over US\$4 million. Despite the slow replenishment of the multi-partner trust funds, new funding from 16 active multi-partner trust funds was mobilized over the period, amounting to of over US\$7 million.
45. New partnerships were established between the ILO and other UN agencies, including:
 - an updated joint action plan with the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for 2023–25;²¹
 - a joint statement by the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations and the Chairpersons of UN human rights treaty bodies;²²
 - a partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and CARE International to promote decent work across food systems;²³
 - a memorandum of understanding signed with the United Nations Population Fund for inclusive sustainable development in Pakistan.²⁴

Reporting on results

46. The ILO contributed to the preparation of the 2023 report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group on the Development Coordination Office, and in particular to the snapshot of the contribution of the UN development system to the SDGs in 2022.²⁵ The snapshot document highlights the most significant results achieved with the ILO's contribution, notably in the extension of social protection, the ratification of the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No 190), the protection of domestic workers, the access of micro, small and medium sized enterprises to financial and digital services, the promotion of decent work in agrifood systems, the extension of maternity and parental benefits, the creation of jobs in post-crisis settings, the socio-economic integration of migrant workers and refugees and the protection of their labour rights, among others.

²¹ ILO and UNHCR, *ILO–UNHCR Joint Action Plan 2023–2025*, 2023.

²² ILO, *Joint statement by the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations and the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies Chairpersons*, ILC.111/III/(A)/Add, 2023.

²³ ILO, "New partnership to promote decent work across food systems", 20 July 2023.

²⁴ ILO, "UNFPA and ILO strengthen collaboration for inclusive sustainable development in Pakistan", 20 July 2023.

²⁵ UN Economic and Social Council, *Report of the Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group*, 2023, and United Nations Sustainable Development Group, *Impact: Snapshot of the contribution of the United Nations development system to the SDGs in 2022*, 2023.

Operational matters

47. The ILO is a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group's Business Innovation Group and actively participates in its meetings. Operationally, the ILO uses local procurement networks for long-term agreements negotiated at a country level. In addition, the Office has signed global service-level agreements with UN Fleet (a global light vehicle service for UN agencies) and the UN Booking Hub for mobility services. Vehicles funded by the regular budget are now leased through UN Fleet rather than being purchased by the Office. Further use of UN Fleet for development cooperation projects is also being examined.
48. Future ILO participation in the proposed UN global shared services is likely to continue to be limited to the servicing of development cooperation projects where there is flexibility in budgets for administrative staff and services or where the development cooperation project volume growth exceeds the capacity of the ILO country office administrative team to provide the necessary services.
49. The revised Management and Accountability Framework of the UN development and resident coordinator system sets out a dual accountability system, according to which members of UN country teams are appraised through the performance management process of their respective entities both by their supervisor, on the entity's mandate, and by the resident coordinator, on their contribution to results towards joint UN activities as set out in the UNSDCF and other agreed inter-agency commitments and activities. Similarly, members of UN country teams provide input to the UN Development Coordination Office on the resident coordinator's performance. Following the necessary amendments to the Staff Regulations, which were approved by the Governing Body at its 346th Session (October–November 2022), the dual system has been in place since January 2023.

► Draft decision

50. **The Governing Body took note of the current developments at the United Nations (UN) level and requested the Director-General to:**
 - (a) **take into consideration the views expressed by the Governing Body on the ILO's ongoing work in support of the engagement of the tripartite constituents in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and common country analysis processes;**
 - (b) **take account of its guidance on the ILO's contribution to and further engagement in the UN Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda*, in the lead up to the 2025 World Social Summit, which could include the preparation of a possible tripartite input;**
 - (c) **prepare a further report on developments at the UN level and the measures taken by the Office in that regard for consideration by the Governing Body at its 352nd Session (October–November 2024).**