



Caribbean

# NEWSLINK

Newsletter of the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean

JANUARY - MARCH 2019



*L to R: Ms Maria Helena André, Director, ILO-ACTRAV; and Ms Claudia Coenjaerts, Director, ILO DWT and Office for the Caribbean*

## Future of Work conference focuses on the role of unions in achieving decent work for all in the Caribbean

The ILO's Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV), in coordination with the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean, recently held a high-level subregional conference on the profound transformations and challenges in the present and future world of work.

Officially titled "The Future of Work We Want: Workers' Perspectives from the Caribbean", the conference was held on 14 and 15 February 2019 in Port of Spain, Trinidad. It brought together 42 trade union leaders and voices from United Nations (UN) agencies, academia, governments and employers from across the Caribbean.

They gathered to participate in vivid debates towards finding a better way to promote a future of work based on inclusive growth, social justice and decent work for all – with a particular focus on the role of trade unions in this process.

Senator the Honourable Jennifer Baptiste-Primus, Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development, Trinidad and Tobago spoke during the opening ceremony and raised concerns about the drastic changes in the world of work. She also stressed the need to adapt to those changes. "How modern-day civilization deals with this disruptive workplace phenomenon, which has already begun to affect the lifestyles and livelihoods of a burgeoning world population of more than 7 billion people, is the challenge that currently lies defiantly on the doorsteps of us here in the Caribbean," she said.

Throughout the event, speakers and delegates engaged in dialogue on the current developments in the world of work. They also discussed how countries can better engage trade unions to develop strategies to face these expected changes.

Mr Michael Annisette, General Secretary of the National Trade Union Centre, called on trade union representatives to address current social issues affecting the workers that are likely to affect them even more in the future if not addressed.

During a special session, participants engaged in a discussion on the recently-released report by the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work to consider how the publication can be used to promote decent work and social justice in the Caribbean.

They also identified the ILO's work to support the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda with an emphasis on how trade unions are helping to achieve inclusive growth and decent work to meet SDG targets.

Other sessions were organized around four broad topics that included:

- economic, social and sustainable development in a globalized world;
- the role of work in society;
- challenges of effective governance in an increasingly globalized world: the role of the state; and,
- challenges of effective governance in an increasingly globalized world: the role of trade unions.

"This conference is part of a set of activities that the ILO's Bureau for Workers' Activities is promoting in the different regions across the world to stress the importance of workers' organizations in the discussions on the future of work. We hope that this conference will be an occasion for the unions to find changes to be made for their internal organizations to implement the future of work we all want," explained Ms Maria Helena André, Director of ACTRAV.

Sessions and short interviews are available online at: [ilo.org/actrav/events/WCMS\\_668562/lang--en/index.htm](http://ilo.org/actrav/events/WCMS_668562/lang--en/index.htm)

## SOCIAL DIALOGUE

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# Guyana advances Decent Work Country Programme commitments

Developing approaches for stronger tripartism, and commemorating the recent government approval of two key policies, were among the main topics discussed during Guyana's first Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) Steering Committee meeting of 2019.

The session, which was held on 19 February at the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security in Georgetown, brought together Steering Committee members from government, employer organizations and worker organizations. It took place just two months after the approval of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Policy and the Child Labour Policy by the Cabinet of Guyana in December 2018. The policies will be launched and disseminated to the public later this year.

"Guyana's first Decent Work Country Programme meeting of 2019 provided an opportunity for the tripartite partners to share and celebrate the progress made individually and collectively since its 2017 launch. The Committee members also met to determine their areas of focus for the 2019 to 2020 period," said Ms Claudia Coenjaerts Director, ILO DWT and Office for the Caribbean (ILO DWT/CO-Port-of-Spain).

One of the significant agreements from the meeting to support oversight and monitoring was the decision by

Steering Committee members to meet at least three times in 2019 to review DWCP implementation. They also agreed that Guyana's Ministry of Business and Ministry of Education would join the meetings on an ad hoc basis, since those Ministries and their affiliated state agencies are directly responsible for undertaking some of the activities related to achieving DWCP results.

As the Steering Committee plans for future advancements in the implementation of the DWCP in Guyana, constituents have also recommended to extend and expand a model developed to raise awareness about formalization of the OSH Policy. By transforming the model they intend to cover additional areas in 2019 such as continued capacity building for labour officers, trade unions and employers, particularly in mining and forestry, and supporting those sectors towards the transition to a green economy. Other key areas they prioritized for support for 2019-2020 include reviews of the Employment Services Unit and of the current Apprenticeship Programme.

First signed by the Government of Guyana in December 2017, the DWCP lays out a tripartite commitment for the country, led by the Steering Committee, to meet three overarching goals by 2021:



1. Addressing poverty and inequality through improved working conditions and respect for international labour standards.
2. Increasing prospects for sustainable livelihoods through improved social protection and better economic opportunities.
3. Improving the climate of industrial relations and social dialogue.

Members of the Guyana DWCP Steering Committee include Department of Labour, Department of Cooperatives, the Consultative Association of Guyanese Industries (CAGI), Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG) and the Guyana Trade Union Congress (GTUC) and the ILO DWT/CO-Port-of-Spain



## Curaçao strengthens its social dialogue system

In December 2018 Curaçao marked its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of a National Ordinance that officially institutionalized the Central Dialogue Platform, a bipartite body that holds dialogue between government, employers and union representatives on public service matters.

To mark this milestone, the Secretariat of the Social and Economic Council (SER) organized a public seminar on 'Social Dialogue and Labour Relations in the Public Sector' which was held at the University of Curaçao on 6 December 2018.

The event drew approximately 80 participants that included representatives from the government, employers, trade unions, academia, civil society and media.

His Excellency Mr Eugene Rhuggenaath, Prime Minister of Curaçao, opened the seminar and reminded participants that in 2016, the nation had declared the ILO Convention on Labour Relations in the Public Service (Convention No.151) applicable for its territory. The Convention No. 151 has been ratified by 55 countries worldwide, including the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 1988.

Prime Minister Rhuggenaath called this a clear indication that the national government had accepted its special role as a regulator for the legal framework for social dialogue as well as its responsibilities as one of the largest employers.

Representatives of the two parties in the Dialogue Platform (in Dutch: Centraal Georganiseerd Overleg in Ambtenaarenszaken, CGOA) addressed the audience.



Mr George Hernandez spoke on behalf of the joint trade unions in the CGOA and referred to four major collective agreements that had been concluded between the government and the public sector unions in 2014. His Excellency Mr Armin Konket, Minister of Public Administration, Planning and Service, and member of the CGOA, represented the government and emphasized the mutual dependence of a successful government and a performing civil service.

Two ILO Specialists, Mr Carlos Carrion-Crespo, Senior Specialist for Social Dialogue in the Public Service from ILO Headquarters and Mr Rainer Pritzer, Senior Specialist for Social Dialogue and Labour Administration from the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean, also addressed participants.

The seminar was followed by a one-and-a-half day workshop for the CGOA members to deepen the discussion on specific labour issues in Curaçao. Participants later met in an extraordinary session on 20 December 2018 to continue the discussion and carry the results into the official CGOA meetings in 2019. Both, seminar and workshop received notable attention by the local media.

## ILO / Ministry of Labour hackathons seek to tailor on-the-job-training programmes to youth employment in Trinidad and Tobago



Participant registers for Hackathon at UTT Campus, Chaguanas



Gathering ideas for recommendations on Youth Employment in Trinidad and Tobago during session at Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies, Tobago.



Brainstorming during session at Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies, Tobago.

Throughout March 2019, the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development (MOLSED), hosted a series of hackathons themed on stakeholders' experiences and perceptions of the Government's On-The-Job-Training Programme (OJTP).

The hackathons are part of an ongoing and innovative intervention to assess the OJTP using participatory methodologies, with the goal of improving its design and delivery to better cater to the youth employment realities across Trinidad and Tobago. Structured as intense, simultaneous focus group discussions in a shared space, the hackathons were designed to obtain qualitative feedback and recommendations from members of the wider youth population. Each session drew over 50 voluntary participants comprised of past and present OJTP trainees, actual and potential training providers and other interested citizens.

"This is an opportunity to ensure that youth voices and opinions on matters that affect you now and in the future can be heard, captured and used to inform decisions, as well as improve public accountability," said Ms Resel Melville, National Project Coordinator at the ILO's Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean. She also referred to the ILO's recent publication of the Report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work which coincides with the Organization's celebration of its 100th Anniversary this year. The report calls for concerted, human-centred, global action to secure a future of decent and sustainable work based on three pillars; increasing investment in people's capabilities, increasing investment in the institutions of work; and increasing investment in decent and sustainable work.

Hackathon locations included the Tobago Campus of the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies in Scarborough; the University of Trinidad and Tobago Campus in Chaguanas; the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts in San Fernando; and, the Ministry of Education in Port of Spain.

The feedback will also contribute to the results of a broader survey conducted in January and February of this year using the UNICEF U-Report Platform that was recently fully launched in Trinidad and Tobago.

The UNICEF U-Report is an innovative technological tool which the ILO's pilot project is testing for broad-based collection of data that can be used to evaluate youth employment programmes. The hackathons add to the participatory nature of the evaluation exercise, ensuring that the perceptions, opinions and even recommendations of target youth beneficiaries and other stakeholders are captured and can be considered in future decision-making.





## UNICEF U-Report Network asks: what do you think about Trinidad and Tobago's On-the-Job Training Programme?

**Thanks to the UNICEF Global U-Report Network, young persons in Trinidad and Tobago recently had the opportunity to have their voices heard** in a nationwide survey on the government's On-the-Job Training Programme (OJTP). While the survey was supported through the UNICEF U-Report digital platform, it was coordinated and rolled out through a collaboration between the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development (MOLSED) and the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean.

**The online poll was developed to demonstrate the application of modern technology** for participatory evaluations of national development programmes, with a focus on youth employment.

**U-Report is a global platform** where people are able to speak out on issues that matter to them. It was developed by UNICEF and uses SMS and social media messaging to collect information from and relay information to the young persons registered on the platform. When a poll is launched, responses are collected and mapped in real-time on the national U-report website. Responses remain anonymous but the platform allows everyone to see the results in real-time, online.

**The technology is already being used in other countries** and is a key tool in the United Nations efforts to engage Caribbean youth in processes that strengthen public accountability, inform responsive policy-making and improve the effectiveness of government programmes aimed at youth development.

**In addition to gathering information through the U-Report platform, the ILO also hosted organizing several hackathons** (intense focus group discussions (*see page 4*)) with youth and other stakeholders across the country. The hackathons sought to refine the information collected through the survey and explore key issues more in-depth. By taking this approach the Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean hopes to help decision-makers better understand what young persons think of the OJTP, and more broadly, gain insight into their needs and suggestions on school-to-work transition and preparation for the world of work.

**Information collected these initiatives will be compiled in a summary report** along with concrete recommendations to enhance the design and impact of the Trinidad and Tobago OJTP. Application of the methodology to other programmes and Caribbean countries is also currently being discussed.

**To kick off 2019 as its Centenary year<sup>1</sup>, the ILO launched the Global Commission Report** on the Future of Work, "Work for a Brighter Future"<sup>2</sup> on 22 January 2019. This report examines both the challenges and opportunities for employment and for quality education and training to prepare for the world of work that youth globally will face. It is against this backdrop that the ILO Caribbean Office, in collaboration with the MOLSED, conducted the survey.

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the ILO's Centenary, visit: [ilo.org/100/en/](http://ilo.org/100/en/)

<sup>2</sup> For a copy of the Global Commission Report visit: [ilo.org/global/topics/future-of-work/publications/WCMS\\_662410](http://ilo.org/global/topics/future-of-work/publications/WCMS_662410)



## Suriname officially launches Report on National Child Labour Survey

As one of 10 countries globally that participated in the ILO Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labour (CLEAR) Project between 2013 and 2019, Suriname has made significant progress towards the improvement of its enforcement of laws and policies related to child labour.

One key achievement supported through the CLEAR Project was the development and implementation of an in-depth statistical National Child Labour Survey, which began in 2017 and has provided key insights that can guide the development of national legislation, as well as national action plans, policies and social programs with an impact on child labour.

On 25 January 2019, following months of survey analysis conducted by the Institute for Social Science Research (IMWO) of the Anton de Kom University in Paramaribo, the ILO officially launched Suriname's Report on the National Child Labour Survey.

The launch featured a presentation on the research and results, led by Ms Natasha Moe Soe Let- Director (Ag) of the IMWO and Ms Presella Young-A-Fat, IMWO Researcher. Those in attendance included His Excellency Soewarto Moestadja, Minister of Labour (*in photo, left*) and Her Excellency Nalinie D. Gopal, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports. High level officials of Anton de Kom University, international development partners (UNICEF) and representatives of local workers' and employers' organizations and civil society were also present. Minister Moestadja noted that the availability of relevant data on child labour was imperative for Suriname to be able to abide by its international commitments, and critical to the development of policies and programmes and the enforcement of national legislation on child labour.

"In addition to ratifying relevant international conventions, Suriname has re-installed a multi-sectoral National

Commission to Eliminate Child Labour and is on the verge of finalizing a National Action Plan on Child Labour, which is expected to be submitted for the approval of the Council of Ministers in the coming months," said Minister Moestadja.

Other speakers included ILO's National Project Coordinator (Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour), Ms Resel Melville (*in photo, right*), who commended the Government and people of Suriname for their prioritization and active engagement in treating with child labour.

"With the country's ratification of the Minimum Age Convention (Convention no.182) in January last 2018, Suriname became a signatory to all of the International Conventions on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at work, including Convention 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour," she said. "Suriname is also an active member and one of 11 CARICOM States participating in the ILO's Regional Initiative Latin America and the Free of Child Labour."

Funded by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL), the CLEAR Project was designed to provide technical guidance and support for the development and enforcement of national legislation and to build countries' capacity for development, implementation and monitoring of national action plans, policies and social programs with an impact on child labour.

While the ILO CLEAR Project officially ended on 31 January 2019, copies of the Report on the Suriname National Child Labour Survey are available at:

[ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS\\_663335](http://ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_663335)





## ILO Convenes the First Meeting of the WED Assessment Working Group

In collaboration with the Jamaica Employers' Federation, the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean recently hosted an inaugural workshop for the Women's Entrepreneurship Development (WED) Assessment Working Group.

The WED Assessment workshop was supported through the European Union (EU)-funded UN WOMEN-ILO "WIN-WIN – Gender Equality means good business" Project. The session, which drew 13 participants, took place on 14 February 2019. It was held in Jamaica, the only Caribbean country participating in the Project.

Designed to bring together representatives from government, financial and non-financial service providers as well as women entrepreneurs associations, the WED Assessment workshop's key tasks were to support researchers in tapping into the best sources, validating findings and helping connect the dots.

It sought to present the ILO WED assessment methodology to the Working Group, and was facilitated by ILO Senior Specialist for Employers' Activities, Ms Vanessa Phala and ILO Specialist Sustainable Enterprise Development and Job Creation, Ms Virginia Rose Losada.

"The WED Assessment seeks to identify the main bottle necks with regards to rules and regulations, access to financial and no-financial services, the coordination and leadership at policy level, the participation of women entrepreneurs in policy making and their access to markets and Information Communication Technology," said Ms Rose Losada.

A training workshop with the national research team from the University of West Indies – Mona Campus was also held on the ILO WED Assessment methodology on 15 February 2019.

### Background

The overall objective of the "WIN-WIN – Gender Equality means good business" Project, funded by the EU and implemented in partnership with UN Women, is to promote EU and international shared principles and values of gender equality and women's economic empowerment. In addition to Jamaica, participating countries include Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay. This objective will be achieved by recognizing women as beneficiaries and partners of growth and development, by increasing commitment of private sector (enterprises and employers' organizations) to gender equality and women's empowerment and by strengthening companies' capacities to implement these commitments. The action will ultimately contribute to the achievement of gender equality through enabling women's business leadership, labour force participation in management positions, entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and thus their full and equal participation in society. The Project results will feed into the ILO's wider work on Women in Business and Management and the ILO's Women at Work Centenary Initiative and also contribute to the achievements of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 5.5 on ensuring "women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all level of decision making".



# #ILO100

## A glimpse at our centenary initiatives



### Join the ILO 24-Hour Global Tour **100 years in a day - The ILO embraces the globe with a 'virtual' tour**

The global event will be live-streamed from 24 ILO offices around the world in a continuous, 24-hour webcast via a designated website: <https://www.ilo.org/100/tour/en/>

Select ILO offices will contribute an hour of live webcasting, with a local flavour, creating a global picture of the diversity and range of the ILO's work. The result will be an exhilarating multi-national, multi-lingual and multi-cultural journey through world of work themes – past, present and future – enlivened with music, dancing, balloons and birthday cake.

The Tour kicks off on the 11 April where the world's day officially starts, on the International Date Line in Fiji and ends in Lima, Peru.

### Events carded for the Americas during the 24 hour Global Tour:

#### **Salvador: A star-studded Brazilian tribute to the ILO 14:00 (Eastern Caribbean Time (ECT))**

Brazilian singer, Daniela Mercury, directs and stars in a dance and music concert that features poet Elisa Lucinda and a symbolic light projection at the Castro Alves Theatre in Salvador.

#### **Buenos Aires: Tango and testimonials for decent work in Argentina 15:00 (ECT)**

A live tango performance, videos, testimonials from young workers and a debate will showcase Argentina's diversity, as well as the challenges and opportunities it faces in the world of work.

#### **Philadelphia: An equitable and sustainable future of work 16:00 (ECT)**

The ILO and Lehigh University will host a one-day conference, "An Equitable and Sustainable Future of Work." Speakers include Kevin Cassidy, ILO Director of the office for the United States, and Elliott Harris, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development. Lifelong learning, equality and global value chains are among the topics on the agenda.

#### **New York: UN leaders in conversation 17:00 (ECT)**

The ILO's contribution to the UN system and to the Sustainable Development Goals will be discussed in a series of conversations with UN leaders. Short video clips will showcase the main ILO events that are taking place at UN headquarters in New York during this centenary year.

#### **Mexico City: Art and song for the ILO in Mexico 18:00 (ECT)**

The event will feature short pieces of traditional and contemporary scenic art. A young singer will perform the ILO Centenary song. The ILO country Director for Mexico will hold brief conversations with two Mexican journalists who will moderate the event.

#### **Lima: A visual feast of decent work 19:00 (ECT)**

A mural depicting decent work, covering the entire ILO building in Lima, will be unveiled. Constituents will gather in front of the building for the celebration.





# #ILO100 ART WALK

**APRIL 9, 2019, 1-3PM**  
STARTING AT 209 E 48TH STREET - NYC

Inauguration of spectacular murals on social justice to celebrate the 100 years of the International Labour Organization.

**A unique art diplomacy experience!**

With ILO, Missions to the UN, SAM & famous artists - Clandestinos, Faith XLVII, Jorge Gerada, Mr Cenz and Victor Ash.

The ILO is partnering with Street Art for Mankind (SAM) to produce beautiful and inspiring murals around the United Nations Headquarters, on social justice. These #ILO100Murals,<sup>1</sup> created by prominent international street artists, will set the course for a contemporary Art Walk, in the streets of Midtown Manhattan. They will capture key themes of the ILO's efforts to ensure "decent work" for all, and inspire each one of us to create a better "future of work".

Five murals will be created from 1-8 April to highlight the following themes: green jobs, youth employment, gender equality at work, child labor and forced labor and the future

of work. The murals will all be painted by a diverse group of world-renowned international street artists, representing 10 nationalities and styles: Clandestinos (Shalak Attack and Bruno Smoky), Faith 47, Jorge Gerada, Mr Cenz and Victor Ash. Visitors will be able to experience a guided audio tour of the murals through the Street Art for Mankind "Behind the Wall" app, which can be downloaded for free. The Art Walk to inaugurate the #ILO100 Murals will take place on 9 April from 1-3 pm, and it will be open to the public. Visitors will be able to learn more about what is at stake for the future of work and hear the diplomats and the artists that made this project possible. The walk will start on 209 E 48th street and end at the Westin Hotel, on 212 E 42nd street.

<sup>1</sup> The #ILO100 Art Walk project is made possible thanks to the support from the ILO, the Permanent missions of India and Uganda to the United Nations, Delta Air Lines, The Westin Grand Central, Navillus Contracting, Durante Rentals and PTC.

## Taking the ILO to the people

The ILO has launched a major global campaign to connect with the public on world of work issues. The campaign highlights 25 topics, that concern people's daily lives, from gender equality and youth employment to climate change and artificial intelligence. Brought to life through a set of dynamic visuals and animations, the campaign is designed for adaptation to local context and use in public spaces and on social media.

The campaign materials are designed to be flexible for use on outdoor billboards, public transport, in magazines and websites. A series of ready-to-go social media cards and GIFs are also publically available for use on social media, using the hashtag #ILO100. All materials provide a link back to a new interactive website – [www.ilo.org/100](http://www.ilo.org/100). Download campaign materials from: <http://bit.ly/takingILOtothepeople>

## Global Commission on the Future of Work Human-centred agenda needed for a decent future of work

At the launch of its report on 22 January 2019 the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work called on governments to commit to a set of measures in order to address the challenges caused by unprecedented transformational change in the world of work. Co-chaired by His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, and the Honourable Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister of Sweden, the Commission outlined a vision for a human-centred agenda that is based on investing in people's capabilities, institutions of work and in decent and sustainable work.

The report is the culmination of a 15-month examination by the 27-member commission, which is made up of leading figures from business and labour, think tanks, academia, government and non-governmental organizations. The report also highlights the 'unique role' the ILO should play in the development and delivery of the 'human-centred economic agenda' in the international system and calls on the organization to give urgent attention to the implementation of the report's recommendations. Download your copy from: [ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_662410](http://ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_662410)



## Belize hosts social protection event and affirms commitment to developing national employment policy

An open space for dialogue on labour issues in Belize gave the ILO an opportunity in February 2019 to lead discussions on how social protection can strengthen the job market in that country.

Hosted by UNICEF and the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation (MHDSTPA), “The Role of Labour in Social Protection” was held on 25-26 February 2019.

It was the second in a series of four events that encourages discourse between the Ministry of Labour (MOL) with the private sector and workers’ representatives to expand options for the poor and vulnerable to increase their income earning potential and their ability to benefit from social insurance guarantees.

Mr Diego Rei, Employment and Labour Market Specialist at the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean (DWT/CO-Port-of-Spain), presented national stakeholders with common practices on the process of developing national employment policies, presenting case studies and highlighting pitfalls and mistakes to avoid. In particular, he emphasized the need to ensure buy in at the early stage

not only for the drafting phase but for the implementation phase, following a ‘start from the end’ approach.

The Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development expressed an interest in technical support from ILO to develop Belize’s National Labour and Employment Policy which is to consider elements of quantity and quality of work and respect for fundamental labour rights.

Mr Ariel Pino, Social Protection and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Specialist from DWT/CO-Port-of-Spain, made a presentation highlighting the linkages between the social protection and employment policies. “The main message is that social protection should not merely adapt to changes in the labour market. On the contrary, well designed social protection programmes could play a key role in empowering people, support decent job creation, preserve employment relationship and be shock responsive,” he said.

The third event in the series is planned for April 2019 with a focus on multidimensional poverty. Organizers are hoping that the discussion is equally engaging and will produce many thoughts, decisions and commitments that are focused on strengthening labour policies in Belize.

## EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION

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## Mastercard Foundation partners with ILO to create new database on youth in the labour market

The ILO and the Mastercard Foundation have launched a project to provide comprehensive national-level data on youth in the labour market, including indicators on the transition from school to work. During the one-year project, the Mastercard Foundation will support the ILO in creating a new, regularly updated database, called YouthSTATS. The database was first produced by the ILO as part of its partnership with the Mastercard Foundation Work4Youth Project that concluded in 2014. This database will provide a comprehensive set of indicators on the labour market situation of people in the 15-29 age group and will serve as a central repository of international youth labour statistics.

“A key advantage of basing YouthSTATS indicators on the ILO’s microdata collection is that this will facilitate the

sustainable production of disaggregated data – by age, sex, economic industry, formal and informal sectors, occupation, level of educational attainment, and other pertinent variables. The disaggregated data, in turn, will provide insights on challenges faced by specific population groups,” said Mr Steven Kapsos, who heads the ILO’s Data Production and Analysis Unit.

“The pioneering School-to-Work Transition surveys showed the importance of understanding, in detail, what this pivotal period looks like for young people around the world,” said Lindsay Wallace, Director of Strategy and Learning at the Mastercard Foundation. “We are pleased that the ILO will be able to make this information available on an ongoing basis for global, regional, and national decision-makers.”



## The ILO leads joint UN support to RBM training for Suriname Government

In a joint effort to support the Government of Suriname's national programme to decentralize ministerial planning, all 17 Ministries have established units to ensure coherent planning and monitoring across governmental sectors and contribute to the achievement of the country's sustainable development goals (SDGs).

An important part of this process is the National Training Programme on Results Based Management (RBM) launched by the National Planning Office (NPO). The Programme recently sought support from the United Nations System, to provide representatives of all the ministerial planning units with basic RBM knowledge and skills training as a means to implement result oriented planning, budgeting, management, monitoring and evaluation in the public sector.

Since the ILO is about to finalize its Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) for Suriname, the Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean (DWT/CO-POS) saw this Programme as an excellent opportunity to strengthen the capacity for proper management and monitoring of the DWCP, while integrating it in the broader governmental planning and capacity building programme.

The UN was in charge of the first of two training weeks, while local trainers from the NPO brought the concepts covered and discussed during this first week into the national planning cycle during the second week. The training was a blend of both the theoretical and the practical application of RBM – an approach that was highly appreciated by participants and organizers alike. The sessions drew a total of 89 persons, who were divided into four groups and participated in the training from 26 February – 01 March, 2019.

The training team consisted of four instructors from the UN system: Mr Lars Johansen and Ms Ingerlyn Caines of the DWT/CO-POS; Ms Cybele Burga, ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Mr Issa Conteh, Office of the Resident Coordinator-Guyana.

"We thank the UN for taking up the challenge to support the systematization of planning in Suriname. This is just one component of the process, and it's my hope that the UN will continue accompanying Suriname in developing a fully functioning and well-resourced planning system," said Mr. Reynold Simmons, Director of the NPO.

The ILO aims to continue supporting its constituents in Suriname in the important task of incorporating and implementing these important tools, both generally and – more specifically – in support of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the new Decent Work Country Programme.

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## STAFF MOVEMENT

### ILO Caribbean Office welcomes **new Communications and Information Officer**

Effective 15 February 2019, Ms Shireen Cuthbert, a national of both Trinidad and Canada, joined the ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean as Communications and Information Officer.

She brings over 15 years of strategic communications experience, and has worked in sectors ranging from governments, non-governmental organizations, broadcasters, academic institutions and international development agencies. Through her experience, Shireen has specialized in media relations and digital communications, with a focus on social media.

Prior to joining the ILO, Ms Cuthbert was based in Barbados for four years where she worked as a Communications Specialist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH).

She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Toronto and a Post-graduate Diploma in Corporate Communications from Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology. She also received a Master of Arts in Strategic Communications from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN).



In her new role as lead of the ILO's Information Unit for the Caribbean Subregion, Ms Cuthbert will have overall responsibility for enhancing the image and visibility of the ILO, developing and implementing effective communication and information dissemination strategies to promote the work of the Office among its constituents and the general public.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 11<sup>TH</sup> ILO MEETING OF CARIBBEAN MINISTERS OF LABOUR

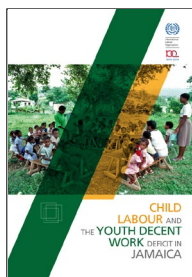
Barbados, 14-15 May 2019

The ILO, through its Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Partnership Relations in Barbados, will host the Eleventh ILO Subregional Meeting of Caribbean Labour Ministers from 14–15 May 2019 in Barbados. This Meeting will bring together Ministers of Labour from 13 ILO member States and nine Non-metropolitan Territories of the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean.

The Meeting will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ILO and will offer an opportunity for the Ministers of Labour to chart the way forward addressing issues around the Future of Work in the Caribbean. Leaning on the ILO's Centenary flagship report on the Future of Work, the theme of this Meeting is: Shaping a brighter future of work for the Caribbean.

For more information visit: [https://www.ilo.org/caribbean/events-and-meetings/WCMS\\_681688](https://www.ilo.org/caribbean/events-and-meetings/WCMS_681688)

## INFORMATION RESOURCES



### Child labour & the youth decent work deficit in Jamaica

This report examines the related issues of child labour and youth employment in Jamaica. Guided by observed outcomes in terms of schooling, work activities and status in the labour market, the report considers the extent, nature, causes and

consequences of child labour and youth decent work deficit in the country. The Jamaica Youth Activity Survey 2016 is the primary data source for the report. The report was developed under the aegis of the Child Labour Unit of the Ministry of Labour and is aimed at contributing to its child labour elimination efforts.

ISBN: 978-92-2-132366-2 (Print);

ISBN: 978-92-2-132367-9 (Web, PDF)



### Suriname Child Labour Survey 2017

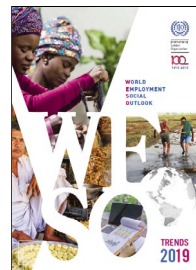
The Suriname Child Labour Survey 2017 (SCLS) was conducted by the Research Institute for Social Sciences (IMWO) of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname in collaboration and with technical support of the ILO.

ISBN: 978-92-2-132310-5 (Print);

ISBN: 978-92-2-132311-2 (Web, PDF)

### World Employment & Social Outlook: Trends 2019

This report provides an overview of global and regional trends in employment, unemployment, labour force participation, productivity, as well as employment status, informal employment and working poverty. It also examines income and social developments, and provides an indicator of social unrest.



A key finding is that poor job quality is a prime concern for the most of the global labour force. In addition, unemployment and labour underutilization remain high in many countries, despite improvements in recent years.

The report also takes stock of progress with respect to targets for Sustainable Development Goal 8, which has been slower than anticipated.

ISBN: 9789221329527 (Print)

ISBN: 9789221329534 (Web, PDF)

ISBN: 9789221329541 (Epub)

ISBN: 9789221329558 (Mobi)

## INTERNATIONAL OBSERVANCES

- 11 April: ILO Global Tour: 24 countries in 24 hours to celebrate the Centenary
- 28 April: World Day for Safety and Health at Work
- 01 May: Labour Day
- 03 May: World Press Freedom Day
- 17 May: International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
- 29 May: International Day of UN Peacekeepers
- 05 June: World Environment Day
- 12 June: World Day Against Child Labour
- 18 June: 20th Anniversary of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles & Rights at Work
- 20 June: World Refugee Day
- 23 June: United Nations Public Service Day
- 27 June: Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day

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