## ILO and UN Resident Coordinators Dialogue on Decent Work and Economic Growth in the context of the Future of Work in Latin America and the Caribbean

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### Session 5: Data, Information and Knowledge Systems for Achieving SDGs

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1. The ILO has a normative mandate to adopt International Labour Standards. Those standards are open for ratification by member States of the Organization. From very early in its history (the ILO was founded in 1919), it is possible to glimpse how this normative mandate was accompanied by the need for an improved measurement of the main variables of the labour market, notably to be able to monitor and account for progress made.

2. Today, the Organization is recognized throughout the world as the entity that hosts the normative body of labour statistics. This is so, within the United Nations System as well as within other international organizations, such as the OECD and EUROSTAT, and of course, within the community of member States National Statistics Offices (NSEs).

3. The origin of this normative body is the International Conference of Labor Statisticians (ICLS) that is held every 5 years. The first ICLS took place in 1923.

4. Due to the tripartite nature of the ILO, participants to the ICLS are government experts - most of them appointed by the Ministries that deal with labor and the NSEs- as well as employers 'and workers' organizations. Observers from regional and international organizations and other interest groups also attend.

5. The recommendations regarding labor statistics emanating from the ICLS are primarily aimed at developing international standards that improve the measurement of labour and employment issues, as well as international comparability. They take the form of resolutions and guidelines that are subject to the approval of the ILO Governing Body; afterwards, they become part of the set of international standards regarding labor statistics. It is important to emphasize, therefore, that the normative body of labor statistics emanates from the International Labor Organization and not from the Office itself.

6. Generally, these standards are related to concepts, definitions, classifications and other methodological procedures that should be considered as the "most appropriate practice" in each area and that, when used by national data producers increase the likelihood of having

statistics of work comparable between countries while increasing chronological comparability within the same country.

7. In the last ICLS, the 20th, which took place in October 2018, four resolutions and four guidelines were adopted. The main resolution - Resolution I – addresses labour relations statistics and is closely related to the discussions regarding the future of work, since a new category of analysis is generated in the labor market, that of "Dependent contractors". The other resolutions are related to the SDGs -Resolutions II and III- and the measurement of child labor -Resolution IV-. The guidelines adopted at this Conference touch upon the following topics: statistics on international labor migration; measurement of forced labor; measurement of inadequacies in the qualifications and competences of employed persons and statistics on cooperatives.

8. The previous ICLS, the 19th, adopted a resolution on labour statistics, where the concept of work is redefined and the need to measure unpaid work in its different forms is explained, in addition of defining new indicators of underutilization of labor. This resolution has been adopted by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which have also carried out the trial and implementation process, at regional and global level.

9. Since 2004, the ILO has generated the Decent Work Indicators framework. Member States have defined and compiled a very large set of indicators for the measurement of the four pillars of the Decent work: employment, social protection, social dialogue and rights at work, while being assisted to do so by the ILO. Each of the four dimensions has a set of statistical indicators that forms the basis of many Decent Work Country Programs, the nationally defined programmatic frameworks to pursue Decent Work.

## Agenda 2030: ILO Role: 17 Goals, 232 Indicators

10. Global Indicators Framework: The ILO Department of Statistics actively participated in each stage of the process of developing the global indicators framework for the SDGs, in close collaboration with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the SDG Indicators.

11. The Department coordinates the submission of annual reports to the United Nations Statistics Division and centralizes statistical, methodological and analytical contributions to data, metadata and analytical contributions for key SDG reports.

12. The global indicators that allow monitoring the evolution of the SDGs are assigned to one or more custodian agencies, which are responsible for their global reporting.

13. The ILO is the single custodian agency for 11 indicators; it is a joint custodian agency with other agencies for 3 additional indicators and acts as an associated agency in three other indicators. The main SDGs related to the ILO custodian responsibility is Goal 8 (9 of the 17 indicators within it) which relates to **"Promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all".**

14. The existence of international standards in the field of labor statistics, largely thanks to the ICLS, has facilitated the adoption of numerous employment and work-related indicators and has allowed the submission of comprehensive national and regional data.

15. The ILO Department of Statistics designs and conducts training activities on the framework of global indicators, emphasizing the SDG indicators related to decent work. The activities cover many aspects, such as statistical sources, international standards, methodological guidelines, data breakdown, interpretation and analysis of data, complementary indicators and indicator frameworks.

16. The countries of the region, together with ECLAC as Technical Secretariat, have consolidated the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (SCA) as the main forum for all aspects related to this field. Within the SCA different working groups are formed according to the specificity of each of the themes, the Labor Market Statistics Working Group (GTML) deals with matters related to the world of work, and the ILO acts as the Technical Secretariat of the group. Many of the advances of recent years in the countries of the region regarding the measurement of different work and employment matters are the result of the coordinated work done within the group.

17. The SCA has also been the natural space for statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda at the regional level. The Conference requested the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda to present a proposal for a regional framework of indicators for the monitoring of the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean. The process culminated with a prioritized set of 154 indicators based on the regional relevance of the indicator, its inclusion in other monitoring frameworks and the feasibility of generated by the countries.

### → Suggested discussion points

1) 1)  How do you see the United Nations system jointly assisting countries in the areas of employment, social protection and education? How to deal with overlaps?

2) How to ensure efficient United Nations assistance to Statistical Offices which are often confronted with severe resource challenges?

3) How to work together beyond the data collection phase, i.e. ensuring proper analysis and national level coordination?

4) Once and if the data are collected and analysed, how to bolster evidence based policymaking? Any suggestion or good practice to report?