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Target 8.A

Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system (Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally)

Target 8.B

Address the special needs of the least developed countries (Includes: tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction)

Target 8.C

Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly).

Target 8.D

Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.

8. Develop a global partnership for development

MDG 8 reflects the Millennium Declaration's call for a global partnership for development. It addresses how countries can work together to achieve MDGs 1 to 7. MDG 8 covers many areas, including fairness in the multilateral system, technology, development assistance, debt relief and the special needs of developing countries.

Open partnerships for a fair globalization

“Lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice. [...] The attainment of conditions in which all human beings have the right to pursue their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity, is the central aim of national and international policy. [...] All national and international policies and measures, especially those of an economic and financial character, should be judged in this light. They should be accepted only where they promote and do not hinder achievement of this objective.”

These words from the ILO Constitution underpin the ILO's role in examining all international economic and financial policies in the light of this fundamental aim.

Decent work in a fair global system

In addition to its work on MDGs 1 to 7, the ILO contributes to MDG 8 through its Decent Work Agenda (decent and productive employment, rights, social protection and social dialogue) by:

- promoting decent work as a global goal in fair globalization
- calling for greater policy coherence for poverty reduction across the multilateral system
- encouraging employment-intensive approaches, especially in the context of technological change
- assessing and addressing the effects of trade on employment and labour rights
- developing the capacity of workers' and employers' organizations to participate meaningfully in the formulation of national development policy.

Progress towards the MDG 8 is slowing, but in many areas even the advances of recent years are jeopardized. The crisis has intensified the need for strengthened global partnerships for development. Progress towards MDG 8 is mixed, despite strengthened support from the international community.

The Millennium Declaration's call to “make globalization a positive force for the world's people” requires more democratic governance, better linking of economic growth with social progress and environmental sustainability.

Trade, financial policies and technological change affect labour markets, working conditions and incomes. The ILO promotes policies that keep decent and productive employment, social protection and rights at the centre of development concerns.

The global financial and economic crisis has further emphasized the need to fully integrate ILO's decent work approach in a broader economic and social strategy to shape fair globalization.

Such a strategy has the potential to promote open societies, more productive economies and the freer exchange of goods, knowledge and ideas. As the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization (WCSDG, 2004) stresses, globalization is fair only when it creates opportunities for more and better jobs.

Target 8.E

In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

Target 8.F

In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.

The 2002 Monterrey Consensus called for increased development assistance to achieve the MDGs. It stressed the need for enhanced coherence and coordination between development partners.

The need for a partnership between rich and poor countries was reaffirmed in the 2002 Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (see MDG 7).

The 2005 joint UN Millennium Project Report, *Investing in Development – A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, recommends MDG-based PRSPs and other measures to achieve the MDGs.

What the ILO does

The Decent Work Agenda goes hand in hand with the attainment of MDG 8. The ILO works with constituents, the UN and multilateral agencies to incorporate decent work in economic, social and environmental policies and programmes, as follows:

■ Good governance and development

- Working with the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) and through the UN Development Assistance Framework process to mainstream decent work across the UN family and in country-level activities. This involves in particular use of the CEB Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work (see Highlights)
- Promoting a global reform process based on social dialogue, negotiation, consultation and information exchange on economic and social issues at various levels between governments and employers' and workers' organizations
- Promoting respect for rights at work in the context of reforms: good governance of the labour market applies the rule of law to work, and involves those most affected
- Fostering the role of labour market institutions that underpin development: sound labour legislation, social dialogue bodies and collective bargaining, equality commissions, dispute resolution mechanisms, labour inspectorates, and an informed and effective judiciary – such institutions create an enabling environment for macroeconomic stability, productivity and competitiveness.

■ Poverty reduction

- Assisting governments and workers' and employers' organizations to craft Decent Work Country Programmes through consultation
- Aligning national decent work country programmes to national agendas and promoting decent work concerns in national poverty reduction strategies (see MDG 1), investing in integrated approaches to local development
- Working with the international financial institutions towards greater policy coherence, and working with other UN agencies for coordinated action on poverty reduction.

■ Social dimension of globalization, trade and investment

- Joint ILO/World Bank technical groups are working on global and regional aggregate employment trends and estimation of missing data; analysing the distributional impacts of the crisis on employment; and compiling an inventory of crisis response and recovery policy interventions
- The ILO is working with the OECD and others to provide major input to the various meetings of the G20, compiling and analysing various recovery policies and measures used to address the social and employment consequences of the financial and economic crisis. (*Protecting people, promoting jobs; and Accelerating a job-rich recovery in G20 countries: Building on experience*)
- Providing training courses on economic liberalization and the world of work
- Implementing programmes to enable business and workers to take advantage of the increased market opportunities offered by globalization
- Conducting research, including with the World Trade Organization, and providing information and policy advice on the links between trade, labour rights and employment.

■ Benefits of new technology

Advances in information and communication technology (ICTs) underlie the integration of financial markets and permit the international division of production. ICTs have great potential to aid poverty reduction, but must be linked to social and economic development. One core element of the ILO Global Employment Agenda is “the promotion of technological change for higher productivity and job creation and improved standards of living”.

Highlights

■ International labour standards

The ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) offers a key link between social progress and economic growth in full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work, which enable people to “claim freely and on the basis of equality of opportunity their fair share of the wealth they have helped to generate”. All ILO Member States commit to respect, promote and realize these principles, which concern the eight fundamental Conventions on freedom of association, forced labour, child labour and discrimination.

The Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008) reaffirms the ILO's mandate to pursue social justice and strengthens the capacity of the organization to promote its Decent Work Agenda, forging an effective response to the growing challenges of globalization.

■ Mainstreaming decent work across the multilateral system

The 2005 World Summit resolved to make full and productive employment and decent work central objectives of national and international policies as part of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

To facilitate this process, the ILO was asked by the UN to take the lead in developing a Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work in collaboration with other UN agencies. The fundamental principles and rights are now mainstreamed across UN country-level activities through the 2009 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Guidelines, which include international labour standards, the CEB Toolkit, the ILO's gender audit methodology, fundamental principles and rights at work, the social partners and South–South cooperation.

■ Social justice and the global crisis response

In April 2009 the UN reviewed the main challenges facing the international community in the international financial and economic crisis and adopted a strategy for system-wide action to address the crisis in nine critical areas.

The nine joint initiatives are interconnected, but each makes a distinctive contribution to the social development agenda. The Global Jobs Pact initiative, led by the ILO, promotes stronger and more coherent action across the multilateral system. It provides a platform for policy dialogue and greater inter-agency cooperation in sharing knowledge, mobilizing funds and providing technical assistance to countries wishing to tackle employment and decent work deficits in their recovery policies and programmes.

The Social Protection Floor Initiative, jointly led by the ILO and WHO, promotes a basic set of essential social transfers and access to essential services (such as water and sanitation, adequate nutrition, health, education and family-focused social work support) as a means to alleviate the social impact of the crisis. At the national level, the social floor approach is based on a legislative framework and the empowerment and protection of the poor and vulnerable.

■ Partnerships and social dialogue

The ILO provided input to meetings of the International Monetary and Finance Committee and Development Committee of the IMF and World Bank. It is working with the multilateral system in response to the global crisis, aiming to set the course for coordinated global policy action towards inclusive and sustainable world development.

Working towards the UN Millennium Development Goals Summit scheduled for September 2010, the ILO took the lead in reviewing progress on poverty eradication through the creation of full employment and decent work under MDG 1.

In 2009, the United Nations endorsed a system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication, full employment and decent work in order to guide activities during the Second UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), of which the theme is decent work.



DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Helsinki Process, initiated by Finland and Tanzania, aims to promote new partnerships between North and South, and between civil society, governments and the private sector, in implementing globally agreed policies, such as the MDGs.

Good governance embraces the rule of law, participation and consensus building, transparency and accountability, equity and effectiveness. The 2003 UN Convention Against Corruption is a milestone.

Priorities

Economic globalization has outpaced the development of the policy mechanisms and institutions required to manage it well. Establishing a global partnership for development and achieving MDG 8 will strengthen efforts on MDGs 1 to 7 thus promoting fair globalization.

Unfair trade rules, failure to fulfil internationally agreed Overseas Development Aid (ODA) pledges, and uneven access to technology and medicine have constrained social development.

Aid as a share of developed-country national incomes was 0.3 per cent in 2008, well below the longstanding UN commitment of 0.7 per cent. Failure to conclude the Doha Round of trade negotiations has hindered establishment of an “open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system”.

Currently, 80 per cent of Least Developed Countries’ (LDCs) exports enjoy duty- and quota-free access to developed country markets, while the WTO’s 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration recommended that this rise to 97 per cent. Debt relief initiatives are progressing slowly, leaving 13 of 40 countries that are eligible for debt relief still at high risk of debt distress.

Access to affordable medicine is still limited in developing countries, as prices are high and availability low. Median prices of generic medicines are, on average, between 2.5 and 6.1 times higher in developing countries than international reference prices. Similarly, access to technology is globally uneven – 39 per cent of people in the developing world subscribe to a mobile phone service, while internet users stand at 13 per cent compared to 64 per cent in the developed world.

■ Fair globalization: Action to take

The 2004 report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, *A fair globalization: Creating opportunities for all*, recommends practical action on MDG 8:

- making decent work a national and global objective; (see ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization)
- creating fair rules for trade, investment, international finance and migration; better international policies (e.g. meeting aid needs and debt relief) and more accountable institutions
- stressing national and international responsibilities for good governance and reforms to ensure fairness and sustainable global growth, with a move from donor conditionality to national ownership of policies
- increasing policy coherence between international economic, social and environmental policies in a reformed multilateral system.

While the present system of global governance is based on rules and policies that generate unbalanced and often unfair outcomes, the economic and financial crisis has provided opportunities for reform.

“International coordination is vital. I do think the effort led by the G20 averted what could have become a global depression. Nevertheless, we have a long way to go to improve our policy coordination mechanisms.” – ILO Director General, 2010.

The ILO’s Global Jobs Pact identifies three areas in which cooperation is particularly important to shape a fair and sustainable globalization:

1. Building a stronger, more globally consistent, supervisory and regulatory framework for the financial sector, so that it serves the real economy, promotes sustainable enterprises and decent work and better protects savings and pensions
2. Promoting efficient and well-regulated trade and markets that benefit all, avoiding protectionism; the varying development levels of countries must be taken into account in lifting barriers to domestic and foreign markets
3. Shifting to a low-carbon, environment-friendly economy that helps accelerate the jobs recovery, reduce social gaps, support development goals and realize decent work in the process.



MDG 8

DEVELOP A GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP
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