

**ICLS/20/2018/1**

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

**Department of Statistics**

Report I

**General report**

**Twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians**  
(Geneva, 10–19 October 2018)

Geneva, 2018

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE, GENEVA

Copyright © International Labour Organization 2018

*First edition 2018*

Publications of the International Labour Office enjoy copyright under Protocol 2 of the Universal Copyright Convention. Nevertheless, short excerpts from them may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated. For rights of reproduction or translation, application should be made to ILO Publications (Rights and Licensing), International Labour Office, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland, or by email: [rights@ilo.org](mailto:rights@ilo.org). The International Labour Office welcomes such applications.

Libraries, institutions and other users registered with a reproduction rights organization may make copies in accordance with the licences issued to them for this purpose. Visit [www.ifrro.org](http://www.ifrro.org) to find the reproduction rights organization in your country.

---

*Report I. General report: Twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 10–19 October 2018)*, International Labour Office.

ISBN 978-92-2-031326-8 (print)

ISBN 978-92-2-031327-5 (Web pdf)

Also available in French: *Rapport I. Rapport général*, Vingtième Conférence internationale des statisticiens du travail (Genève, 10-19 octobre 2018), ISBN 978-92-2-031328-2 (print), ISBN 978-92-2-031329-9 (Web pdf), Geneva, 2018; and in Spanish: *Informe I. Informe general*, 20.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia Internacional de Estadísticos del Trabajo (Ginebra, 10-19 de octubre de 2018), ISBN 978-92-2-031330-5 (print), 978-92-2-031331-2 (Web pdf), Geneva, 2018.

*ILO Cataloguing in Publication Data*

---

The designations employed in ILO publications, which are in conformity with United Nations practice, and the presentation of material therein do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Labour Office concerning the legal status of any country, area or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.

The responsibility for opinions expressed in signed articles, studies and other contributions rests solely with their authors, and publication does not constitute an endorsement by the International Labour Office of the opinions expressed in them.

Reference to names of firms and commercial products and processes does not imply their endorsement by the International Labour Office, and any failure to mention a particular firm, commercial product or process is not a sign of disapproval.

Information on ILO publications and digital products can be found at: [www.ilo.org/publns](http://www.ilo.org/publns).

---

Printed by the International Labour Office, Geneva, Switzerland

---

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Abbreviations .....	v
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1. Statistics in the ILO .....	1
1.2. The future of work .....	2
1.3. Statistics and the 2030 Agenda.....	3
2. Decent work and the SDGs .....	4
2.1. Global indicator framework.....	4
2.2. SDG indicators related to decent work .....	5
2.3. Activities related to Tier III SDG indicators.....	7
3. Developments in methods employed for specific topics of labour statistics.....	8
3.1. Rural labour statistics.....	8
3.2. Gender mainstreaming in labour statistics .....	9
3.3. Measurement of quality of employment and decent work.....	10
3.4. From ICSE-93 to statistics on work relationships .....	11
3.5. Implementation of the resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization .....	14
3.5.1. ILO labour force survey pilot study programme .....	15
3.5.2. ILO–World Bank–Data2X joint pilot study .....	16
3.5.3. Related methodological and technical coordination activities .....	16
3.5.4. Technical assistance and capacity building related to Resolution I of the 19th ICLS .....	17
3.5.5. Partnerships and inter-agency coordination .....	18
3.5.6. Practical guidance on implementing Resolution I of the 19th ICLS .....	18
3.5.7. Population censuses and Resolution I of the 19th ICLS.....	19
3.6. Labour migration statistics.....	19
3.6.1. Developments in the conceptual framework on labour migration statistics.....	19
3.6.2. Database on labour migration statistics .....	20
3.6.3. ILO methodological questionnaires on international labour migration statistics.....	20
3.7. Measurement of volunteer work .....	21
3.8. Consumer price indices.....	22
3.9. Statistics on employment in the environmental sector and green jobs .....	23
3.10. Disability statistics.....	25
3.11. Inter-secretariat working group on household surveys .....	27
3.12. Child labour .....	27
3.13. Forced labour .....	30

3.14. Labour underutilization related to inadequate use and mismatch of qualification and skills .....	32
3.15. ILO Social Security Inquiry and data collection.....	33
3.16. Statistics on multinational enterprises.....	34
3.17. Statistics on wages .....	35
3.18. Social dialogue indicators .....	35
3.19. Statistics on occupational injuries.....	36
3.20. Status of labour statistics Conventions and Recommendations.....	37
3.21. Measuring informality .....	38
Informality and statistics on work relationships .....	39
3.22. Time-use statistics.....	40
3.23. International Standard Classification of Occupations.....	41
3.24. Statistics on cooperatives.....	43
<b>4. Data collection, production and dissemination .....</b>	<b>45</b>
4.1. Data collection – General.....	45
4.2. ILO annual data questionnaire.....	46
4.3. ILOSTAT statistical database .....	47
4.4. ILO modelled estimates .....	48
4.5. ILO Microdata Repository and processing .....	49
4.6. Modernization and industrialization of official statistics production .....	50
4.7. Global data structure definition for SDMX in labour, prices and SDG statistics .....	50
4.8. Labour market information systems .....	51
4.9. Contributions to international forums.....	52
<b>5. Technical assistance and capacity building in labour statistics.....</b>	<b>52</b>
5.1. Asia and the Pacific .....	53
5.1.1. Capacity building on labour statistics and on standards from the 19th ICLS.....	54
5.1.2. Support to member States in data collection for labour force statistics, particularly through implementation of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS.....	54
5.1.3. Support on the measurement of SDG indicators on decent work.....	55
5.2. Africa .....	55
5.2.1. Capacity-building activities.....	56
5.2.2. Strategic partnerships with pan-African institutions on labour statistics .....	57
5.3. Arab States.....	57
5.4. Europe and Central Asia .....	58
5.5. Latin America and the Caribbean .....	59

---

## Abbreviations

AFRISTAT	Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CPI	consumer price indices
Eurostat	Directorate-General of the European Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GSBPM	Generic Statistical Business Process Model
ICATUS	International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ICSE	International Classification of Status in Employment
ILC	International Labour Conference
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
WHO	World Health Organization

---

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Statistics in the ILO

1. Following a broad reform process initiated in 2012, the Administration of the International Labour Office placed a strong emphasis on strengthening the knowledge base and the statistical capacity of the Organization. The reform process established three major portfolios: Policy, Management and Reform, and Field Operations and Partnerships, each of which headed by a Deputy Director-General. The Department of Statistics, created in 2009, is part of the Policy Portfolio, along with eight other technical departments. In 2014, the post of Chief Statistician/Department Director was formally created in the structure, with the mandate of coordinating the various statistical functions dispersed in the other technical departments at headquarters and in the field. The department was tasked with providing technical guidance on international statistical standards, the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2014, and the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities endorsed by the inter-agency Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA).
2. The statistical capacity of the International Labour Organization (ILO) was strengthened through additional human resources and the creation of the Global Technical Team for Statistics, with an increase in the number of field-based labour statisticians supporting member States and constituents at the national and regional levels, particularly in technical assistance and capacity-building functions. The team comprises three labour statisticians in Africa, two in Asia and the Pacific, one in the Arab States and two in the Americas (alongside the Labour Information and Analysis System for Latin America and the Caribbean project based in Panama). The team works closely with the Department of Statistics at headquarters in providing assistance at the country level and also in liaising with regional partners from other international organizations and bodies. This proximity to national circumstances has proved to be highly valuable, and the Office aims to increase the number of statisticians based in the field in the future, particularly for regions which are not yet adequately served. Regional consultations when developing methodologies have been well established as a core step in setting standards, primarily in incorporating region-specific aspects.
3. The importance placed by the ILO on statistics aims to consolidate its position as the world reference on labour statistics, and as the main repository of timely data on decent work. The Programme and Budget for 2016–17 incorporated labour statistics within its ten policy outcomes, and the key role of labour statistics in policy-making was reflected under enabling outcome A on effective advocacy for decent work. The programme and budget also included a separate subsection on labour statistics within the section on research, knowledge, labour statistics and capacity development. The same approach has been retained for the biennium 2108–19. In addition, the programme and budget explicitly demonstrates how the ILO's ten policy outcomes contribute to the indicators from the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are under its custodianship.
4. Furthermore, one of the three objectives of the ILO Knowledge Strategy 2018–21 is to enhance member States' capacity to produce, use and share statistics and information. Labour statistics are also reflected in the ILO's Knowledge Gateway, which aggregates country-specific information and data on labour laws, standards, policies and statistics, drawing on the labour statistics from the ILO's consolidated databases, ILOSTAT.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See: [www.ilo.org/ilostat](http://www.ilo.org/ilostat).

- 
5. The discussion at the 107th Session (2018) of the International Labour Conference (ILC) on effective ILO development cooperation in support of the SDGs emphasized the importance of labour statistics, and the corresponding conclusions call upon the ILO to “assist member States in initiating or improving the collection and dissemination of disaggregated economic and labour-related data and statistics, including by gender and disability, as a basis for measuring progress on decent work-related SDGs, targets and indicators for which the ILO is the custodian agency”.<sup>2</sup>

## 1.2. The future of work

6. To mark the Organization’s centenary in 2019, the ILO Director-General proposed to the 102nd Session (2013) of the ILC seven Centenary Initiatives, including the Future of Work Initiative, which immediately garnered a great deal of support. Following the Report of the Director-General on the Future of Work Initiative to the 104th Session (2015) of the ILC, a set of national dialogues were held worldwide, with contributions from a broad range of stakeholders, including constituents, academics, international organizations and civil society. In 2017, an independent Global Commission on the Future of Work was established, which is chaired by Prime Minister Stefan Löfven of Sweden and President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa. It has been working intensively on a report to be launched at the centenary session of the ILC in 2019.
7. The starting point of the Future of Work Initiative is a comprehensive examination of how the world of work is today and how various trends would impact it in the future. Based on an examination of how jobs, poverty and social protection systems are related in a context of internationalization of production, and how the quality of work is being affected, the intention is to reflect the impact on workers’ well-being, equality and social justice. Indeed, social justice lies at the heart of the Initiative, as it was the guiding principle of the founders of the ILO in 1919, and was reinforced in the Declaration of Philadelphia of 1944. The Initiative has been considering the function of work in today’s society and how decent work will be created in the future in a world experiencing rapid technological changes, as well as how the next generations will be affected by the organization of production and the new forms of employment relationships, in a context of growing inequalities, insecurity and exclusion, fuelled by demographic trends and major transformations in the world of work: in sum, what mechanism for the governance of work will emerge and how the future of social justice will be affected.
8. The issues which the Future of Work Initiative is addressing are closely related to the issues that the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (“ICLS” or “Conference”) will be discussing at its 20th session, ahead of the ILO centenary. The diversification of forms of employment, in part due to an increase in non-standard forms of work, often fuelled by globalization, major technological changes, demographic trends and climate change, needs to be captured in statistics. However, the rapid changes in the world of work present challenges for the existing means of capturing information and defining concepts. Reality is imposed on statisticians, sometimes even before they can react, hence the great need for innovation and change in statistical systems.
9. The need to capture these new forms of work, the call for new and timelier data on the demand for skills, and the question of how the labour force can be equipped with the appropriate skills to face rapidly changing demand are also matters of concern. Furthermore, the many questions labour statisticians are now facing worldwide include: how new

<sup>2</sup> ILO: [Resolution and conclusions concerning effective ILO development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals](#), International Labour Conference, 107th Session, Geneva, 2018, point 9(1)(m).

---

occupations will emerge and how to adapt statistical systems so that they can handle these major changes; how to make invisible work visible, in particular all forms of unpaid work; how strongly digital work is emerging in the world; and how all these aspects will affect workers' well-being, the future system of protection and welfare, rights at work and many other aspects of life.

10. The resolution adopted by the 19th ICLS concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization was ground-breaking in many aspects in that it anticipated many of the aforementioned issues. It paved the way for a better understanding of the world of work, particularly by providing the first ever statistical definition of “work” and also by providing a new way of looking into employment and forms of work which had not been explicit in the past. By adopting bold decisions on how to measure labour underutilization, employment and work using new concepts, the international statistical community showed its commitment to being innovative, forward-looking and rigorous in anticipating the radical changes ahead in the world of work.
11. However, this process is only just beginning. There is a growing need to innovate and apply fresh perspectives. The community of labour statisticians will soon have to provide answers to complex matters. Changes in the standard employment relationship have already impacted the way in which existing concepts can adequately capture the rapid changes occurring in the labour market. Laws and regulations can give rise to many new definitions, and the reality and complexity of the various situations pose great challenges for statisticians in how to capture them. Devising policies to address such complex emerging problems is always one of the priorities of policy-makers, thereby increasing the responsibility placed on labour statisticians. There is a continuous demand from politicians, decision-makers and society for appropriate metrics covering all aspects of these rapid changes. Without appropriate measures, issues may remain invisible and sometimes not addressed until there is a crisis.
12. The work that this 20th ICLS will be discussing on the transition from a traditional international classification of status in employment to revised standards on work relationships (including a revised classification of status in employment and an international classification of status at work) will move precisely in this direction. As it becomes clear that the way in which we have been measuring and classifying concepts is static and is no longer appropriate, there is a need to discuss bold but feasible solutions.

### **1.3. Statistics and the 2030 Agenda**

13. After lengthy political negotiations, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, based on 17 goals and 169 targets, was approved by the UN General Assembly in September 2015. Following the establishment of an expert group on the indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda in February 2015, an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators was established in order to define a global indicator framework to monitor progress on the various targets covering all domains of development. In parallel, a High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was established. After many complex discussions and very tight deadlines, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, in consultation with many stakeholders (including international organizations, civil society and academics), proposed a global indicator framework to the UN Statistical Commission, which was approved by the UN General Assembly in July 2017.
14. Measurement and statistics play an important role in the 2030 Agenda, which clearly states the need to strengthen statistical capacities at the country level, to coordinate between statistical systems and also to undertake regular surveys and ensure adequate funding of the statistical operations within a country in order to monitor progress over time. This was a commitment made by all countries in 2015 and is seen as a landmark in the statistical



---

community. It is one of the few cases where all countries in the world have agreed on concrete statistical efforts to move in one direction.

15. The approved global indicator framework contains several indicators related to labour and decent work statistics. Indeed, the Agenda itself contains a dedicated goal (Goal 8) of achieving decent work for all; there are also many dimensions related to social protection, rights, social dialogue and employment throughout several other goals. As some of the approved indicators still need further refinement or even definitions, a committee will be discussing them at this session of the ICLS.
16. The 2030 Agenda has also called for a “data revolution” in looking for new ways of collecting data, making data more open and accessible, and using new methods to collect and capture variables in general. In addition, the way in which administrative registries could assist in the process of capturing more and timely labour variables and how household and establishment surveys can be strengthened and modernized by using new technologies should be addressed within the context of the discussion on the future of labour statistics.
17. The implementation of the new standards on work, employment and labour underutilization has been a challenge for many countries and also a major undertaking for the ILO. Never before has the Organization invested so many resources in ensuring that the correct procedures, in all their complexities, could be refined to be ready for use by countries. A large number of countries from all regions have actively participated in piloting, testing and adapting their existing instruments regionally and nationally. At the same time, a large number of capacity-building activities and partnerships with other organizations have been undertaken since 2013. To implement such a radical change in the definitions and concepts, the ILO had to assure that the concepts agreed on in 2013 were correctly understood and implemented to capture what had been decided appropriately. To this end, a comprehensive set of activities were undertaken; many of the outcomes of this lengthy process will be presented and discussed at this 20th ICLS. Although the ILO is aware of the long process still to be undertaken by countries, it is also confident that the tools and reports presented in the ICLS will be welcomed and debated intensively, encouraging and facilitating a large-scale implementation.
18. Since 2013, the ILO has also addressed important conceptual issues such as labour migration, informality, skills mismatch, rural employment, forced labour, child labour, cooperatives, gender, volunteer work, disability, wages and labour rights, among many other topics. As the 2030 Agenda has placed the data collection mechanism in the spotlight, the ILO has strengthened its institutional database, ILOSTAT, and the Microdata Repository with a view to lowering the burden of reporting, establishing synergies with other organizations, using new procedures for capturing data and supporting national repositories.

## **2. Decent work and the SDGs**

### **2.1. Global indicator framework**

19. The ILO Department of Statistics participated actively in every stage of the process of creating a global indicator framework for the SDGs, working closely with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators which was mandated to define the framework. Even before the establishment of a proposed list of indicators to monitor progress on the SDGs, the ILO Department of Statistics provided statistical, methodological and analytical inputs to inform the debate, as well as suggestions for additional or replacement indicators, where applicable. Once the proposed list was consolidated, the department promptly began compiling data and reporting on the SDG indicators under the ILO’s custodianship, building capacity and drafting all the required methodological materials to ensure that the relevant

metadata for each indicator would be accurate, timely and widely available (both in ILOSTAT and in the global database of SDG indicators of the UN Statistics Division).

20. Regarding the indicators in the global indicator framework which do not yet have an internationally agreed methodology and thus for which data compilation and reporting for monitoring at the international level have not yet started (referred to as Tier III indicators; see table below), the ILO Department of Statistics is working in close collaboration with member States, constituents, other ILO departments and relevant international agencies to guide the development of a standard methodology, and, in some cases, leading these efforts. The department is the focal point for annual reporting to the UN Statistics Division, and centralizes statistical, methodological and analytical inputs for data and metadata as well as for analytical contributions to key SDG reports.
21. The ILO Department of Statistics has designed and conducted several training activities on the subject of the global indicator framework, with an emphasis on the SDG indicators related to decent work. They cover a broad range of aspects, such as statistical sources, international standards, methodological guidelines, data disaggregation, data interpretation and analysis as well as complementary indicators and indicator frameworks. These training courses were aimed at different audiences, including ILO constituents, national statistical offices, and country groups such as the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. In addition, the Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy in 2017 was devoted to the SDGs.

## 2.2. SDG indicators related to decent work

22. Within the global indicator framework for the SDGs, a number of indicators are related to decent work. Just as the concept of decent work itself, they cover a wide array of labour market issues. The ILO is the sole custodian agency for 11 global SDG indicators, a joint custodian with other agencies for three indicators, and is involved as a partner agency for a further three indicators. The following table shows the global SDG indicators for which the ILO is either a custodian or partner agency, and the other agencies involved.

### Global SDG indicators for which the ILO is either a custodian or partner agency

SDG indicator	Custodian agency/ies	Partner agency/ies	Tier *
1.1.1. Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	World Bank	ILO	I
1.3.1. Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	ILO	World Bank	II
1.a.2. Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)	<i>Under discussion (ILO, UNESCO-UIS, WHO)</i>		II
4.3.1. Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex	UNESCO-UIS	OECD, Eurostat, ILO	II
5.5.2. Proportion of women in managerial positions	ILO		I
8.2.1. Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	ILO	World Bank, UN Statistics Division	I
8.3.1. Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex	ILO		II
8.5.1. Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities	ILO		II

SDG indicator	Custodian agency/ies	Partner agency/ies	Tier *
8.5.2. Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	ILO		I
8.6.1. Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	ILO		I
8.7.1. Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	ILO, UNICEF		II
8.8.1. Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status	ILO		II
8.8.2. Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status	ILO		III
8.b.1. Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy	ILO	World Bank, OECD	III
10.4.1. Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers	ILO	IMF	II
10.7.1. Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination	ILO, World Bank		III
14.c.1. Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources	UN-DOALOS, FAO, UNEP, ILO and other members of UN-Oceans		III
16.10.1. Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months	OHCHR	ILO, UNESCO-UIS	II

\* Tier I: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.  
Tier II: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries.  
Tier III: No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

UNESCO-UIS: Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
WHO: World Health Organization  
OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
IMF: International Monetary Fund  
UN-DOALOS: United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea  
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme  
OHCHR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**23.** On the basis of its mandate and expertise, the ILO is also involved in the methodological development and other statistical aspects of some indicators for which it is neither a custodian nor a partner agency (for instance, indicator 5.4.1 on the proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work).

**24.** Given the ILO's long-standing history in compiling and disseminating labour statistics as well as its position at the core of the international standard-setting process for labour statistics, the Department of Statistics has taken an active role in ensuring data availability, quality and comparability for as many countries as possible in international repositories (namely ILOSTAT and the Global SDG Indicators Database) for the SDG indicators that are related to decent work for which an internationally agreed methodology already exists.

- 
25. Recognizing the importance at the national, regional and international levels of clear methodological guidelines on the main aspects of each relevant indicator to allow for the publication and dissemination of timely, reliable and comparable statistics for the SDG global framework indicators, the ILO Department of Statistics has drafted a guidebook on the SDG indicators pertaining to decent work.<sup>3</sup> This methodological manual includes detailed information on the international standards in force for each of the SDG indicators related to decent work (mainly Tier I and II indicators), as well as the related concepts and definitions, calculation methods, sources of data at the national and international levels and useful disaggregation. In addition to being a valuable source of methodological information, the guidebook also provides insights into the interpretation and use of each indicator, alerts the reader to the indicator's limitations and gives examples of data visualization and analysis. It is intended to be the central reference for sources and methods related to the SDG indicators concerning the labour market.

### 2.3. Activities related to Tier III SDG indicators

26. Many activities have taken place since 2016 in relation to the Tier III indicators that are under the ILO's custodianship, in many cases through active partnerships with other international organizations, together with member States and constituents.
27. With regard to indicator 8.8.2 on labour rights compliance, the ILO has been working with employers, workers and member States to refine the proposed methodology adopted by the UN General Assembly in July 2017, which was originally based on three sources. As a result, textual sources from the ILO supervisory mechanism have been selected as the sole source of the process for coding violations of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) for both workers and employers, and alternatives to better transpose the textual sources through an objective and independent coding process have been discussed in depth. The methodology, based on a comprehensive and detailed list of procedures, was discussed at a tripartite meeting of experts in April 2018, after a series of consultations with employers' and workers' organizations. The 20th ICLS will be discussing and adopting a decision on the methodology to be communicated to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators for its November 2018 meeting.<sup>4</sup>

*Participants in the Conference will be asked to discuss the proposed methodology in a separate Committee with the main objective of recommending it to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators for adoption, as requested by the Group at its March 2017 meeting.*

28. As for indicator 8.b.1 on youth employment programmes, the ILO Employment Policy Department has developed a suggested methodology which will also be discussed during the 20th ICLS for possible submission to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators at its November 2018 meeting.<sup>5</sup>
29. In the case of indicator 10.7.1 (recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination), the ILO and the World Bank have been working together, building on the expertise and experience of experts and studies carried out on the topic under the ILO's collaboration with the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration

<sup>3</sup> ILO: *Decent Work and the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guidebook on SDG Labour Market Indicators*, forthcoming (2018).

<sup>4</sup> Room document 1.

<sup>5</sup> Room document 2.

---

and Development (KNOMAD) on recruitment costs, and have drafted a set of guidelines to propose means of measuring this indicator. The guidelines are being discussed by national statistical offices and other research institutions.

### **3. Developments in methods employed for specific topics of labour statistics**

#### **3.1. Rural labour statistics**

- 30.** Work on rural labour statistics has been developed with the aim of helping countries to better measure labour statistics by rural/urban areas and contributing to closing the data gap on decent work indicators disaggregated by rural/urban area. The work has contributed to the ILO programme and budget outcome on decent work in the rural economy. The ILO has been actively engaged in supporting the advancement of an international definition of “rural/urban” for statistical purposes and participated in two expert meetings organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the definition of rural areas. An international definition of “rural/urban” is considered essential for international reporting of labour statistics by rural/urban areas, such as reporting of indicators related to decent work under the new SDG monitoring framework.
- 31.** The Office also prepared regional studies on rural/urban labour statistics in nine countries in the Asia and the Pacific region and seven countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Each study included a review of household survey questionnaires to help identify and compile national practices regarding the measurement of the geographic location of a person’s job or work activity. The ILO also constructed decent work indicators disaggregated by rural/urban area using household survey microdata for the selected countries from these regions as part of the studies. The SADC study targeted in particular decent work indicators on social dialogue and safe work environment disaggregated by rural/urban areas. In order to study certain vulnerable subpopulations, the indicators were further disaggregated by sex, as well as age (youth and adults) and ethnicity where possible.
- 32.** The ILO analysed some basic labour market indicators for a large set of countries by rural/urban area. The statistical information used for the analysis was collected from different sources, mainly national statistical office websites and international repositories, including ILOSTAT. The ILO rural labour statistics collection on which the analysis was based covered over 100 countries (up to 195 countries for some indicators), with data disaggregated by rural/urban area for a range of topics, such as working-age population, labour force, employment, unemployment, working time, wages and poverty, as well as social security and health protection. The analysis highlighted the importance of establishing a harmonized international statistical definition of rural/urban areas and also the challenges of data availability that limit better cross-country analysis and regional and global estimates of decent work indicators disaggregated by rural/urban areas.
- 33.** The Office produced a policy guidance note on the subject,<sup>6</sup> thereby establishing the ILO’s role as a lead technical partner supporting national stakeholders in strengthening rural labour statistics. The document is part of a broader set of policy guidance notes on promoting decent work in the rural economy, which offer guidance to policy-makers, ILO social partners and

<sup>6</sup> ILO: *Enhancing the Knowledge Base to Support the Promotion of Decent Work in Rural Areas*, undated.

---

development practitioners on ways to effectively address employment- and labour-related issues in the rural context.

34. Much of the abovementioned work on rural labour statistics has served as input for the preparation of a room document on rural labour statistics which will be discussed during the 20th ICLS.<sup>7</sup>

*Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views as to: (a) whether the topic is of interest to their country; (b) whether their country already produces rural/urban labour statistics as part of the regular programmes; and (c) whether they consider that this topic should be discussed in greater depth with a view to producing more comparable statistics and if so, what mechanisms should be put in place to facilitate the process.*

35. The ILO worked in close cooperation with the FAO to support the improvement of agricultural labour statistics. As regards the *World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020*, the ILO was the key contributor to the concepts and definitions incorporated in Volume 1, Chapter 8, Theme 9, “Work on the holding”, which introduced substantial changes with respect to the previous programme in order to align concepts and definitions with those of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization.
36. The Office also participated in a Peer Review Technical Meeting on the FAO’s Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRIS) to discuss the rotating module on labour and field tests, and has provided additional inputs to help support the FAO’s testing of agricultural surveys specifically on work statistics.

### 3.2. Gender mainstreaming in labour statistics

37. The ILO emphasized the topic of gender mainstreaming in labour statistics during the Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy held at the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, Italy. The 2015 Academy’s gender labour statistics experts shared their expertise with labour statisticians, data analysts and senior managers in four sessions on this topic. In all editions of the Academy, gender was mainstreamed throughout the programme and special emphasis was placed on the conceptual framework which allows separate identification of paid and unpaid forms of work and has particular relevance for informing policy-makers on gender equality in the world of work. Knowledge sharing in the Academy focused on encouraging an understanding of key principles of the guidelines produced by the 17th ICLS<sup>8</sup> and on the need for more and better information on decent work indicators and related SDG indicators (including disaggregation by sex) that can inform the policy debate on gender equality in the world of work.
38. The Office prepared training videos on the topics of gender mainstreaming in labour statistics intended for data analysts and for senior managers in labour statistics, which are available on the ILO website.<sup>9</sup> Moreover, selected participants of the 2015 Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy from different geographic regions representing different learning paths (labour statisticians, data analysts and senior managers) are featured in videos

<sup>7</sup> Room document 3.

<sup>8</sup> ILO: *Checklist of good practices for mainstreaming gender in labour statistics*, 17th ICLS, Geneva, 2003.

<sup>9</sup> See <http://www.ilo.org/stat/Areasofwork/Training/lang--en/index.htm>.

---

in which they discuss the importance of gender mainstreaming in labour statistics in their country and what they learned on this topic in the Academy.

39. Through collaboration with the Gender Equality and Diversity Branch of the ILO, the Department of Statistics has promoted the role of the standards of the 19th ICLS in the provision of gender-relevant statistics and closure of data gaps related to the performance of paid and unpaid work. This collaboration is reflected in the recently published report on work in the care economy.<sup>10</sup>

### 3.3. Measurement of quality of employment and decent work

40. The ILO continued to contribute to the measurement of quality of employment, ensuring coherence with the existing Decent Work Measurement Framework and indicators. The Conference of European Statisticians established an Expert Group on Measuring Quality of Employment, which carried out its work from 2012 to 2015. Its objectives were to review the conceptual structure of measuring quality of employment, revise the set of indicators and develop operational definitions and computation guidelines for the indicators. Expert Group members represented six international organizations, including the ILO, and 15 national statistical offices. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) acted as the secretariat. The ILO served on the steering committee and was actively involved in providing technical expertise based on its experience in preparing guidelines on the subject.<sup>11</sup> With contributions from the ILO, the Expert Group prepared the *Handbook on Measuring Quality of Employment* which was endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians in 2015.<sup>12</sup> The framework for measuring quality of employment presented in the handbook is intended to provide a structured and coherent system for measuring quality of employment. The framework includes seven dimensions and 12 sub-dimensions that represent the structure under which a set of 67 statistical indicators is organized.
41. In 2015, the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians mandated a new steering group to continue coordinating the measurement of quality of employment. The ILO has participated in this steering group to provide follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations in the handbook and identify priority areas for further work and research to support countries in measuring quality of employment.
42. The Office prepared a comparative analysis of the Decent Work Measurement Framework and the Framework for Measuring Quality of Employment which considers the similarities, differences and complementarities characterizing the two frameworks. This work was shared during the 2017 World Statistics Congress in Marrakech, Morocco, and the WORK2017 Conference in Turku, Finland. Also in 2017, the ILO presented information during the UNECE Meeting of the Group of Experts on Measuring Quality of Employment related to development options to address the impact of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS on the Framework for Measuring Quality of Employment.

<sup>10</sup> ILO: *Care work and care jobs for the future of decent work*, Geneva, 2018.

<sup>11</sup> ILO: *Decent Work Indicators – Guidelines for producers and users of statistical and legal framework indicators*, first published in 2012, second edition 2013.

<sup>12</sup> UNECE: *Handbook on Measuring Quality of Employment: A Statistical Framework*, prepared by the Expert Group on Measuring Quality of Employment, 2015.

---

### 3.4. From ICSE-93 to statistics on work relationships

43. The International Classification of Status in Employment adopted in 1993 (ICSE-93) was a resolution of the 15th ICLS. It defines the widely used distinction between self-employment and paid employment and specifies the following five substantive categories, the last four of which constitute the self-employed: (i) employees; (ii) employers; (iii) own-account workers; (iv) members of producers' cooperatives; and (v) contributing family workers.
44. However, these five categories do not provide sufficient information to adequately monitor the changes in employment arrangements that are taking place in many countries, and are not sufficiently detailed to monitor various forms of non-standard employment. A variety of new, or non-standard, types of employment arrangements that aim to increase flexibility in the labour market have generated a strong demand for statistical information to monitor their impact on workers, on employers and on the functioning of the labour market. Some of these arrangements change the balance of economic risk between workers and enterprises and create uncertainty about the boundary between self-employment and paid employment.
45. There was a strong consensus at the 19th ICLS on the need to revise ICSE-93. The specific concerns that needed to be addressed included:
  - (a) the need to cover all forms of work specified in the resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization adopted by the 19th ICLS and to reflect the narrower definition of employment;
  - (b) the relevance and usefulness of the distinction between paid employment and self-employment, given the increasing number of types of employment arrangements that do not fit comfortably into either category;
  - (c) the boundary between self-employment and paid employment, particularly with respect to working proprietors of incorporated enterprises and dependent workers who have contractual arrangements of a commercial nature;
  - (d) the applicability of the standards to informal employment situations, especially the situation of informal employees;
  - (e) the need for greater detail to allow the identification of workers in various non-standard forms of employment, such as casual, short-term, temporary and seasonal employees, and workers with arrangements such as zero-hours contracts;
  - (f) the need for guidelines on data collection, questionnaire design, and derivation and adaptation of the standards for national use.
46. To assist in the development of proposals to replace ICSE-93, the ILO established a working group comprising producers and users of labour and economic statistics from national government agencies in all regions, intergovernmental agencies, and employers' and workers' organizations. This group met four times between May 2015 and September 2017. To widen the consultation process and obtain feedback on the proposals developed by the working group, the ILO also conducted a series of preparatory regional meetings of labour statisticians in all regions of the world in late 2016 and throughout 2017. These meetings focused on both the relevance to the regional context and the technical feasibility of the proposed new standards.
47. It became clear early in the development of the proposals that it would not be possible to design a single set of mutually exclusive categories that would satisfy the very different purposes for which statistics on work relationships are required, and to identify all of the groups about which statistics are needed. It was therefore agreed to develop a suite of



---

standards for statistics on the relationships between workers and the economic unit for which they work, rather than incorporating a number of overlapping concepts and characteristics in a single complex classification.

48. To ensure the statistical feasibility of the proposals, data collection guidelines were developed and tested (to the extent possible) in parallel with the conceptual development work. They provide guidance on the collection of statistics on work relationships in labour force surveys, as well as on the use of reduced sets of questions in statistical collections where the fully detailed categories are not collected.
49. In accordance with the ICLS mechanism, the ILO Governing Body convened a Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics in Preparation for the 20th ICLS in February 2018, at which experts discussed and reviewed the draft proposals.

*The Conference will be asked to evaluate the revised draft standards in a dedicated Committee, and make appropriate recommendations concerning their adoption by the ILO Governing Body.*

50. The proposed standards for statistics on work relationships include a revised International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-18), an International Classification of Status at Work (ICSaW-18) which extends ICSE-18 to cover all forms of work, and a set of cross-cutting variables and categories. These proposals are integrated under a conceptual framework which defines the key concepts, variables and classification schemes included.
51. The proposed ICSE-18 comprises ten relatively detailed categories, which may be aggregated according to two alternative classification structures. The first structure, based on the type of authority that the worker exercises over the economic unit for which he or she works, provides categories at its top level for “independent workers” and “dependent workers”. The second structure, based on the type of economic risk to which the worker is exposed, creates a dichotomy between “workers in employment for profit” and “workers in employment for pay”. This latter dichotomy is similar to the traditional distinction between self-employment and paid employment.
52. The ten categories in the proposed ICSE-18 provide more detail than those in ICSE-93. They include four subcategories of employees which allow identification of those with non-standard employment arrangements, separate categories for owner-operators of corporations and a separate category for dependent contractors. The distinctions made in ICSE-93 between employers, own-account workers, contributing family workers and employees have been retained. A separate category for members of producers’ cooperatives, however, has not been retained.
53. The need for information on the growing group of workers frequently referred to as the “dependent self-employed” was among the most challenging but also most important objectives of the revision work. These are workers who hold jobs in which they do not have full control over the entity for which the work is performed, are not employees of that entity and have contractual arrangements of a commercial nature. Since these jobs do not fit comfortably into any of the substantive categories in ICSE-93, they are currently frequently classified either as own-account workers or as employees, resulting in over-estimation of one or the other (or both) of these groups. As a result, it is difficult to monitor structural changes in this sizeable and growing form of employment, as well as among employees and independent workers. The category of “dependent contractors” is proposed to address this information need.

- 
54. The proposed ICSaW-18 covers all forms of work, including own-use production work, volunteer work and unpaid trainee work, as well as employment. Its purpose is to allow the production of conceptually consistent statistics on different populations and from different sources, rather than to enable, in its entirety, the compilation of statistics from any particular survey. The categories in the classification of status at work are defined in such a way as to allow the provision of separate statistics on activities within and beyond the production boundary of the System of National Accounts.
  55. The set of cross-cutting variables and categories complement the classifications according to status by providing definitions and categories for types of arrangement that cut across several status categories and more detailed information on the degree of stability and permanence of the work. The majority of these variables are regularly included in most labour force surveys but are not covered by internationally agreed statistical standards. The proposals therefore seek not only to promote more relevant and detailed statistics on status in employment but also to promote greater harmonization, coherence and international comparability of statistics on various aspects of the contractual and other conditions in which work is performed.
  56. If adopted, the resolution concerning statistics on work relationships will require the ILO to undertake further work, in close collaboration with countries and organizations, to support the implementation of the resolution.
  57. The draft data collection guidelines and conceptual framework for statistics on work relationships, published as room documents, will need to be updated in order to reflect the resolution as finally adopted.<sup>13</sup> These documents will ultimately be published as part of a comprehensive manual on statistics on work relationships. Since the data collection guidelines will need to be updated continuously as more experience is gained regarding best practices for measuring the new framework, it is likely that this manual will initially be published in electronic form only, as a living document. In addition, room documents are being presented on: dependent contractors; owner-operators of corporations; domestic workers; multi-party work arrangements; and testing of the proposals for ICSE-18.<sup>14</sup>
  58. There will also be a need to conduct further conceptual and methodological work, including testing, especially with a focus on areas that have not yet been fully developed, such as how to best operationalize the measurement of dependent contractors, and guidelines on how to measure status at work in the different unpaid forms of work.
  59. Provision of technical assistance, training and capacity building to national statistical agencies, relevant statistical services in line ministries, and other relevant stakeholders, including employers' and workers' representatives, will be required to support the implementation. This would include aspects such as data collection and dissemination, interpretation of the new standards and communication of their impact.

*Participants in the Conference will be invited to express their views on these follow-up activities during the sessions of the Committee established by the Conference to consider the draft resolution on work relationships, which will possibly be reflected in the agreed text.*

<sup>13</sup> Room documents 4 and 5.

<sup>14</sup> Room documents 6–10.

---

### 3.5. Implementation of the resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization

60. The resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization adopted by the 19th ICLS in 2013<sup>15</sup> replaced the previous standards from 1982 and related guidelines, which had played a critical role as a reference for national programmes on labour force statistics. Major changes introduced by the new standards included: a conceptual framework that recognizes all paid and unpaid work as productive activity and promotes their comprehensive but separate measurement; a more refined measure of employment as “work for pay or profit” and a set of measures of labour underutilization that complement the unemployment rate to support better monitoring of labour markets; as well as separate concepts, definitions and indicators of participation in different forms of unpaid work, particularly in own-use production work (including in subsistence farming and fishing and in the provision of unpaid household services), unpaid trainee work and volunteer work to render visible their contribution to households, communities and national economies.
61. These refinements to the international statistical standards respond to demands for more targeted measures to inform the formulation and monitoring of a wide range of economic, labour market and social policies and programmes. Their impact on official labour market statistics is expected to vary depending on the socio-economic context and the existing data collection practices of countries. However, they are expected to be especially relevant in countries and areas where subsistence activities are widespread, where labour markets are of limited scope, and for groups predominantly engaged in forms of work that are unpaid, especially women.
62. The implications for current labour force statistics programmes will ultimately depend on the current practices in any given country. At a basic level, the most immediate practical impact is that questionnaires, such as those for the labour force survey, will need to reflect the changes in definitions outlined above.
63. Implementation of the new standards in surveys, in particular household surveys, will need to be carefully planned and applied, including appropriate testing programmes. Plans should be developed in consultation with key stakeholders and sufficient time and resources should be allocated to ensure the appropriate quality of the data generated.
64. Supporting the transition to the new standards is an important part of the ILO’s work programme. Recognizing the implementation challenges and the ILO’s remit, the 19th ICLS called on the ILO to conduct further conceptual and methodological work, including testing as well as to promote the sharing of good practices among countries through a collaborative mechanism between countries, international, regional and subregional organizations, and workers’ and employers representatives.<sup>16</sup> Consequently, during the period from 2013 to 2018, the ILO embarked on a range of activities to support the implementation of the new standards at the national and global levels, covering methodological development and testing, direct technical assistance, capacity building and inter-agency coordination, as described below.

<sup>15</sup> ILO: [Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization](#), Resolution I, 19th ICLS (Geneva, 2013).

<sup>16</sup> *ibid*, para. 96.

---

### 3.5.1. ILO labour force survey pilot study programme

65. Between 2015 and 2017, the ILO implemented a global programme of pilot studies on labour force surveys to test alternative approaches to implementing the new standards in household surveys. The pilot studies were implemented with the collaboration of ten countries from four major world regions: in Africa: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Namibia and Tunisia; in the Americas: Ecuador and Peru; in Asia: the Philippines and Viet Nam; and in Central Asia and Eastern Europe: Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova. Their successful completion was possible thanks to the high-level commitment and human resource and financial contributions of the national statistical offices of the ten pilot countries. The African Development Bank and Data2X, with the support of the UN Foundation, provided further support for activities to promote knowledge sharing among pilot countries and with partner agencies.
66. The studies were designed to compare the operation of five different model questionnaire sequences, drawn from international practices. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were applied to enable a thorough assessment.
67. The ILO has published a series of reports describing the methodology, process and the main findings of the pilot studies.<sup>17</sup> The reports are wide-ranging, in line with the broad scope of the studies themselves. They include detailed findings on topics such as:
- measurement of employment;
  - measurement of unemployment and the potential labour force;
  - measurement of working time and time-related underemployment;
  - measurement of own-use production of goods and own-use provision of services;
  - measurement of activities in agriculture and fishing.
68. The following are some of the key conclusions:
- (a) Employment can be measured, and comparable results achieved, through different sequences of questions. However, some key elements are needed to ensure comprehensive identification, such as the appropriate use of recovery questions, appropriate adaptation to national circumstances, and so on.
  - (b) A common sequence of questions on job search, desire to work and availability for work is suitable for identifying unemployed persons and the potential labour force, as part of the measures of labour underutilization. Questions on desire to work and availability to work are consistently understood as intended by different groups of the population, including women and men, and persons living in rural and urban settings.
  - (c) National testing and adaptation are critical features of any questionnaire development process. There was ample evidence from the pilot studies that direct, literal translation of questionnaires between languages can lead to difficulties in comprehension and reporting for respondents. In addition, questions should be adapted to ensure that any examples quoted or specific terminology are relevant to the national socio-economic context. This can only be achieved through an appropriately planned and implemented national process incorporating adequate testing.

<sup>17</sup> See the ILO website: "[Main findings from the ILO LFS pilot studies](#)".

- 
69. The complete published findings are extensive and should be reviewed by those countries planning adaptations to existing national questionnaires or developing new labour force survey questionnaires. The findings and background documents are available on the ILO website.<sup>18</sup>

### **3.5.2. ILO–World Bank–Data2X joint pilot study**

70. At the global level, the ILO is a member of the Women’s Work and Employment partnership, which was established in 2014 as a mechanism to support the implementation of the latest ICLS standards, with a particular focus on their significance for the production of gender-relevant statistics. This partnership brought together international agencies with a particular role in the production of statistics on labour and work, namely the ILO, the World Bank and the FAO, supported by Data2X. Initially the partnership focused on providing a knowledge-sharing platform and promoting coordination in the piloting activities of the agencies. This proved to be very valuable for all agencies involved. The collaboration highlighted further synergies which could be achieved through more direct cooperation between the agencies leading to a second stage of the partnership. The ILO is grateful for the ongoing support of Data2X for its continued work, which is addressing an area in high demand, namely the most appropriate methods to implement the latest standards across different contexts.
71. Under the partnership, a joint pilot study, co-led by the ILO and the World Bank Group and supported by Data2X, has been organized and is scheduled to be conducted in Sri Lanka in 2018 and 2019. This pilot study extends the evidence gathered during the earlier pilot studies by allowing more direct comparisons between the labour force survey and other types of household surveys – in this case, a living standards measurement survey – through which labour is measured. The data generated will be used to assess the measurement of various labour-related concepts through both instruments, and enable a comparison of outcomes across the two questionnaires. The outcome from this work will serve as guidance on the implementation of the new standards in different survey types, which can be an important tool for countries that are facing decisions on how to collect work and labour data through different mechanisms.

### **3.5.3. Related methodological and technical coordination activities**

72. During the period 2014–18, the ILO provided technical support to several regional initiatives aimed at testing approaches to adapting and implementing the new standards, taking into account regional priorities and specificities. In Latin America, a pilot study project for the promotion of regional public goods was launched in 2016 under the initiative of five countries from the region (Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru and Uruguay). The pilot studies were implemented between 2016 and 2017 with the financial support of the Inter-American Development Bank, coordination by the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), and technical backstopping by the ILO. Following the methodology of the ILO global pilot programme, the studies included cognitive interviewing and field tests. The topics covered included: employment and labour underutilization, as newly defined; the boundary between employment and own-use production of goods; volunteer work; and identification of dependent contractors. One of the ultimate aims of the regional public goods project is to identify good practices and share recommendations with other countries from the region in 2018.

<sup>18</sup> See the ILO website: “[Main findings from the ILO LFS pilot studies](#)”.

- 
73. In Central Asia, under the leadership of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a project entitled “Development of labour statistics in the CIS region”, which was financed by a World Bank trust fund, with the Russian Federation as the donor, tested and developed tools for measuring some forms of work according to the new definitions, with the support of the National Statistical Committee of Belarus. Based on these tests, the project then developed recommendations for national agencies in the region.
74. The ILO also participated in several task forces established by the Labour Market Statistics Working Group of Eurostat. A core part of the work has been the development and testing of model question sequences on employment and unemployment, which are aligned with the new standards. ILO participation in the Eurostat task forces has been instrumental to ensuring close coordination and coherence in the methodological work and tests being led by both organizations.

#### **3.5.4. Technical assistance and capacity building related to Resolution I of the 19th ICLS**

75. During the period 2014–18, the ILO conducted several regional training workshops covering the main elements of the new ICLS standards as well as other topics of high priority, which increasingly include the SDG targets related to decent work. Regional workshops were held in: Chile (2015), China (2014), Fiji (2015), Italy (2016), Japan (2017), Republic of Korea (2015), New Caledonia (2014), Oman (2014), Panama (2014), South Africa (2014 and 2015), the United Republic of Tanzania (2017) and Thailand (2017).
76. In addition, direct technical assistance, including national workshops, awareness raising with senior management, advice on planning and methodological tests, and related activities, was provided to the following countries and territories: In Africa: Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia; in Asia and the Pacific: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Tuvalu and Viet Nam; in the Americas: Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay; and in the Middle East and North Africa: Egypt and Tunisia.
77. This process has involved substantial resources from the ILO, both at headquarters and through the network of ILO statisticians in the field offices. Where possible, the ILO has collaborated with other agencies to ensure the widest possible outreach for events such as training workshops. The feedback from these events has been very positive, but there is also a strong message that there is a need for continued and increased support.
78. Starting in 2019, the ILO plans to focus on updating existing training programmes and on the delivery of updated capacity-building programmes. One route will be future editions of the Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy, which has successfully delivered training to hundreds of labour force survey practitioners and users in recent years, and will continue to be a key instrument for the delivery of comprehensive training on issues relating to labour market statistics. The Academy is discussed in more detail in section 5 below. The ILO will continue to seek the support and collaboration of other agencies and donors in rolling out its capacity-building programme over the coming years.

---

### **3.5.5. Partnerships and inter-agency coordination**

79. Recognizing the strong interest in statistics on work and labour, the ILO has developed partnerships to support its work programme in recent years, and plans to build on those partnerships to support future activities. Several of them have a strong focus on the standards agreed at the 19th ICLS.
80. The ILO is engaged in a strategic partnership with the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT) and the African Development Bank to support the development of labour statistics in Africa with a particular focus on the new framework for work statistics and the SDG indicators related to decent work.
81. To support the further development of labour statistics globally, the ILO is collaborating with other agencies, including the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

### **3.5.6. Practical guidance on implementing Resolution I of the 19th ICLS**

82. Following the completion of the aforementioned global pilot study programme on labour force surveys, the ILO began preparing an updated suite of practical tools and guidance for labour force surveys, which will be published on an ongoing basis. This has included the publication of model labour force survey questionnaires, with accompanying guidelines for adaptation at the national level; an interviewer manual; and reference materials specifying the coverage of indicators of the model labour force survey questionnaires and computation rules. Additional survey modules to support disaggregation of key labour market indicators, including reporting under the SDG indicators, have also been made available.
83. The model labour force survey questionnaires have been published in formats suitable for both pen-and-paper interviewing (PAPI) and computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI). The latter tool includes pre-developed modules and an online programme builder application; the data collection application can be configured to incorporate modules according to the survey objectives of the country. The CAPI application is generated in CSPro for Android, and can be run on tablets and smartphones. The application includes electronic interviewer aids in English, French and Spanish, as well as automated data quality checks and data processing procedures for the calculation of selected key indicators. A basic Field Operations Management module will be made available for countries wishing to administer the survey (including sample distribution and substitution, and data synchronization), which will provide real-time information on survey development through a Management Dashboard. The ILO plans to collaborate with selected countries to test and improve the usability of the tools.
84. The ILO will also be producing additional guidance on labour force surveys to provide practical support to countries in the implementation of surveys to capture information on work and the labour force. This guidance will provide a wide range of related information on measurement (definitions of concepts and question sequences) and indicator generation (definitions and instructions on derivation from question sequences), as well as more general support on the implementation of household surveys (such as good practices in survey design and testing).
85. Collectively, these different materials will serve as a comprehensive and user-friendly reference point for countries looking to apply good practices and the latest standards in implementing their household surveys for the measurement of work and labour force

---

statistics. A strong emphasis is placed on the need for appropriate national adaptation, translation and testing to produce high-quality data to meet the demands of both national and international data.

### **3.5.7. Population censuses and Resolution I of the 19th ICLS**

86. To support the 2020 round of Population and Housing Censuses, the ILO participated in the expert group meetings set up by the UN Statistics Division and the UN Economic Commission for Europe, and contributed to the updating of the international recommendations on the topic, to be aligned with the standards adopted by the 19th ICLS. Updated census recommendations, aligned with the new standards, have now been published by the UN.<sup>19</sup> The ILO has also provided technical support to countries wishing to align their census questionnaire with the standards of the 19th ICLS.

*Participants in the Conference may wish to reflect on the range of tools currently available and consider how best to ensure wide application of the standards and the types of support needed to disseminate the standards and tools, including through capacity-building activities. Participants may wish to express their opinion on the highest-priority areas for further methodological work to be undertaken relating to Resolution I of the 19th ICLS. In addition, participants may wish to indicate possible partnerships which could be developed to promote this work.*

## **3.6. Labour migration statistics**

### **3.6.1. Developments in the conceptual framework on labour migration statistics**

87. High-quality and up-to-date labour migration statistics are a prerequisite for designing, implementing and monitoring evidence-based labour migration policies. However, there is still a lack of comprehensive official statistical data on migrant workers at the national, regional and global levels. Two main obstacles to the collection and comparability of labour migration statistics are the absence of international statistical standards on concepts and definitions and the lack of a common methodology, and inadequate data collection systems in developing countries.
88. In October 2013, the 19th ICLS adopted a resolution concerning further work on labour migration statistics, recommending that the Office should: “(a) set up a working group with the aim of sharing good practices, discussing and developing a workplan for defining international standards on labour migration statistics that can inform labour market and migration policies, [and] (b) prepare a progress report for discussion [at the 20th ICLS]”.<sup>20</sup>
89. Based on this resolution, a Working Group on Labour Migration Statistics was established to provide guidance on agreed international standards, concepts and definitions and to foster the exchange of experience among compilers of information, with the aim of overcoming the main obstacle to the production of coherent statistics on labour migration, namely, the

<sup>19</sup> See UNECE, Conference of European Statisticians: [Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing](#), 2015, and the website of the [UN Statistics Division](#).

<sup>20</sup> See ILO: [Report of the Conference](#), 19th ICLS, Geneva, 2–11 October 2013, p. 68.



---

lack of harmonization among countries, and even within countries, regarding data on labour migration from different agencies.

90. Draft guidelines on labour migration statistics, appended to the room document on that subject, were developed based on the discussions and suggestions made in the three meetings of the Working Group. The draft guidelines suggest a conceptual framework and statistical definitions for key concepts in labour migration.<sup>21</sup>

*Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views on: (a) the relevance and feasibility of measuring international labour migration using a harmonized set of definitions; (b) the suitability of the proposed definitions of “international workers”, “for-work international migrants” and “return migrant workers”, as proposed in the draft guidelines; and (c) the future steps in developing international statistical standards on the topic.*

### **3.6.2. Database on labour migration statistics**

91. Through the Tripartite Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region project (ASEAN TRIANGLE), the ILO produced the first database of international labour migration statistics covering the region in more than ten years. The ten countries concerned were: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Following two successful rounds of data collection (in November 2013 and July 2014), the data were disseminated in ILOSTAT, as a unique source freely available to users online. The number of countries included in the database was later extended to include six Arab States (Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman and Yemen). Thanks to a Memorandum of Understanding between the ILO and Statistics Korea, a further 11 countries were subsequently added (Australia, Azerbaijan, Fiji, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Turkey).
92. The international labour migration statistics database is based on 19 standardized tables defined across three separate modules: international migrant stock, international migrant flow, and nationals abroad. The relevant data are collected through focal points identified by each member State. Work is currently under way to revise the content and format of the questionnaire used by the database, which will gradually be integrated into the annual ILOSTAT questionnaire.

### **3.6.3. ILO methodological questionnaires on international labour migration statistics**

93. In order to identify best practices, the ILO sent a survey containing seven different types of questionnaires to the national statistical offices of all member States, requesting that the appropriate unit of the national statistical office and/or the ministry or agency responsible for a particular data source complete each relevant questionnaire. Depending upon the data sources available, more than one government ministry or agency may have been required to respond to the same questionnaire. While not all countries completed all questionnaires, some countries provided more than one response to at least one of the seven types of questionnaires (for example, by providing information on more than one household survey). Of the 190 countries, territories or other relevant administrative units that were initially contacted, 128 returned at least one questionnaire, and a total of 480 questionnaires were received. The main findings of the survey were presented at the ILO’s Working Group on

<sup>21</sup> Room document 11.

---

Labour Migration Statistics, and a detailed report on the analyses of the responses will be published in 2018.

94. Labour migration is a rising policy priority in today's globalized world, as economic hardship and geopolitical crises lead to a lack of decent work, thus resulting in larger and more diverse migratory movements. Ageing populations and declining labour forces are also contributing to the increasing mobility of workers in many economies, including emerging economies. Moreover, women are joining migration flows in growing numbers as independent workers, with substantial consequences for gender equality in countries of origin and destination alike. However, a lack of accurate, reliable and comprehensive data on migrant workers is often mentioned as one of the key obstacles to countering misperceptions about migration and supporting targeted policy-making in this area.
95. In 2015, the ILO produced its first global estimates on labour migration.<sup>22</sup> The rigorous and systematic methodology made it possible, for the first time, to obtain accurate information on the magnitude of labour migration globally and regionally; the report presents labour migration by sex, national income level, and branch of economic activity.

### 3.7. Measurement of volunteer work

96. In October 2013, the 19th ICLS recognized and defined volunteer work as one of the main forms of work, and recommended that countries measure it regularly, in order to be able to estimate its contribution to the well-being of households and the development of countries. In September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized the importance of the volunteer work for development, calling on governments and public institutions to work closely on implementation with volunteer groups and to include their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in national reports.
97. These two important events raised countries' interest in developing statistical tools and collecting data on volunteer work. Only a small number of countries, mainly developed ones, have well-established, dedicated data sources to produce estimates regularly. Many countries have to invest time and resources to design and test data collection instruments. In 2011, the ILO published a manual containing the first recommendations and guidelines on statistical measurement of volunteer work, which were endorsed by the international community of labour statisticians.<sup>23</sup> Many countries took the measurement model recommended by the ILO as the basis for the development of national surveys and have collected or are planning to collect data on volunteering.
98. However, the adoption in 2013 of new standards on statistics of work and the experience accumulated by countries meant that a review of the ILO recommendations on measuring volunteer work was necessary. Moreover, during the 19th ICLS, delegates stressed the need for clarifications on several issues related to the borders between volunteer work and other forms of work, and the need to develop statistical tools that could be used to better measure direct volunteering, especially in connection with natural or man-made disasters.

<sup>22</sup> ILO: *ILO global estimates on migrant workers: Results and methodology – Special focus on migrant workers*, 2015.

<sup>23</sup> ILO: *Manual on the measurement of volunteer work*, 2011. The draft was approved by the 18th ICLS, Geneva, 2008.

- 
99. To address the issues raised by the 19th ICLS and national statistical offices, the ILO has progressively strengthened its activities to advance the measurement of volunteer work, as described below.
100. The ILO provided technical support to several regional initiatives aimed at testing approaches to adapting and implementing the new standards, taking into account regional priorities and specificities. In Latin America, a pilot survey project for the promotion of regional public goods was launched in 2016 under the initiative of five countries in the region (Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru and Uruguay), three of which (Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay) chose to include volunteer work in their tests. The project results are expected to be available later in 2018.
101. In November 2017, the ILO established a partnership with the UN Volunteers Programme to update the measurement tools recommended by the ILO, promote the measurement of volunteer work by official statistics worldwide and encourage the inclusion of statistics on volunteer work in national reports on progress towards the SDGs. As part of this partnership, in early 2018, the ILO conducted a global review of national practices in measuring volunteer work, in order to identify issues and best practices. The results of the review were used to inform the design of experimental modules, suitable for attachment to national labour force surveys and related household surveys. Close to 100 countries answered the ILO questionnaire. The results of the review will be made available to the Conference participants as a room document.<sup>24</sup>
102. The ILO also launched a set of tests to evaluate the experimental modules on volunteer work developed in accordance with the existing guidance in the ILO *Manual on the measurement of volunteer work*. The tests, to be conducted in collaboration with partner national statistical offices and UN Volunteers, include a qualitative evaluation of the questionnaire design using cognitive interviewing techniques, as well as a quantitative and operational evaluation through experimental field tests. The data collected in the tests will be used to develop survey tools with a view to being piloted in nationally representative surveys in 2019 and 2020, in collaboration with interested national statistical offices from different regions.

*Participants in the Conference are invited to express their opinions on the ongoing work on the measurement of volunteer work and in particular indicate their support for continued development and testing of volunteer work with a view to the provision of updated guidance and an updated manual on the measurement of volunteer work.*

### 3.8. Consumer price indices

103. The ILO, in collaboration with the UNECE, continues to organize a biennial meeting of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices, the latest of which took place on 7–9 May 2018 in Geneva. It was attended by 100 experts from statistical offices, international organizations and research institutions. Papers were presented on a number of topics, including new data sources, treatment of services, various methodological issues in the compilation of consumer price indices (CPIs), and understanding and meeting different user needs. There were also poster sessions on various topics, panel discussions on past, current and future challenges in CPI compilation, and a special session for countries of Southeast

<sup>24</sup> Room document 12.

---

and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The ILO presented a paper describing the changes in national CPIs and international standards over the last hundred years.<sup>25</sup>

104. The Office continues to participate actively in the work of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics which was established in 1998, and has overall responsibility for the preparation of manuals on all types of price indices.
105. Since the publication of the 2004 CPI manual,<sup>26</sup> methods and best practices have continued to evolve. At the 2014 meeting of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices, countries expressed a need for the manual to better reflect current best practices and to include more practical advice on compilation. Therefore, the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics supported an update of the manual, with a plan developed by a dedicated Technical Expert Group.
106. This update is not intended to include fundamental or comprehensive changes; instead, the main objectives are: (i) to provide clearer and more prescriptive recommendations and guidelines in cases where research, methodological development and practical experience warrant such recommendations and guidelines, and where this is found useful; (ii) to take into account experience gained on the applicability and usefulness of the 2004 manual; (iii) to incorporate relevant developments in methods and practices, as well as theory and research over the last decade; (iv) to update material on data sources, data collection methods and related calculation methods to reflect developments since 2004; (v) to reflect recent developments in user needs; and (vi) to harmonize the CPI concepts in line with the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA).
107. The draft chapters are available for consultations and comments.<sup>27</sup> After the final draft is approved by the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics, a formal consultation of countries will take place before the updated manual is submitted to the UN Statistical Commission for endorsement in 2019.
108. The ILO continues to maintain the website of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Price Statistics and to disseminate monthly and annual series of CPI estimates. However, following an agreement between all interested international organizations, and with a view to reducing the reporting burden, the ILO no longer compiles the data; instead, they are now compiled by the IMF and the OECD on behalf of all agencies.

### 3.9. Statistics on employment in the environmental sector and green jobs

109. In 2013, the 19th ICLS endorsed guidelines concerning a statistical definition of employment in the environmental sector and green jobs, which provide definitions of the main concepts, measurement methods and potential sources of data.<sup>28</sup> Given the fact that the definitions and measurement both of employment in the environmental sector and of green jobs were still in an experimental phase, the Conference requested that the ILO continue to develop data collection tools, test the tools and accumulate country experiences

<sup>25</sup> ILO: *Official Consumer Price Indices – Historical perspective*, paper presented at the meeting of the Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices, 7–9 May 2018, Geneva.

<sup>26</sup> ILO et al.: *Consumer price index manual: Theory and practice*, 2014.

<sup>27</sup> See IMF: “Update of the Consumer Price Index Manual”.

<sup>28</sup> See ILO: *Report of the Conference*, op cit., Appendix I.

---

based on the guidelines, and research methodologies for estimating employment in the environmental sector and green jobs.

**110.** In line with the above, since the 19th ICLS:

- (a) The Office has advanced in the development of new instruments for collecting information on employment in the environmental sector and materials to support the implementation of the guidelines. Two modules on employment in the production of environmental outputs and in environmental processes have been developed, for inclusion in the regular labour force survey and establishment survey. Instructions for completing the form as well as tabulation plans have also been developed.
- (b) Progress has been made on the testing of the relevance and suitability of the conceptual framework of the guidelines and the methodology developed for collecting data on employment in the environmental sector. Pilot studies were conducted in Albania (in 2013) and Mongolia (in 2014) and a survey was carried out in Mongolia (in 2016) on the measurement of employment in the environmental sector and green jobs. A comprehensive report presenting the results of both of the green jobs surveys in Mongolia was published in 2017. The report includes statistics on both the quantity and quality of jobs in the environmental sector. A number of other countries, including Barbados, Nigeria, the Philippines and Senegal, have expressed interest in testing and implementing the ILO guidelines on measuring employment in the environmental sector and green jobs.
- (c) The third conference of the Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network (GAIN) in 2017 saw the launch of a training guidebook to support countries in assessing the labour market impacts of transitions to greener economies and the related structural changes and in implementing the Paris Agreement on climate change.<sup>29</sup> It includes four learning modules: Module 1 describes what green employment projection models are and how they will help with designing and refining policies. Module 2 provides guidance on the concepts and statistical definitions concerning the green economy and green jobs as well as practical steps in generating statistics on employment in the environmental sector and green jobs from various sources. Module 3 explains how to expand conventional input–output tables to feature green industries and jobs, and how to build a static comparative employment projection model. Module 4 provides guidance on assessing income distribution effects using supply and use tables and social accounting matrices. The main intended audience of the training guidebook is policy-makers, statisticians, analysts and researchers in ministries, national statistics offices, employers’ and workers’ organizations, research institutions and universities, and international organizations.
- (d) Several capacity-building activities have been carried out to support and strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of member States in developing statistics on employment in the environmental sector and green jobs. Training workshops were provided in 2014 and 2016 as part of the Academy on the Green Economy organized in collaboration with the Partnership for Action on the Green Economy, in 2017 as part of the 2017 Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy on measuring decent work in the context of the SDGs, and in 2018 as part of an awareness-raising workshop in Bahrain on response measures to climate change, which was organized in collaboration with the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

<sup>29</sup> ILO: *How to measure and model social and employment outcomes of climate and sustainable development policies: Training guidebook*, Green Jobs Assessment Institutions Network, 2017.

---

### 3.10. Disability statistics

111. The 2006 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, sets forth the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others, and includes provisions on the collection and dissemination of statistical data.<sup>30</sup> Consequently, labour market indicators are essential for developing, monitoring and evaluating policies and programmes aimed at supporting the labour rights of persons with disabilities.
112. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes persons with disabilities as a vulnerable group and calls for their empowerment. It commits member States to enhancing capacity-building support for developing countries to increase availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by disability, among other factors. There is an explicit reference to disability under many targets and indicators related to decent work, including target 8.5, “[b]y 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value”.
113. Promoting equal opportunity and treatment in employment is a central element of the ILO Decent Work Agenda. The 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization indicates that various forms of equality and non-discrimination must be considered to be cross-cutting issues in the strategic objectives of decent work. An ILO manual on decent work indicators therefore proposes the development of an indicator for the evaluation of the employment situation of people with disabilities.<sup>31</sup>
114. Although there is a strong policy interest in establishing and monitoring the effectiveness and impact of national legislation, programmes and policies to promote equal employment opportunity and treatment in employment for people with disabilities, comprehensive data on the employment situation of this population group are rarely available with the required level of detail and frequency.
115. To assess the situation, in 2015 the ILO Department of Statistics, in collaboration with the Disability Equality and Exclusion Group of the ILO Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch, compiled methodological information from around 140 national censuses and surveys used in 118 countries and territories to compile statistics on the labour force characteristics of people with disabilities.<sup>32</sup>
116. In order to provide data for monitoring the progress towards SDG target 8.5, the ILO Department of Statistics has begun systematically compiling and disseminating the unemployment rate by disability status on an annual basis. Data on social protection needed for monitoring progress towards SDG target 1.3 are compiled mainly through the ILO Social Security Inquiry, the ILO’s annual collection of administrative data from national ministries of labour, social security, welfare, finance and others.
117. An analysis of the information compiled shows that availability of data on disability has improved significantly over the years as the number of countries collecting data on disability has progressively increased. This can be attributed mainly to continued international

<sup>30</sup> UN: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, articles 27 and 31.

<sup>31</sup> ILO: *Decent work indicators: Guidelines for producers and users of statistical and legal framework indicators*, second edition, Geneva, 2013.

<sup>32</sup> ILO: *Statistics on the labour force characteristics of people with disabilities: A Compendium of national methodologies*, 2015. The results of this extensive compilation of national practices, data and metadata are available at <http://www.ilo.org/surveydata/index.php/catalog/DISABILITIES>.

---

attention to the rights of persons with disabilities with the objective of streamlining disability into national development agendas. However, these data still tend to be heterogeneous in many respects. There are wide differences between countries and data sources with respect to the definition of the concept of “disability”, the terminology used, the coverage of the data sources, the classifications used, periodicity of data collection and the reference period. Compared with the situation around 2000, an increasing number of countries/sources are using the concept of difficulties in functioning instead of an approach based on impairment to determine the prevalence of disability.

- 118.** There is still a need for more comprehensive information on the labour force characteristics of people with disabilities. Significant activities are needed to increase national capacity to undertake new data collection initiatives and to increase the frequency of data collection. Given the fact that in many countries, particularly developing countries, data are collected but not processed, efforts are needed to improve analytical skills. The statistics collected by countries would benefit from further standardization through the adoption of the recommendations of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and the concepts embedded in the World Health Organization (WHO) International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health.
- 119.** Comparing labour market characteristics of people with and without disabilities is not sufficient. Disaggregating outcome indicators will allow gaps in the work experience of people in both groups to be identified, but it will not provide the requisite information to reveal the barriers and enablers that drive those outcomes so that appropriate policies can be developed to close the gaps in outcomes. The ILO, in collaboration with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, has therefore developed a labour force survey module that collects additional information regarding barriers that people with disabilities face in the labour market.
- 120.** The module has undergone three rounds of cognitive testing and is currently being field tested in a small number of countries. It covers:
- (a) disability identification, based on the Washington Group questions;<sup>33</sup>
  - (b) barriers, whereby persons who are not in employment are asked to identify:
    - (i) all barriers that are limiting their work behaviour; and
    - (ii) the extent to which family members would be supportive if they decided to work;
  - (c) accommodations, whereby persons who are in employment are asked if their workplace and work schedules have been set up in a way to account for their difficulties, and if those accommodations are adequate;
  - (d) attitudes, including those of employers and co-workers; and
  - (e) social protection, to determine whether a person with a disability is receiving cash or in-kind benefits related to their disability.

*Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views on and endorse: (a) the use of the Washington Group short set of six questions in existing data instruments allowing the identification of persons with disabilities as a means of disaggregating SDG indicators*

<sup>33</sup> Washington Group on Disability Statistics: “[Short Set of Disability Questions](#)”.

---

*related to decent work by disability status; (b) the further methodological development and testing of a module on obstacles faced by persons with disabilities in the labour market.*

### **3.11. Inter-secretariat working group on household surveys**

- 121.** In 2015, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed the establishment of an Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, under the aegis of the UN Statistics Division. The purpose of the working group is to foster the coordination and harmonization of household survey activities across the international agencies involved in household survey programmes and their development. At its subsequent session in 2016, the UN Statistical Commission agreed on the terms of reference and mandate of the working group. The mandate was relatively broad, touching on areas including standard setting, developing guidance, coordinating activities, and devising a vision to support the development of household survey systems.
- 122.** In late 2016, the ILO assumed the role of chairing the Management Group and Technical Working Group. It has focused efforts on promoting cross-cutting developments, in particular surrounding improved coordination of the strategy and activities of the agencies in the Inter-Secretariat Working Group.
- 123.** Since 2016, a number of specific task forces have been established to produce guidelines or standards in areas where gaps exist, such as food consumption and education expenditure. Information has been gathered on the diverse capacity-building and guidance development activities of the participating agencies to identify opportunities for synergies and improved coordination. Among these, of particular note is a mapping exercise surrounding the SDG indicators which identifies approximately one third of SDG indicators as having household surveys as a source, depending on the country context. This mapping is being used to support efforts to develop a shared vision of how household survey systems can be organized over time to efficiently generate data for a wide range of indicators in the SDG framework and beyond in a coherent manner.
- 124.** Recognizing the resource requirements underlying this work, the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys has developed a funding proposal to supplement the resources provided by the agencies themselves. If accepted, this will form a solid basis upon which to accelerate the group's work and deliver tangible outputs of direct benefit to countries over the coming years.
- 125.** In March 2018, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) assumed the rotating role of chairing the Management Group and Technical Working Group. The ILO will continue to be heavily involved in the work to ensure that the actions undertaken to date are successfully completed.

### **3.12. Child labour**

- 126.** In 2008, the 18th ICLS adopted a landmark resolution concerning statistics of child labour, providing for the first time a comprehensive set of guidelines on the measurement of child labour, covering concepts and definitions, data sources, data collection methods, items of data collection and ethical considerations.<sup>34</sup> The resolution statistically defines child labour in a broad sense to encompass the engagement of children in different subsets of productive activities, including worst forms of child labour, employment below the minimum age and

<sup>34</sup> [Resolution concerning statistics of child labour, Resolution II](#), adopted by the 18th ICLS (2008).



---

hazardous unpaid household services by children. Hazardous unpaid household services are included as an element of child labour where the general production boundary is applied in defining productive activities.

- 127.** The measurement of hazardous unpaid household services by children was further discussed at the 19th ICLS in 2013, at which the ILO reported on its research findings, based on survey data from 65 countries. The results suggested that “beyond a threshold of 20 hours per week, household chores [or equivalently unpaid household services] have a negative effect on children’s school attendance”. Delegates agreed that “establishing international thresholds to facilitate the measurement of child labour in terms of weekly hours in economic activities and, separately, weekly hours in household chores was desirable, but it was recognized that determining the working-hour threshold would be complicated for children performing both household chores and employment”. Delegates called on the ILO “to continue with the research on the identification and measurement of unpaid household services that may help classify children engaged in certain of these activities as child labour, and report on the progress at the next ICLS with a view to defining a set of operational criteria”.<sup>35</sup>
- 128.** In response to this demand, the ILO estimated for the first time the number of children engaged in unpaid household services as part of its 2016 global estimation of child labour. The results – as set out in the fifth edition of the ILO’s quadrennial report series on global estimates of child labour, covering the period 2012–16,<sup>36</sup> – indicate that some 54 million children aged 5–14 years perform household chores for at least 21 hours per week, the threshold beyond which the initial research suggests that household chores begin to have a negative impact on the ability of children to attend and benefit from school.<sup>37</sup> The results also show that, of the children aged 5–14 years who are performing household chores for at least 21 hours per week, about 13 million are also engaged in economic activity, suggesting that the threshold of 21 hours of work in household chores adds about 41 million children aged 5–14 years to the scope of global child labour.
- 129.** The fifth round of the ILO’s global estimation of child labour, covering the period 2012–16, was based on national data sets from 105 countries, including: 24 national data sets derived from child labour surveys implemented by the ILO and national bureaux of statistics with additional financial support from the United States Department of Labor; 17 national data sets from the UNICEF multiple indicator cluster surveys; 17 data sets from demographic and health surveys mostly funded by the United States Agency for International Development; 17 data sets from national labour force surveys; and 30 data sets limited to children aged 15–17 years derived from national labour force surveys conducted under Eurostat regulations. The results show a continued decline of global child labour from 2012 to 2016, both in absolute and relative terms. The number of children aged 5–17 years in child labour excluding household chores declined from 168 million in 2012 to 152 million in 2016 (in other words, from 10.6 per cent of the total population of children aged 5–17 years in 2012 to 9.6 per cent of that population in 2016).<sup>38</sup>
- 130.** Since the end of 2013, when the last ICLS was held, the ILO has been engaged under its Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC) in 18 new child labour surveys, mostly with national scope (Armenia, 2015; El Salvador, 2015;

<sup>35</sup> ILO: *Report of the Conference*, Report III, 19th ICLS, Geneva, 2–11 October 2013, paras 41–43.

<sup>36</sup> ILO: *Global estimates of child labour: Results and trends, 2012–2016*, Geneva, 2017.

<sup>37</sup> An estimated 29 million children aged 5–14 years perform household chores for at least 28 hours per week, of which an estimated 7 million perform such chores for at least 43 hours per week.

<sup>38</sup> *ibid.*

---

Ethiopia, 2015; Georgia, 2015; Jamaica, 2016; Jordan, 2016; Lebanon, 2016; Malawi, 2015; Myanmar, 2015; Peru, 2015; Sri Lanka, 2016; United Republic of Tanzania, 2014; Timor-Leste, 2016; Tunisia, 2017; and Ukraine, 2014–15); but also some for specific sectors of the economy such as herding (Eswatini, 2014), agriculture (Paraguay, 2015), and sugar cane (Panama, 2018).

- 131.** In order to facilitate sample design for household-based child labour surveys, in 2014–15 the ILO developed a series of interactive tools in an accessible platform, covering seven major steps of sampling design and implementation, namely: sample size determination; sample allocation among strata; sample selection of primary sampling units; listing of sample primary sampling units; sample selection of households; calculation of sampling weights; and calculation of sampling errors.<sup>39</sup>
- 132.** To extend the coverage of child labour measurement beyond household-based surveys, the ILO commissioned the preparation of a major guidebook on sampling elusive populations, with specific applications to studies of child labour.<sup>40</sup> The volume covers methods of sampling from imperfect frames, sampling establishments employing children, and innovative techniques for sampling rare populations, mobile populations and reclusive populations.
- 133.** Eradication of child labour is included as one of the SDG targets. Target 8.7 calls for “immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms”. A related SDG target, target 16.2, calls for the end of “abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children”.
- 134.** A major challenge for the 20th ICLS is the review of the 18th ICLS resolution concerning statistics of child labour in the light of the new international standards on statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization adopted by the 19th ICLS.<sup>41</sup> The ILO has prepared a room document on this subject, describing the issues involved and proposing an amendment to the 18th ICLS resolution concerning statistics of child labour.<sup>42</sup> The amendment provides for the harmonization of terms and definitions that accommodate the new narrower definition of employment while encompassing other forms of work, including own-use production work, unpaid trainee work and volunteer work.

*Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views on: (a) the need to amend the 18th ICLS resolution concerning statistics of child labour (2008) to align it with the 19th ICLS resolution on statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization (2013); and (b) whether the contents of the draft amendment meet their country’s needs.*

<sup>39</sup> The tools, prepared in Excel format and accompanied with user instructions, are available on the ILO website at: [http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/ChildlabourstatisticsSIMPOC/Manuals/WCMS\\_304559/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/ChildlabourstatisticsSIMPOC/Manuals/WCMS_304559/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>40</sup> V. Verma: *Sampling elusive populations: Applications to studies of child labour* (ILO, 2013).

<sup>41</sup> Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, Resolution I adopted at the 19th ICLS (Geneva, 2013).

<sup>42</sup> Room document 13.

---

### 3.13. Forced labour

- 135.** The measurement of forced labour was first discussed at the 17th ICLS in 2003, when the need to define observable criteria for assessing the existence of a forced labour situation was highlighted. At the 19th ICLS in 2013, the ILO presented the results of its research and surveys on the topic. The Conference then adopted a resolution concerning further work on statistics of forced labour, recommending that the ILO “set up a working group with the aim of sharing best practices on forced labour surveys in order to encourage further such surveys in more countries”.<sup>43</sup> The resolution further specifies that the working group “should engage ILO constituents and other experts in discussing and developing international guidelines to harmonize concepts, elaborate statistical definitions, standard lists of criteria and survey tools on forced labour, and to inform the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians on the progress made”.
- 136.** Pursuant to this resolution, the ILO set up the Working Group on Forced Labour Statistics composed of some 30 participants from a broad range of institutions, including ILO and UN agencies, national statistical offices, other government agencies, social partners, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and other relevant bodies. This Working Group met in March 2018 in Rio de Janeiro and built on the work of six preparatory expert meetings, held in Geneva in April 2015, Lisbon in September 2015, New York in December 2015, Kathmandu in June 2016, Vienna in November 2016, and Bangkok in December 2016. The participants at the preparatory expert meetings discussed various aspects of the measurement of forced labour at the national and sectoral levels, including traditional forms of forced labour, the forced labour of children, commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking, bonded labour, state-imposed forced labour and forced labour in particular branches of economic activity and among specific population groups.
- 137.** A major agreement reached by the Working Group was that forced labour and human trafficking are distinct but related phenomena. The ILO and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime are working to formulate a common operational definition of the overlapping concept of “human trafficking for forced labour”.
- 138.** The Working Group also examined in detail the operationalization of the definition of forced labour embedded in the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29). Convention No. 29 defines forced or compulsory labour as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily”. The definition involves two essential criteria (“involuntary work” and “menace of any penalty”) requiring objective means of measurement in survey questionnaires. The Working Group also discussed the sample designs and sample size requirements for measuring the prevalence and characteristics of forced labour with acceptable precision at the national and sectoral levels.
- 139.** Since 2013, the year of the last ICLS, the ILO has been directly engaged in 15 forced labour surveys, some with national scope (Brazil, 2018; Ethiopia, 2014; Nepal, 2017; Peru, 2018; Timor-Leste, 2016; and Uzbekistan 2014–15), and others for a specific region of a country (Maranhão, Brazil, 2017) or specific sectors of the economy such as the fishery sector (Thailand, 2013) and the palm oil sector (Malaysia, 2018). Others covered particular population groups, such as internal migrant workers (Myanmar, 2015; and Nepal, 2013), internally displaced persons (Democratic Republic of Congo, 2018; Nigeria, 2018; and

<sup>43</sup> [Resolution concerning further work on statistics of forced labour](#), Resolution II, adopted by the 19th ICLS (Geneva, 2013).

---

Sudan, 2018), and one included a feasibility study among Bulgarian communities in the Netherlands (2016).

140. In addition, as part of its global estimation of forced labour, the ILO collaborated with the Walk Free Foundation in providing global figures of the phenomenon, pooling data from 56 national surveys on forced labour (28 surveys in 2016, supplemented by 28 prior surveys by the Foundation in 2014 and 2015).<sup>44</sup> The surveys were implemented by Gallup Inc. as a special module attached to its annual World Poll in countries where face-to-face interviewing was conducted and authorities granted permission for implementation. The resulting data were used to produce global estimates of forced labour exploitation for adults. The corresponding estimates of forced sexual exploitation and forced labour of children were built on models of profiles of registered victims from the database of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Global estimates for state-imposed forced labour were derived from validated sources and from the systematic review of comments of the ILO supervisory bodies on the ILO Conventions on forced labour.
141. The results show that, on average at any given time, there were some 24.9 million persons in forced labour in 2016, of whom about 17 per cent were children aged 5–17 years. Forced sexual exploitation constituted about 19 per cent of total forced labour, and state-imposed forced labour about 16 per cent. Due to substantial differences in scopes, methodologies, regional groupings and expanded data sources, the 2016 global estimates are not directly comparable with the 2005 and 2012 ILO estimates (12.3 million and 20.9 million, respectively). In the absence of sufficient national surveys, these estimates were based on capture-recapture sampling of reported cases of forced labour.
142. Eradicating forced labour is included in one of the SDG targets. Target 8.7, already mentioned in the context of child labour, calls also for taking “immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking”. A related SDG target, target 5.2, calls for the elimination of “all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation”. No indicator on forced labour is included in the final list of SDG indicators, essentially due to the lack of internationally agreed statistical standards on the topic.<sup>45</sup>
143. To fill this gap, and in response to the 19th ICLS resolution requesting information on the progress made in developing international guidelines on the topic, the ILO has prepared a room document based on the deliberations of the Working Group on Forced Labour Statistics mentioned earlier.<sup>46</sup> The room document contains an appendix with draft guidelines concerning the measurement of forced labour, submitted for endorsement by the 20th ICLS. The draft guidelines include a proposed data collection programme, statistical definitions of forced labour and its major components, relevant classifications for items of data collection, guidance on data sources and requirements for data reporting.

*Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views as to: (a) how relevant the guidelines on the measurement of forced labour would be in their country; (b) whether the contents as presented meet their country’s needs; (c) whether they might volunteer to pilot the guidelines in their country with ILO technical assistance.*

<sup>44</sup> ILO: *Global estimates of modern slavery: Forced labour and forced marriage*, Geneva, 2017.

<sup>45</sup> The global indicator framework for the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda is available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>.

<sup>46</sup> Room document 14.

---

### **3.14. Labour underutilization related to inadequate use and mismatch of qualification and skills**

- 144.** Resolution I of the 19th ICLS focuses on issues of insufficient labour absorption and defines three measures of labour underutilization: (a) time-related underemployment; (b) unemployment; and (c) potential labour force. While the resolution notes that other dimensions of labour underutilization are skills mismatches and slack work, it does not define these concepts.
- 145.** The ICLS therefore requested that the ILO, in collaboration with interested countries, international, regional and subregional organizations, and workers' and employers' representatives, continue methodological work in reference to this resolution, on the measurement of underutilization or inadequate employment related to skills, to employment-related income, and to excessive working time and report to the 20th ICLS, with a view to adopting future international statistical standards.
- 146.** In order to respond to the part of this request regarding the measurement of inadequate employment related to skills, the ILO Department of Statistics has developed a set of proposals for guidelines on a statistical definition of qualification and skill mismatch that may affect persons in employment, as well as measurement approaches. Such guidelines are a prerequisite for collecting statistics and producing internationally harmonized statistical indicators on the topic. When developing the proposals for the statistical standards on measuring mismatches, consistency with existing standards related to labour statistics and education statistics was a key guiding principle. The ILO also relied on the methodological work undertaken in a number of member countries as well as on the work done by the OECD and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.
- 147.** To assist in the development of the proposals and to obtain feedback on them, a conceptual framework for defining and measuring qualification and skill mismatches was presented to and discussed by a group of experts at an informal technical expert meeting on the measurement of inadequate employment related to skills, organized by the ILO in September 2017. The participants at these meetings discussed the proposed definitions, the measurement approaches and the feasibility of data collection, and made a number of suggestions. One of the outcomes of the consultation process was that there was a need to make a distinction between qualification and skill mismatches and that the correlation between various types of mismatches needs to be analysed. It was highlighted that the measurement of skills mismatch requires additional variables on skill-related job characteristics in the labour force survey or other statistical surveys. These should cover both technical and soft skills. It was suggested that better use should be made of the criteria used in defining the skill levels in the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) by acknowledging that job-specific or technical skills could be acquired through a process of formal or informal learning. A future revision of ISCO-08 may facilitate the measurement of both qualification and skill mismatch. For the measurement of skill mismatch, the self-perceived assessment of the match between the type and level of skills of a person in employment and the skills required by his or her job was considered to be an informative and useful approach. The measurement of qualification mismatch should be based on qualification requirements as specified in relevant legislation or national practice, and set for specific occupations or occupational groups or, in the absence of these, on empirically determined criteria.
- 148.** To test the statistical feasibility of measuring skill mismatch with a limited number of additional variables in labour force surveys and other household-based surveys, data collection tools were developed and are being tested in a couple of countries.

---

**149.** A revised version of the draft guidelines is being submitted to the 20th ICLS for possible adoption.<sup>47</sup> In addition to outlining the framework for defining and measuring qualification and skill mismatches, the draft guidelines highlight the use and importance of analysing such mismatches, define various forms of mismatch and describe approaches to measuring them and the type of data and indicators that could be produced. All issues are discussed in detail in the concept paper that is being submitted to the 20th ICLS as a room document.<sup>48</sup>

*Participants in the Conference are invited to evaluate and adopt the draft guidelines and express their views concerning:*

- *the usefulness and importance of measuring qualification and skill mismatches;*
- *the relevance of making a distinction between qualification and skill mismatches;*
- *the suitability and relevance of the proposed statistical definitions of qualification and skill mismatches;*
- *the suitability and relevance of the proposed measurement approaches;*
- *the feasibility of measuring skill mismatch in statistical surveys;*
- *the future steps to be taken in developing relevant international statistical standards on this topic.*

### **3.15. ILO Social Security Inquiry and data collection**

**150.** Social protection is a human right and is defined as the set of policies and programmes designed to reduce and prevent poverty and vulnerability throughout the life cycle. It is one of the four pillars in the Decent Work Agenda and a dedicated target in the SDG framework within Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere).

**151.** Timely, reliable, accurate and comparable data are crucial for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of social protection policies and programmes at the national and global levels. The ILO is using several instruments as international standards while producing social protection indicators, namely: the 1957 resolution concerning the development of social security statistics;<sup>49</sup> the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202); the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102); and other social security Conventions setting out more advanced standards.

**152.** In the past five years, the ILO has been collecting and analysing quantitative information on social protection schemes around the world and building a knowledge database on social protection statistics. The ILO World Social Protection Database has become the main source of global data on social protection, used daily by policy-makers, officials of international organizations and researchers. The objective of the database is to collect, store and disseminate comparable statistical data on social security worldwide.

<sup>47</sup> Room document 15.

<sup>48</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>49</sup> [Resolution concerning the development of social security statistics](#), adopted by the Ninth ICLS (1957).

- 
- 153.** The Social Security Inquiry questionnaire feeds the database and has become the main comprehensive tool used to compile data on social protection coverage for children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, women with newborns, work-injury victims, and the poor and the vulnerable. In addition, indicators on the adequacy of social protection benefits and the revenue and expenditure of social protection schemes are being produced, based on the data provided in the questionnaire. Since the 19th ICLS, the Social Security Inquiry has been applied three times, in 2014, 2016 and 2018. Furthermore, since 2015, the Social Security Inquiry has also been used as a source for reporting on the SDGs.
- 154.** The ILO's Social Protection Department has been disseminating comparable statistics on global social protection programmes periodically via thematic studies as well as the flagship World Social Protection Report, which is published every three years. During the last five years, two reports have been published: in 2014 and 2017.<sup>50</sup>
- 155.** Other methodological tools were developed and applied to examine the latest global social protection development trends in various countries. These include the Social Protection Monitor, the Social Protection Floor Cost Calculator and the Rapid Assessment Protocol.
- 156.** In order to enhance the national capacity to generate comprehensive and reliable social protection data, the Department has been providing technical assistance and training to ILO constituent members, in collaboration with ILO field offices and other departments.<sup>51</sup>

### **3.16. Statistics on multinational enterprises**

- 157.** The Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration) provides guidance to governments on how to create an enabling environment for the positive contribution that multinational enterprises (MNEs) can make to economic and social progress. In this context, statistics on MNEs are essential, and a number of studies have been undertaken to stimulate a dialogue among national bodies with a view to the identification of good practices and a better understanding of how the ILO could better support such practices.<sup>52</sup>
- 158.** A preliminary study mapped existing sources of data for areas covered by the MNE Declaration. Two further studies used collated data provided by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) through the national employment survey, the establishment survey and the economic census to evaluate the strengths and limitations of each approach.<sup>53 54</sup> A tripartite workshop validating these studies (Mexico City, Mexico, 2016) agreed that more effective mechanisms were needed to gather data on MNEs.

<sup>50</sup> ILO: *World Social Protection Report 2014/15: Building economic recovery, inclusive development and social justice*; Geneva, 2014; and, *World Social Protection Report 2017–19: Universal social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*, Geneva, 2017.

<sup>51</sup> The latest methods, data sets and reports relating to social protection statistics and the results of impact assessments and applications of other tools are available at: <http://www.social-protection.org>.

<sup>52</sup> Room document 16.

<sup>53</sup> ILO: *Employment in multinational enterprises in Mexico: Analysis of economic census*, Geneva, 2018.

<sup>54</sup> ILO: *Measurement of the employment and labour-related impacts of MNEs in Mexico: an analysis of two different methodologies*, Geneva, 2017.

---

Furthermore, a regional technical workshop for statisticians (Lima, Peru, 2017) concluded that a clearer statistical definition of an MNE was needed, as well as guidelines for various data-gathering methodologies, clearer indicators and model questions for each target population surveyed.<sup>55</sup>

### 3.17. Statistics on wages

159. The activities related to wages statistics carried out by the Office were mainly focused on capacity building and on providing technical assistance to ministries of labour and national statistical offices. For example, the ILO focused on strengthening member States' awareness of the international standards adopted in past ICLS resolutions and on the collection of data on wages statistics for dissemination in its online repository ILOSTAT.
160. A key initiative launched by the Office was to update the existing manual on wages statistics.<sup>56</sup> A working group made up of representatives of national statistical offices, international and regional organizations and various ILO departments was established in 2015 to contribute as experts to updating the manual. For a number of reasons (mainly the lack of enough resources), progress to date has been slower than expected. A few chapters of the manual have been drafted and others are in the process of being prepared. A close partnership between the ILO Department of Statistics and the Inclusive Labour Markets, Labour Relations and Working Conditions Branch of the Conditions of Work and Equality Department was established to ensure a close link with policy advice and statistical concepts.
161. The draft manual is expected to be finalized by 2020. A collaborative process of consultations with labour statisticians from different regions, along with representatives of employers' and workers' organizations, will be undertaken. Tripartite expert consultations will be carried out to ensure a strong consensus before the finalization of the manual. The ILO will continue to provide technical assistance, training and capacity building on this topic to national statistical agencies, to relevant statistical services in line ministries, and to other relevant stakeholders including workers' and employers' representatives.

### 3.18. Social dialogue indicators

162. Social dialogue is at the core of decent work, and thus it is part and parcel of the Decent Work Agenda and the SDGs. Valid, reliable, timely and comparable data on social dialogue indicators are essential in the comprehensive measurement of decent work. However, the 1926 resolution concerning statistics of collective agreements is the only existing methodological standard at the international level for the production and communication of statistics on any component of social dialogue and the limited availability and comparability of social dialogue statistics remain a challenge.<sup>57</sup>
163. Information on the collection and dissemination of social dialogue statistics was presented during the 19th ICLS, including a description of ILO data compilation and results in this regard. The participants in the Conference expressed interest in future work on social

<sup>55</sup> ILO: *Measurement of the employment and labour-related impacts of MNEs: A proposal for action*, Geneva, 2018.

<sup>56</sup> ILO: *An integrated system of wages statistics: A manual on methods*, Geneva, 1979.

<sup>57</sup> [Resolution concerning statistics of collective agreements](#), adopted by the Third ICLS (1926).



---

dialogue statistics by the Office and agreed that having guidelines on the compilation of social dialogue data would be most helpful.

- 164.** In the five years since the 19th ICLS, the ILO Department of Statistics has worked closely with the Inclusive Labour Markets, Labour Relations and Working Conditions Branch on various matters pertaining to social dialogue statistics. The ILO's work in the field of social dialogue statistics is aimed at fostering methodological best practices in the production of social dialogue indicators, and at compiling and publishing reliable data on this topic. An overarching objective is to support the development of international guidelines for the compilation of such statistics.
- 165.** Since 2011, two topics at the core of social dialogue (collective bargaining coverage and trade union membership) have been added to the ILO's annual questionnaire on labour statistics, allowing for the regular compilation of reliable statistics for a large number of countries on trade union membership, trade union density and collective bargaining coverage, including collective bargaining coverage rates both as a proportion of employees and as a proportion of total employment.
- 166.** In order to ensure increased country coverage, comparability of data and transparency of methods, the statistics compiled through the annual questionnaire are then integrated into a wider compilation effort which includes special inquiries by national and international experts in numerous countries. This effort promotes methodological consistency across countries and over time, in addition to aligning the ILO's union density and collective bargaining coverage statistics with those in the other major international repositories of social dialogue statistics. Since the 19th ICLS, two rounds of this multifaceted data compilation have taken place, and the resulting data set is available to the public in ILOSTAT. The ILO's data set on trade union density and collective bargaining coverage rates is accompanied by an analytical brief.<sup>58</sup>

### **3.19. Statistics on occupational injuries**

- 167.** Occupational safety and health is a key aspect of decent work, and as such, fundamental to the achievement of the SDGs. Valid, reliable, timely and comparable data on occupational safety and health, and especially occupational injuries, are essential to assess workers' conditions. So much so, that the global indicator framework for the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda includes an indicator specifically on fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries (indicator 8.8.1).
- 168.** With a view to disseminating reliable, comparable statistics on a wide range of useful indicators on occupational injuries and fulfilling its SDG global data reporting requirements, the ILO Department of Statistics compiles, through its annual questionnaire on labour statistics, indicators on the number of cases of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, the number of days not worked due to occupational injuries and the rate of occupational injuries per 100,000 workers in the reference group.
- 169.** The methodology is based, to the extent possible, on the resolution concerning statistics of occupational injuries (resulting from occupational accidents) adopted by the 16th ICLS in 1998.<sup>59</sup> The ILO Department of Statistics included a session on occupational injuries

<sup>58</sup> See: J. Visser, S. Hayter and R. Gammarano: *Trends in collective bargaining coverage: Stability, erosion or decline?*, Labour Relations and Collective Bargaining Issue Brief No. 1, Geneva, 2017.

<sup>59</sup> [Resolution concerning statistics of occupational injuries \(resulting from occupational accidents\)](#), adopted by the 16th ICLS (1998).

---

statistics in its 2017 Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy held in Turin, in order to build capacity among constituents in terms of the production and dissemination of occupational injuries data.

### **3.20. Status of labour statistics Conventions and Recommendations**

- 170.** Labour statistics provide vital information for the evaluation, analysis and dissemination of statistical data at the national, regional and international levels to help increase understanding of how best to achieve decent work for all. In order to ensure the reliability and comparability of labour statistics, their compilation and publication are guided by international standards.
- 171.** There are two main types of internationally agreed-upon standards on labour statistics: Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the ILC, and resolutions and guidelines adopted by the ICLS. The labour statistics instruments adopted by the ILC are the Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63), and its revising instruments, the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160), and Recommendation, 1985 (No. 170).
- 172.** Between 2014 and 2017, the ILO Department of Statistics received 72 reports from member States on the implementation of Conventions Nos 63 and 160 through its International Labour Standards Department. Of these, 55 were related to the implementation of Convention No. 160. These reports were studied and comments were produced and submitted to the International Labour Standards Department for transmittal to the relevant member States. Since the 19th ICLS, Côte d'Ivoire has ratified Convention No. 160, becoming in April 2016 the 50th State to ratify it.
- 173.** The Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group is part of the ILO Director-General's Standards Initiative, which is one of the seven Centenary Initiatives. It was established in 2015 and is mandated to review the ILO's body of international labour standards to ensure that they remain relevant and responsive to the rapid changes taking place in the world of work. Its plan of work includes the review of Conventions Nos 63 and 160 and Recommendation No. 170. Convention No. 63 has been closed to further ratifications since 1988 and is still in force for 14 countries. It has been denounced by 20 member States, all of which have ratified Convention No. 160. Convention No. 160 is currently in force in 50 member States. At its second meeting, in October 2016, the Tripartite Working Group discussed the follow-up to be taken regarding 63 instruments previously identified as outdated by the Cartier Working Party, including Convention No. 63. In approving the recommendations of the Tripartite Working Group, the Governing Body invited the Office to follow up with the member States bound by Convention No. 63, encouraging them to ratify Convention No. 160, as the most up-to-date instrument in the area of statistics. The Tripartite Working Group would then consider Convention No. 63 during its later examination of other instruments concerning labour statistics and decide at that time whether or not to recommend its abrogation or withdrawal, as appropriate. The Tripartite Working Group will consider the three statistics instruments at its meeting in September 2018.

---

### 3.21. Measuring informality

174. Following the publication of a statistical manual on the informal sector and informal employment in 2013,<sup>60</sup> the ILO has been active in providing assistance to countries on the measurement of employment in the informal sector as defined in the 15th ICLS resolution on the subject<sup>61</sup> and in respect of informal employment as defined in the 17th ICLS guidelines on the subject.<sup>62</sup> Assistance has been provided in the form of regional workshops and directly to countries when requested. Direct technical assistance has been provided to, for example, Azerbaijan, China, Montenegro and Thailand.
175. The importance of countries providing information on informality has been reinforced by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex, is one of the indicators (indicator 8.3.1) for Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all).
176. The ILO is systematically compiling and disseminating data on indicator 8.3.1 and a first submission was made to the UN Statistics Division in February 2017. Data from 44 member States was provided covering the years 2004–15.<sup>63</sup> The data, which will be updated annually, have been collected directly from member States and thereby reflect national methods used in measuring informal employment.
177. Due to a strong need on the part of users to have access to more internationally harmonized figures covering a larger number of countries, the ILO Department of Statistics set out to develop harmonized statistical time series on the informal sector and informal employment.<sup>64</sup> This was achieved by applying a consistent methodology in processing household survey microdata files for approximately 100 countries. While the approach is reducing the variability of definitions used across countries and increasing coverage, comparability issues remain since each country's questionnaire may contain different sets of questions capturing different criteria. The harmonized series are intended for analytical use when comparisons across countries are required. For example, the data have recently been used in an ILO publication on the informal economy.<sup>65</sup>
178. The Expert Group on Informal Sector Statistics (“Delhi Group”) held its 12th meeting in Geneva in October 2017.<sup>66</sup> The meeting was attended by 21 experts from 14 countries and experts from the ILO, the World Bank and the Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing network. The conclusion reached at the meeting was that, while

<sup>60</sup> ILO: *Measuring informality: A statistical manual on the informal sector and informal employment*, Geneva, 2013.

<sup>61</sup> [Resolution concerning statistics of employment in the informal sector](#), adopted by 15th ICLS (Geneva, 1993).

<sup>62</sup> [Guidelines concerning a statistical definition of informal employment](#), adopted by the 17th ICLS (Geneva, 2003).

<sup>63</sup> The data are available at: [www.ilo.org/ilostat](http://www.ilo.org/ilostat).

<sup>64</sup> The harmonized series are available at: [www.ilo.org/ilostat](http://www.ilo.org/ilostat).

<sup>65</sup> ILO: *Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture*, third edition, Geneva, 2018.

<sup>66</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council: *Report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics*, Statistical Commission, Forty-ninth session, 6–9 March 2018.

---

improvements have been made, there are still essential areas within the statistical framework of informality, as well as among countries' measurement of informality, that need to be further developed. It was acknowledged that attention should be given to further harmonizing the country-specific criteria used to operationalize the definitions of informal sector and informal employment and to align the statistical framework of informality to the latest statistical developments embodied in the 19th ICLS resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization.<sup>67</sup> The expected adoption of a resolution concerning statistics on work relationships will need to be taken into account in future developments in respect of the measurement of informality.

- 179.** It was also concluded at the meeting that there is a strong need to improve the measurement of informality among agricultural activities as well as to further improve the methodology for measuring informality among migrant workers, refugees and internally displaced persons. In addition, the aspect of informality in relation to non-standard forms of employment was considered an area that needs further attention. The consensus decision of the Delhi Group at the meeting was to encourage more and more countries to improve data collection in a harmonized manner and to continue with the conceptual development of informality.

### ***Informality and statistics on work relationships***

- 180.** The adoption of the 19th ICLS resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization (2013) had a direct impact on all statistical frameworks related to the labour market, including the definition of employment in the informal sector as defined in the 15th ICLS resolution concerning statistics of employment in the informal sector (1993),<sup>68</sup> and the definition of informal employment as defined in the guidelines concerning a statistical definition of informal employment adopted by the 17th ICLS (2003).<sup>69</sup>
- 181.** The introduction of the statistical concept of work and the identification of the five forms of work (own-use production work, employment, unpaid trainee work, volunteer work and other work activities) in the 19th ICLS resolution have allowed for a new set of categories of paid and unpaid forms of work to be developed to better inform policy regarding labour market access and working conditions. The new framework yielded a revised employment concept which is narrower in scope than the one previously defined by the ICLS standards adopted in 1982.<sup>70</sup> The broader scope of labour statistics, the redefinition of employment and the identification of different forms of unpaid work are features of the new standards that highlight the fact that the concepts of employment in the informal sector and informal employment are not aligned to the current framework of work as defined in the 19th ICLS resolution.

<sup>67</sup> Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, Resolution I adopted at the 19th ICLS (Geneva, 2013).

<sup>68</sup> [Resolution concerning statistics of employment in the informal sector](#), adopted by the 15th ICLS (Geneva, 1993).

<sup>69</sup> [Guidelines concerning a statistical definition of informal employment](#), adopted by the 17th ICLS (Geneva, 2003).

<sup>70</sup> [Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment](#), adopted by the 13th ICLS (Geneva, 1982).

- 
- 182.** In addition, it is also likely that the proposed revision of the ICSE-93 during the 20th ICLS will have an impact on the statistical definition of informal employment. ICSE-93 is closely associated with the definition and methods for measurement of informal employment and any changes to it will require a revision of the operational definition of informal employment.
- 183.** Taken together, these conceptual changes in international standards for labour statistics have created a strong need to align the statistical framework of informality to the latest developments. As mentioned above, the need for a revision was also one of the main conclusions of the 12th meeting of the Delhi Group.
- 184.** A revision of the current statistical framework of informality would also be an opportunity to address known problems with the current framework, such as the lack of internationally harmonized data due to a high degree of flexibility in the operational definitions, low data availability among developed countries, poor coverage of agricultural activities, and conceptual inconsistencies between the 15th ICLS resolution and the 17th ICLS guidelines.
- 185.** The ILO is presenting a room document to the 20th ICLS summarizing the known issues with the 15th ICLS resolution and 17th ICLS guidelines.<sup>71</sup> It is intended to form the basis for discussion on revising the statistical framework of the informal sector and informal employment during the 20th ICLS, with a view to seeking guidance on the proposed options and on how best to progress the future work.

*Participants in the Conference are invited to express their views on the following issues: (a) the need for the further improvement of harmonized international data on informality, including in developed countries; (b) whether the current structure of the two separate frameworks for the informal sector and informal work should be maintained or whether a single conceptual framework covering the breadth of the informal economy should be developed; (c) how the scope of the concept of informal work should be defined to align it with Resolution I of the 19th ICLS and the proposed resolution concerning statistics on work relationships while insuring coherence with policy objectives, taking into consideration the issues and options presented in room document 17; (d) whether ILO work related to revising the 17th ICLS guidelines and the 15th ICLS resolution on informality should be carried out with a view to presenting a new proposal of standards to the 21st ICLS in 2023, and if so, whether an expert working group is the most efficient mechanism to facilitate the formal adoption of new standards on this topic based on broad regional consultations.*

### **3.22. Time-use statistics**

- 186.** In the area of time-use statistics, the ILO has provided substantial technical input to the development of the latest International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS 2016).<sup>72</sup> One of its objectives in this respect has been to ensure consistency between ICATUS 2016 and the forms of work framework adopted at the 19th ICLS. This consistency has now been achieved and is expected to form the basis for coherent statistics on time use and work into the future. There is nevertheless still a clear and strong need for guidance on the measurement of time use in line with the latest standards and classifications and reflecting best international practices.

<sup>71</sup> Room document 17.

<sup>72</sup> See: Economic Commission for Europe: *Guide on valuing unpaid household service work*, Conference of European Statisticians, Sixty-fifth plenary session, Geneva, 19–21 June 2017.

- 
- 187.** The ILO also participated in a task force organized by the Conference of European Statisticians to develop guidance on the valuation of unpaid household services. This guidance meets a demand from countries wishing to develop estimates of the value of unpaid household work. As part of the task force, the ILO contributed to ensuring the alignment of the guidance with the standards adopted by the 19th ICLS in the resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization and provided input on the measurement of time spent on those activities as one step in the valuation process. The guidance was endorsed by the Conference of European Statisticians in June 2017.<sup>73</sup>
- 188.** In order to advance further the implementation of the latest ICLS standards on work statistics and ICATUS 2016 in time-use surveys, the ILO has plans to engage in a partnership under the leadership of the UN Statistics Division aimed at developing and testing innovative means of collecting relevant and reliable time-use data. Over the coming years, this will focus on the development, testing and dissemination of good practices for the measurement of time use in different settings. The work will address a number of areas of known demand, such as the need for data on SDG indicator 5.4.1 on the proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location.
- 189.** The particular focus of the ILO in this partnership will be on developing and testing methods for time-use measurement through household surveys other than dedicated time-use surveys, in particular labour force surveys. Guidance to be produced will identify appropriate methodological choices and elaborate the impact of different measurement approaches on achieved results. The guidance is expected to be an important resource to countries looking to develop a system of household surveys which delivers consistent and coherent statistics on the labour force and unpaid forms of work over time, possibly through multiple surveys with differing primary measurement objectives. Preparatory methodological development work was initiated in early 2018 with support from the collaborative technical and advocacy platform Data2X. In addition, the ILO participated at an expert group meeting organized by the UN Statistics Division in June 2018 to initiate global discussions with key stakeholders and time-use statistics experts. Key outputs from this work are highlighted in a room document.<sup>74</sup>

*Participants in the Conference are invited to express their opinion on the ongoing work on the measurement of time use and in particular indicate their support for the continuation of work to develop guidance on how a time-use diary could be attached to a labour force survey to improve measurement for some forms of work.*

### **3.23. International Standard Classification of Occupations**

- 190.** The current version of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) was adopted through a resolution of a tripartite Meeting of Experts on Labour Statistics in December 2007, and subsequently endorsed by the ILO Governing Body in March 2008. Many countries have now adapted their national occupation classifications to improve comparability with ISCO-08 or have developed national classifications based on ISCO-08 or correspondence tables that will allow them to report data according to ISCO-08.
- 191.** While feedback on the usefulness of the classification has generally been positive, there are several cases where a need has been identified for more detailed categories, or where the treatment of particular occupational groups is inadequate due to technological change and

<sup>73</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>74</sup> Room document 18.

---

the emergence of new occupations. In addition, there are concerns that the way in which the concept of skill level was applied to the design of both ISCO-08 and the previous version of ISCO (ISCO-88) imposes limitations on the usefulness of ISCO for the purposes of analysing and measuring the supply of skilled workers, and for the analysis of skills mismatch.

- 192.** In 2013, the 19th ICLS suggested that the ILO should establish a technical group or a knowledge-sharing platform to reflect on the lessons learned in the implementation of ISCO-08 in order to identify common issues and document the improvements needed. It was suggested that, on that basis, a more thoroughly considered set of options for revision could be developed in advance of the 20th ICLS.
- 193.** Since 2013, the ILO has maintained an up-to-date log of known issues and continued to provide support for the implementation and adaptation of ISCO-08 in statistical and administrative applications at the national and regional levels. This has been achieved through collaboration with regional agencies including the European Commission, the Pacific Community and the Working Group on International Classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, as well as through direct collaboration with national government agencies. It is of particular note that ISCO-08 was used as the organizing framework for the 2,942 occupations identified in the multilingual classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations.
- 194.** The UN Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications discussed the known problems with ISCO-08 and potential methods to address them at its meetings in 2015 and 2017. It noted that skill level issues resulting in the blurring of the boundaries between some ISCO major groups, as well as general changes in skill levels across the major groups, were becoming increasingly apparent and were a major concern. It also noted that more general occupational change driven by technological developments is also having an increasingly significant impact, and that these issues require a more comprehensive consideration of the concept of skill level and its use for the design of ISCO than had previously been contemplated.
- 195.** To reflect these concerns, the ILO has presented a report as a room document at the 20th ICLS that provides detailed information on the issues that need to be addressed in a review of ISCO-08 and on various conceptual approaches that could be taken in the design of the revised classification system.<sup>75</sup>
- 196.** It is worth noting that, during its meeting in September 2017, the UN Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications recommended that the 20th ICLS should endorse the full revision of ISCO for presentation at the 21st ICLS. It was argued that such a revision would allow implementation of the revised ISCO to begin in 2025 in time for the 2030 global round of population censuses. Following such a recommendation at this time needs to be weighed against the concerns of member States. During the 19th ICLS, many delegates felt that there had not been enough time to accumulate the experience in using ISCO-08 needed to make a deep revision and that the costs of making changes (in terms of resources and breaks in series) were too high to justify frequent revisions.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>75</sup> Room document 19.

<sup>76</sup> ILO: *Report of the Conference*, Report III, 19th ICLS, Geneva, 2–11 October 2013, paras 31–36.

- 
- 197.** The Office is presenting some options for improvements to ISCO-08 and ways of advancing this process, bearing in mind the concerns of member States on the need to start the process of moving towards a revision in the near future. It is also important to note that for such a revision, special resources and partnerships should be found in order to adequately follow up on the process.

*Participants in the Conference are invited to consider the issues identified in the room document regarding the case for the revision of ISCO and express their views as to: (a) the need to start a revision of ISCO-08 through the establishment of a working group of experts on occupational classification; and (b) possible ideas on the partnerships and the mobilization of resources that could facilitate achieving a full revision in order to allow implementation in time for the 2030 global round of population censuses; and (c) the conceptual approaches contained in the document that could be taken in the design of a revised ISCO.*

### **3.24. Statistics on cooperatives**

- 198.** Reliable and comparable statistics are essential to measure the contribution of cooperatives in terms of employment and the economy, and to inform the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies. This is reflected in the ILO's Promotion of Cooperatives Recommendation, 2002 (No. 193), which highlights the need for better national statistics on cooperatives with a view to their promotion.<sup>77</sup> In this regard, efforts have been made at the international level such as the publication of the annual World Co-operative Monitor by the International Co-operative Alliance, and the 2014 Global Census of Cooperatives commissioned by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. However, there is general agreement that statistical methodologies that help produce accurate and good quality statistics on cooperatives across countries are missing.
- 199.** At the 19th ICLS in 2013, government, workers' and employers' representatives reaffirmed the importance of obtaining more comprehensive and internationally comparable statistics on cooperatives and a resolution was adopted concerning further work in this regard.<sup>78</sup> In the resolution, the ICLS acknowledged that the most relevant statistics on cooperatives relate to the number and characteristics of cooperatives, of members of cooperatives and of workers employed in cooperatives and value added of cooperatives, and recommended that the International Labour Office, in cooperation with the ILO's constituents and interested national statistical offices, carry out further developmental work on the measurement of cooperatives. It also recommended that the Office prepare a progress report for discussion at the 20th ICLS, in accordance with its agenda and taking account of decisions taken by the Governing Body, to provide further guidance on the subject.

<sup>77</sup> Paragraph 8(1)(l) of the Recommendation states that "National policies should notably ... seek to improve national statistics on cooperatives with a view to the formulation and implementation of development policies".

<sup>78</sup> [Resolution concerning further work on statistics of cooperatives](#), Resolution III adopted at the 19th ICLS (2013).



- 
- 200.** In line with the resolution, the ILO Department of Statistics, in collaboration with the Cooperatives Unit of the Enterprises Department and the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC),<sup>79</sup> prepared a series of country case studies. These studies discuss statistics on cooperatives in countries with different types of institutional arrangements and different methods of collecting data and of producing statistics. In all countries, the studies examined how statistics on cooperatives are generated, which definitions were used, and what statistics are available. The studies showed the complexity of statistics and pointed to the need to develop a conceptual framework that could be applied or adapted by most countries to get comparable and harmonized data. The ILO and COPAC also started a series of two-page country briefing notes on statistics on cooperatives in order to make these country cases accessible. They have developed 12 briefs to date, which are available online.<sup>80</sup>
- 201.** COPAC, with support from the ILO, also established the Technical Working Group on Cooperative Statistics, comprising representatives of the cooperative movement, national statistical offices, policy-makers and researchers. The Group's first meeting was held in May 2017.<sup>81</sup> Its main purpose was to review existing definitions and research that is relevant for the development of guidelines and to prepare inputs for guidelines. During the meeting, a report setting out a conceptual framework for the purpose of measurement of cooperatives and its operationalization was presented and discussed.<sup>82</sup> Informed by an overview of existing practices regarding the definition and classification of cooperatives, the report proposes a framework for defining and classifying cooperatives. It also provides an overview of issues regarding characteristics of cooperatives, membership and value added. Finally, it discusses employment in relation to cooperatives.
- 202.** At the first meeting of the technical working group, several additional studies were initiated, namely: a study on the use of statistics on cooperatives in national policy-making; a study on the measurement of employment in cooperatives; a study on classification of cooperatives; and a study on the value-added of cooperatives. These studies were used as inputs into the preparation of draft guidelines concerning statistics of cooperatives, which are contained in the appendix to a room document.<sup>83</sup> A number of complementary activities have also been undertaken, including presentations and discussions in national and international meetings.

<sup>79</sup> COPAC is a multi-stakeholder partnership of global public and private institutions that promotes and advocates for people-centred, self-sustaining cooperative enterprises, guided by the principles of economic, social, and environmental sustainable development. Its members are the ILO, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the FAO, the International Co-operative Alliance, and the World Farmers' Organisation.

<sup>80</sup> The countries covered in the series are: Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United Republic of Tanzania (mainland). The briefs are available at: <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/publications/country-stats/lang--en/index.htm>.

<sup>81</sup> An article on the meeting is available at: [http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/news/WCMS\\_554327/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/news/WCMS_554327/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>82</sup> ILO: *Conceptual framework for the purpose of measurement of cooperatives and its operationalization*, Report for discussion at the COPAC Technical Working Group on Cooperative Statistics Meeting (Geneva, May 2017).

<sup>83</sup> Room document 20.

---

*Participants in the Conference are invited to: (a) review the room document concerning statistics of cooperatives; (b) endorse the guidelines concerning statistics of cooperatives; (c) propose activities to test and/or further develop the guidelines in collaboration with the Office.*

## **4. Data collection, production and dissemination**

### **4.1. Data collection – General**

- 203.** The ILO Department of Statistics has stepped up its efforts to enhance ILOSTAT, the ILO's central statistical repository, most notably through investments in improving data collection, production and dissemination. ILOSTAT includes short-term and annual indicators across a broad range of labour-related topics. The short-term indicators present monthly and quarterly labour market statistics for up to 46 indicators and 126 countries, a major increase from 68 countries in 2013. The annual data cover a wider range of topics with almost worldwide coverage, although availability varies widely depending on the indicator.
- 204.** In terms of data collection, three main methods are used: automated data collection processes; the annual ILOSTAT Excel questionnaire; and manual data entry. Extensive resources have been devoted to automation in the last three years in order to increase efficiencies while reducing respondent burden related to the ILOSTAT questionnaire. Efforts to improve automated data collection processes consist of systematizing the compilation of data from online statistical databases of national statistical offices and international agencies,<sup>84</sup> reshaping and tabulating data and validating outputs prior to upload into the ILOSTAT database. Currently, data for 54 countries are extracted directly from national websites.
- 205.** In a major undertaking that began in mid-2016, the ILO Department of Statistics started processing household survey microdata files (mostly labour force surveys) to derive core labour market variables historically collected through the annual ILOSTAT questionnaire. In some countries, the ILO uses only the microdata files for the reporting of household-based indicators, while in other countries, the outputs of microdata processing are used to fill data gaps in ILOSTAT.
- 206.** Meanwhile, data obtained through automated processes or microdata processing are no longer requested in the annual ILOSTAT questionnaire. This has significantly reduced respondent burden for countries with adequate online statistical databases and those willing to share microdata files. The annual questionnaire remains an important data collection tool to obtain information for countries with scarce labour data or limited dissemination platforms and to obtain non-household survey data, which are often unavailable online.
- 207.** Many internal calculation processes have also been systematized since the first deployment of the ILOSTAT back-office system in 2012. That is, additional indicators are now automatically calculated, based on collected figures. For example, decent work indicators on the female share of employment in senior and middle management and the gender pay gap by occupation are calculated by the system from figures collected on employment by sex and occupation and hourly earnings by sex and occupation, respectively.

<sup>84</sup> Such as Eurostat, the macro-economic database of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (AMECO), the OECD, the IMF and the UN Statistics Division.

- 
- 208.** Also notable concerning data production and dissemination are some of the agreements reached through the establishment of an ILO working group on data coordination. First, the working group members agreed on new definitions of regions and subregions (broad and detailed) for use by the ILO for statistical and analytical purposes. These definitions are based on ILO regions and country income classifications. For consistency, these two sets of criteria are now made available across ILO statistical dissemination platforms. This has been reflected in ILO publications as well as in the ILOSTAT database since 2015.
- 209.** Second, the working group members agreed that all statistical data produced by the ILO on a regular basis should be published in ILOSTAT, regardless of the department carrying out the data collection activities. Last but not least, it was agreed that all statistics displayed through the gateway portal of the ILO website would be obtained through the ILOSTAT database. Overall, these agreements have reinforced the role of ILOSTAT as the ILO's central statistical database and the increased internal coordination has led to additional indicators being made available through ILOSTAT.

## **4.2. ILO annual data questionnaire**

- 210.** The annual collection of labour statistics through the Excel-based ILOSTAT questionnaire has continued, with major improvements being made in recent years to facilitate data reporting. Since 2017, indicators obtainable through other means – in other words, through microdata or online statistical databases – have been omitted from the ILOSTAT questionnaire, as noted above. In 2017, 57 countries received a reduced version of the questionnaire, which increased to 75 countries in 2018.
- 211.** The 2018 questionnaire included 74 indicators clustered around 18 topics, ranging from topics that have typically been included, such as labour force, working time, earnings, occupational injuries and strikes and lockouts, to relatively new topics, such as working poverty, labour inspection, trade union membership and collective bargaining. It also included indicators on informality and breakdowns by disability status and migrant status to fulfil data requirements for the SDGs, as well as indicators from the joint ILO–OECD inquiry on public sector employment.
- 212.** National statistical offices and ministries of labour worldwide receive a request each year to complete the ILOSTAT questionnaire with their latest annual data and revisions, if any. Since 2016, they have received a link to a country-specific web page with additional information concerning the data collection, such as a list of contacts and an overview of data availability by indicator. The response rate to the questionnaire has typically been around 50 per cent of member States, with a modest increase observed for the 2017 questionnaire. The responding countries cover around 80 per cent of the world's population.
- 213.** In 2017 and 2018, almost 50 non-responding countries (that is, countries that did not respond to the prior five exercises) received a new short questionnaire to minimize the effort required of them to complete the template, to which five countries responded in 2017 (the 2018 exercise is ongoing).
- 214.** As with other processes, the data collected through the questionnaire each year have been uploaded and verified in order to be disseminated through the ILOSTAT database. The system currently runs over one hundred types of consistency check during the validation process.

---

### 4.3. ILOSTAT statistical database

- 215.** Initially launched in 2011, and following intensive efforts to integrate statistical collections and databases from across ILO departments and programmes, ILOSTAT has become the ILO's central statistical dissemination platform. The previous database maintained by the ILO Department of Statistics, LABORSTA, has been deactivated, and all historical data and metadata previously available on LABORSTA have been incorporated into ILOSTAT. In addition, the ILO's Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) database and related metadata and documentation were fully integrated into ILOSTAT in 2017. Collectively, these initiatives have greatly improved coherence of the ILO's statistical dissemination efforts.
- 216.** Since its initial deployment in December 2012, a number of improvements have been made to the ILOSTAT website. In December 2016, a revamped website was launched, providing an improved user experience with faster, simpler navigation, new multi-indicator reports, customizable reports, a customized download page, a new publications page, a new bulk download facility, and a new metadata page. New ILOSTAT tools were also deployed, including an Excel add-in (giving Excel users the ability to download ILOSTAT data while working in Excel); R-ILOSTAT (allowing R-users to download and manipulate ILOSTAT data via the bulk download facility); and an application programming interface (API) that allows developers and expert users discovering and consuming the data in SDMX.<sup>85</sup> Applications such as ILOSTAT Country Profiles in both desktop and mobile versions (providing quick access to main indicators for a given country), and the World Employment and Social Outlook data finder (providing quick access to downloadable charts depicting the latest ILO global and regional estimates and projections) make use of the API. A new section on SDGs was added, providing access to all of the underlying data for the Tier I and II SDG labour market indicators.
- 217.** Following significant investments by the ILO Department of Statistics in automating data collection and production, including microdata processing, ILOSTAT data content has also been significantly expanded over the past several years. As a result of these investments in automation and microdata processing, the overall number of data points published in ILOSTAT for a given year has grown ninefold as compared with those in the previous ILO database, LABORSTA. The microdata processing work has also enabled the ILO to tabulate and disseminate statistics across more labour topics, to enhance the international comparability of the published data, and to gain critical insights into national practices pertaining to their labour force surveys.
- 218.** Harmonized series on earnings and labour costs were introduced, including monthly minimum wages, hourly labour cost by economic activity, and sex-disaggregated statistics on hourly earnings by occupation and monthly earnings by economic activity and occupation. The series on informality was added and then enhanced with the addition of harmonized indicators on informal employment and informal sector by sex. Comparable statistics on trade union density and collective bargaining coverage were produced and disseminated on ILOSTAT following guidance from national and international industrial relations experts. In addition, ILO modelled estimates were produced (see below).
- 219.** A number of new nationally-reported indicators were added to ILOSTAT, including the combined rate of time-related underemployment and unemployment (LU2) by sex and age, the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3) by sex and age, and the composite measure of labour underutilization (LU4) by sex and age. Twenty-two labour migration indicators were introduced, including international migrant stock, migrant flows

<sup>85</sup> Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) is an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard format for statistical data interchange and dissemination.

---

and nationals abroad. Indicators on non-standard forms of employment by sex, minimum wages and low pay were also added, as were the incidence of part-time employment by sex based on a common definition, the female share of employment in senior and middle management, the gender pay gap by occupation, unemployment levels and rates by sex and disability status, and public sector employment by sectors of national accounts.

*Participants in the Conference may wish to reflect on the importance of providing access to anonymized national microdata sets to promote more and better data globally and to discuss ways in which the ILO can leverage its microdata processing efforts to enhance technical assistance to constituents.*

#### **4.4. ILO modelled estimates**

**220.** The ILO modelled estimates data series, published on ILOSTAT and produced jointly by the ILO Department of Statistics and the Research Department, and by additional departments for particular indicators, are a multifunctional research tool to make labour market information and analysis widely available and to provide insights into global and regional labour market trends. The series contains an internationally comparable set of labour market indicators, widely used as a reference for labour information by both public and private institutions. Indicators in the series include employment by economic activity, occupation, economic class and status in employment, unemployment, labour force participation and labour productivity, among others.

**221.** The ILO modelled estimates series is the world's largest repository of internationally comparable global and regional estimates for key decent work indicators. As such, it is a main source for accurate, comparable and timely SDG reporting at the global and regional levels. In particular, the estimates are for the following SDGs:

##### **Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere**

[1.1.1] Proportion of employed population below the international poverty line <sup>86</sup>

[1.3.1] Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems

##### **Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**

[8.2.1] Annual growth rate of output per employed person (measured as GDP per employed person in constant 2011 international dollars at purchasing power parity)

[8.3.1] Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex

[8.5.2] Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

##### **Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

[9.2.2] Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

<sup>86</sup> In this indicator, the ILO estimations focus on employed persons, that is to say, the rate of working poor calculated as the proportion of employed persons living below the international poverty threshold.

- 
- 222.** The ILO modelled estimates series has been updated multiple times over the past five years. The updating frequency ranges from biannual to biennial, according to data and resource constraints. Since the 19th ICLS, several improvements have been made. First, the indicators included in the series have been integrated into the ILOSTAT database framework. Thus the estimates and projections can now benefit from the data and metadata update, review, and quality control procedures underpinning ILOSTAT. Second, there has been a substantial review of the data inputs to the underlying econometric models, increasing data availability and quality. Third, programming updates have been carried out to make possible more frequent updates of both data and the underlying statistical models.
- 223.** The dissemination of the ILO modelled estimates series as key indicators of the labour market on the ILOSTAT website allows for quick and easy user access. This has made them one of the most popular ILOSTAT products according to internal key performance indicator reports. In addition, the ILO modelled estimates have been made available through bulk download both directly and through an R package. Overall, these changes have improved dissemination and present data in a more user-friendly manner.

#### **4.5. ILO Microdata Repository and processing**

- 224.** In 2014, the ILO Microdata Repository was created by the ILO Department of Statistics to centralize all the microdata that are available in the ILO internal network for researchers and policy-makers. While the microdata are available only for internal use, a public website was also established to give public access to all the related information and metadata that are produced along with the microdata.<sup>87</sup>
- 225.** Beyond recording all this information through the ILO Microdata Repository, the ILO Department of Statistics is also creating a set of standardized derived variables from these microdata, and at the same time is ensuring compliance with international standards and recommendations. The aim is to help internal researchers work more rapidly and efficiently with these microdata. Up to 34 standardized derived variables can be created, including all the key labour market variables such as labour force status and employment by occupation, by economic activity, by status and by hours of work.
- 226.** The ILO has collected 8,400 sets of microdata from 173 countries and has completed the pre-processing of 5,500 of these sets. In addition, the microdata are used to populate the ILOSTAT database, most notably in cases where the labour market variables do not exist in ILOSTAT for that country or source. This has been the case for 116 countries and 3,100 microdata sets.
- 227.** Furthermore, 1,300 microdata sets from 143 countries have been fully documented and catalogued on the ILO Microdata Repository using a standard Data Documentation Initiative Codebook (DDI-C) template from the International Household Survey Network. This number is expected to grow rapidly in the near future as some processes will be automatized and as a lot of ILO member States are now publishing the microdata from their national labour force surveys directly online.

<sup>87</sup> The ILO Microdata Repository is available at <http://www.ilo.org/surveydata>.

---

#### **4.6. Modernization and industrialization of official statistics production**

- 228.** Since 2014, the ILO has participated in numerous activities as a member of different working groups and task forces pursuing the objective of improving the methods used in the production of official statistics and the overall quality of statistical products.
- 229.** As a member of the SDMX Technical Working Group, the ILO has contributed to making several improvements to the SDMX standard, with the aim of making SDMX more suitable for the exchange and dissemination of socio-economic statistics. In particular, a task force in which the ILO has participated since its creation in 2013 has just released version 2.0 of the Validation and Transformation Language (VTL), a standard language especially designed for defining validation and transformation rules (set of operators, their syntax and semantics) for any kind of statistical data.
- 230.** In the context of the High-level Group for the Modernisation of Official Statistics of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the ILO has actively participated in the Supporting Standards working group and in task forces for the revision of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) and the metadata glossary.
- 231.** The ILO joined the Statistical Information System Collaboration Community led by the OECD in December 2015 with the primary objective of providing the .Stat software as a platform to support statistical dissemination in member countries implementing labour market information systems. Since then, the ILO has actively participated in the work of the Community's strategic and operational governance bodies, sharing its experience and lessons learned during the development of its own application, with the objective of making .Stat a tool that could serve as the dissemination module of ILOSTAT in the future.
- 232.** Several tools and components have been developed and distributed freely to ILOSTAT and .Stat users in order to facilitate different stages of statistical production. These have included an Excel add-in for retrieving ILOSTAT data; a statistics metadata-driven analysis and reporting tool (SMART); and an SDMX-compliant web service for .Stat version 7.
- 233.** At the ILO Department of Statistics, the design, development and operation of internal systems and of the different tools provided to member States rely on standards for the production of statistics such as GSBPM, SDMX and DDI. ILOSTAT is an end-to-end GSBPM-based statistical information system, integrating referential metadata in DDI-C and fully compliant with SDMX. The tools cover most of the phases of the GSBPM, by interoperating with third party tools.

#### **4.7. Global data structure definition for SDMX in labour, prices and SDG statistics**

- 234.** SDMX is a powerful ISO standard for exchanging statistical data and metadata. The SDMX initiative, sponsored by seven international organizations,<sup>88</sup> was initiated in 2001. It was approved as an ISO standard in 2005 (currently ISO 17369:2013) and endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2008 as the preferred standard for data exchange. With the release of its Version 2.1 in 2011, it has been progressively adopted by many organizations for the exchange and dissemination of statistical information.

<sup>88</sup> The Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, Eurostat, the OECD, the IMF, the UN and the World Bank.

- 
- 235.** One key aspect of facilitating the interoperability of systems using SDMX is the definition of global artefacts (data structure definition – DSD) making use of the standard. In this regard, a set of global DSDs to implement SDMX in National Accounts according to SNA 2008 was released in 2014, followed by similar structures for Balance of Payments and Foreign Direct Investment.
- 236.** In March 2016, the ILO Department of Statistics and the OECD agreed to establish a working group to develop a global DSD for the exchange of labour statistics information in SDMX. In May 2016, the project was launched with the participation of the OECD, the ILO, the European Central Bank, Eurostat and the World Bank. Monthly teleconferences and four physical meetings have taken place, and the project is approaching the finalization of agreed concepts and dataflow matrices, which is the step that precedes the definition of the global DSD(s). After that, a pilot phase will be launched to test the artefacts. Based on the feedback received, the artefacts will be revised and the first version of the global DSD(s) should be released.
- 237.** A similar process has been followed by the working group for a global DSD for price statistics, which started its work in July 2016 and is composed of representatives of the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, Eurostat, the ILO, the IMF and the OECD. In December 2017, the pilot phase for both the conceptual and the technical aspects was launched. The global DSD is scheduled to be published in the second quarter of 2018.
- 238.** In order to facilitate the development of SDMX-based data and metadata exchange formats for SDG indicators, a working group was established by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators composed of statisticians and technical experts on SDMX from national statistical systems, UN specialized agencies (the FAO, the ILO, UNICEF and the WHO) and other international organizations (the African Development Bank, Eurostat, the OECD and the World Bank), with the UN Statistics Division acting as secretariat. Its first meeting took place in Aguascalientes, Mexico, on 21 October 2016. The pilot phase for the first draft DSD was launched in January 2018. During 2018, metadata-related structures (attributes and a metadata structure definition – MSD) will be defined. The global SDMX artefacts for SDG indicators are expected to be finalized by the third quarter of 2018.

*Participants in the Conference are invited to reflect on the relevance of these global SDMX artefacts in order to facilitate the data reporting of decent work related SDG indicators and reduce the reporting burden.*

#### **4.8. Labour market information systems**

- 239.** As mentioned above, the ILO joined the Statistical Information System Collaboration Community at the end of 2015 in order to be able to provide a tool for interested countries to store and disseminate their labour market information using .Stat, a sophisticated web-enabled tool composed by a statistical data warehouse and a dissemination module able to publish multidimensional statistical reports and graphs. Since then, the ILO has actively participated in the work of the Community by designing and implementing key features of the new .Stat Suite product.
- 240.** The Office has also been working closely with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to establish a shared platform for national and regional labour market information systems (LMIS) based on this tool for all the member States under the Caribbean Labour Market Information System project. A list of agreed indicators was developed with all the stakeholders and member States that will use the .Stat platform to disseminate their labour market information.



- 
241. It should be noted that the ILO Department of Statistics has emphasized several times the need for member States to initially strengthen their data collection systems, as a labour market information system cannot be updated if the surveys at the national level are not being conducted. In the case of CARICOM, the ILO Department of Statistics and the ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team based in Port-of-Spain are ready to provide technical assistance to all the member States who would wish to collect labour market information on a more regular basis using this platform.
242. A project to establish an LMIS (*sistema de información del mercado de trabajo* – SIMT – in Spanish) in Chile was launched in November 2017. The project is being carried out by the national statistical institute (Instituto Nacional de Estadística) of Chile and is receiving support from the ILO. Initially, only labour force survey-related indicators will be included, to be enriched at a later stage with information from other sources.
243. On-site capacity building relating to this project was provided at several levels in November 2017, covering aspects such as: .Stat configuration and installation; .Stat data management and operation; and labour market indicators and preferred sources, including the definition of an initial set of indicators and the identification of data sources.
244. A first pilot instance of the system (known as SIMT.Stat) was implemented in February 2018 and periodic teleconferences with the national statistical institute’s technical staff have been taking place to work on different aspects such as data preparation and upload, reference metadata conceptualization and metadata upload. The system is expected to be launched in the second half of 2018.

#### **4.9. Contributions to international forums**

245. The ILO Department of Statistics regularly contributes to background papers, room documents, analytical briefs, statistical briefs and summary data tables for various international and regional forums and meetings. Since the 19th ICLS, this has included analytical briefs on labour market trends accompanied by comprehensive statistical annexes and methodological notes on existing data sources and data availability (advocating for the harmonization of statistical methods) for meetings on labour market issues of groups such as the G20, the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa) and the G7+.

### **5. Technical assistance and capacity building in labour statistics**

246. Technical assistance and capacity building are key components of the mandate of the ILO Department of Statistics. Their main purpose is to support the implementation of international statistical standards on all domains of labour and decent work statistics. Along with specific programmes of training and support it conducts directly (through its International Training Centre in Turin and regional structures in the field), the ILO has also worked in active partnerships with other international and regional organizations with a view to amplifying the outreach of training and capacity building.
247. At the global level, several courses have been initiated in association with the Turin Centre. In 2015, a two-week Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy was introduced, which covers a wide range of issues related to labour statistics. The first edition of the Academy was attended by some 90 participants from all over the world. In 2017, the Academy focused on the SDG indicators and a third edition of the Academy is envisaged to take place in 2019. As well as the Academy, specific thematic courses, such as training on measuring and

---

monitoring informality, took place in 2016 and 2017. In addition, specific sessions on measuring and monitoring informality were included in the 2016 Global Workers' Academy, "The transition from the informal to the formal economy: trade union strategies". A course on using the STATA software to analyse the labour market was also introduced in 2018.

- 248.** In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour of Portugal and Statistics Portugal, and with the support of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, a training course on the SDG indicators under the ILO's custodianship was delivered in 2017 in Lisbon to representatives of Portuguese-speaking countries. In 2015 and 2016, the ILO worked with the Euro-Mediterranean Working Group on Labour Statistics, which covers selected countries of North Africa and the Middle East, to share information on measuring decent work. In particular, the ILO shared information on: the concepts and indicators of the Decent Work Measurement Framework and best practices for the measurement of decent work; the impact on the measurement of decent work of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS; the SDG indicators related to decent work; data disaggregation for special population groups; comparisons between the Decent Work Measurement Framework and the Measurement of Quality of Employment Framework; and the conceptual framework of informality and best country practices for measuring the informal economy and informal employment.
- 249.** Since the 19th ICLS, the ILO has provided technical assistance to many countries in all regions. To facilitate this process, additional resources were allocated to establish new posts for labour statisticians in regions and areas which previously had no technical staff in the field, such as the Arab States and South Asia. The Global Technical Team now comprises three labour statisticians in Africa (based in Abidjan, Dakar and Pretoria), two in Asia and the Pacific (based in Bangkok and New Delhi), one in the Arab States (based in Beirut) and two in the Americas (based in Brasilia and Santiago de Chile), alongside the Labour Information and Analysis System for Latin America and the Caribbean (SIALC), a regional project funded by the Government of Panama and the ILO. Future plans include an additional statistician for the Europe and Central Asia region, which currently does not have a labour statistician.
- 250.** Technical assistance to member States on labour statistics forms part of the ILO results framework, which is captured through the outcomes and indicators in the biennial programme and budget that are reported to the Governing Body in the Programme Implementation Report. Since the 2016–17 biennium, labour statistics have been incorporated within the policy outcomes in addition to enabling outcome A on effective advocacy for decent work. Results obtained under this outcome and examples of technical assistance to member States can be seen on the ILO's decent work results dashboard.<sup>89</sup> Technical assistance on the implementation of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization is described in detail in section 3.5.4 above. The sections below provide some further examples by region.

## **5.1. Asia and the Pacific**

- 251.** Since the 19th ICLS, the ILO's statistical work and assistance to the 36 member States from the Asia and the Pacific region covered three major areas: capacity building on labour statistics and decent work indicators, particularly covering the new standards from Resolution I of the 19th ICLS; support in the implementation of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS through revised labour force surveys or other data collection exercises, including building statistical systems for annual or subannual labour force surveys; and support in the measurement of the SDG indicators related to decent work.

<sup>89</sup> See <https://www.ilo.org/IRDashboard>.

---

### **5.1.1. Capacity building on labour statistics and on standards from the 19th ICLS**

**252.** The following major regional and subregional training activities were organized by the ILO in collaboration with regional and national partners in Asia and the Pacific:

- (a) International Workshop on Labour and Earnings Statistics, in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics of China, including Resolution I of the 19th ICLS; Beijing, China, 17–21 November 2014;
- (b) International Training Programme for Strengthening Statistical Capacity on Work and Labour Force Statistics, in collaboration with Statistics Korea; Daejeon, Republic of Korea, 1–5 June 2015;
- (c) Subregional Technical Workshop on Work and Labour Force Statistics (Resolution I of the 19th ICLS) and Labour Migration Statistics for the Pacific Island Countries, organized jointly with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the UNESCAP/Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, and the UN Statistics Division, Nadi, Fiji, 28 July–1 August 2014;
- (d) Regional Meeting of Asia and the Pacific Labour Statisticians in preparation for the 20th ICLS; Bangkok, Thailand, 28 February–2 March 2017;
- (e) Regional Capacity-Building Workshop of Asia–Pacific Countries on Work Statistics in Rural Areas for the Promotion of Decent Work; Bangkok, Thailand, 11–15 September 2017; and
- (f) Regional Course on Informality: Definitions, Measurement, SDGs and Other Policy Indicators, in collaboration with the UNESCAP Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific, WIEGO and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan; Chiba, Japan, 16–20 October 2017.

**253.** National training activities on labour statistics and labour market information systems, including on the SDG indicators related to decent work, were organized by the ILO in collaboration with regional and national partners in: Brunei Darussalam, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Samoa, Tonga and Viet Nam.

### **5.1.2. Support to member States in data collection for labour force statistics, particularly through implementation of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS**

**254.** The ILO supported the implementation of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization through the following major activities:

- (a) technical assistance to implementing and communicating changes when implementing Resolution I of the 19th ICLS in the Republic of Korea;
- (b) piloting the implementation of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS, as part of the global ILO labour force survey study programme in the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam;
- (c) national piloting of the implementation of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS in Mongolia and Viet Nam;

- 
- (d) support for data collection exercises and direct implementation of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS through national labour force surveys, population censuses, or household income and expenditure surveys in Brunei Darussalam, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Samoa;
  - (e) data collection of labour force statistics (albeit with standards predating Resolution I of the 19th ICLS) in Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste;
  - (f) data collection through labour force surveys on selected thematic areas, such as school-to-work transition, children's activities, forced labour, social protection, green jobs, labour demand (through establishment surveys) and labour migration in countries including: Brunei Darussalam, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

**255.** The ILO has also been providing technical assistance to member States in Asia and the Pacific on building their statistical systems to be able to collect and publish annual or subannual statistics on work and the labour force in Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar. Advocacy work on the production of annual labour force statistics has also been undertaken and is continuing in countries such as Fiji, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Timor-Leste.

### **5.1.3. Support on the measurement of SDG indicators on decent work**

**256.** Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 goals, the ILO has been supporting member States in the region in developing monitoring systems for assessing their progress in implementing the SDGs, particularly for the targets related to decent work. The ILO supported the revision or development of SDG-related monitoring and evaluation components of Decent Work Country Programmes for member States such as: Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Nepal, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. In addition, the ILO supported piloting the measurement of SDGs indicators for which the ILO is proposed as the custodian agency in Fiji, Mongolia and the Philippines.

**257.** The ILO also plays an active part in the UN mechanisms to support capacity building on SDG monitoring and reporting activities at the regional level, such as working groups of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) as well as UNESCAP technical working groups on sectoral statistical capacity development. These include regional steering groups on economic statistics, population and social statistics, and the thematic working group on gender statistics. The focus of these groups has been readjusted to support all member States' capacity for monitoring the SDGs.

## **5.2. Africa**

**258.** In the Africa region, the ILO has placed special emphasis on providing technical assistance and capacity building in the implementation of the resolutions of the 19th ICLS on work statistics, migration statistics and rural labour statistics, among other important topics for the region.

**259.** The first report on labour migration statistics in Africa was released in 2017 with technical supervision from the ILO Regional Office for Africa.<sup>90</sup> It is one of the outputs of a Joint

<sup>90</sup> African Union Commission: *Report on labour migration statistics in Africa in 2015*, Addis Ababa, March 2017.

---

Labour Migration Programme for Africa, involving the African Union, the IOM and UNECA, as well as the ILO. The report is based on an international labour migration questionnaire developed by the ILO. Its findings are derived from data provided by 34 of the 54 countries in the region and address the specific objectives of the data component of the Joint Labour Migration Programme, which include: (i) to compile information on the stocks and flows of international migrants; (ii) to assess the quality of labour migration data; (iii) to build member States' capacity in the collection, compilation and management of labour migration statistics; and (iv) to serve as a reference for future data collection efforts in Africa and beyond.

**260.** In terms of labour market information systems, in 2010, the SADC urged all member States in southern and eastern Africa to conduct at least one comprehensive labour force survey every two years. To implement this decision, member States are developing, with ILO support, programmes to move from producing a labour force survey every five to ten years to yearly labour force surveys. During the period 2013–18, with ILO support and advice, Eswatini, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe conducted labour force surveys and disseminated the results. Namibia is conducting an annual labour force survey, while Mauritius, Seychelles and South Africa are conducting a quarterly labour force survey.

**261.** As a result of technical support to countries, the following labour force reports and decent work country profiles have been produced:

- National statistical institute of Côte d'Ivoire: *Enquête Nationale sur la Situation de l'Emploi et le Secteur Informel*, 2016;
- Technical support for a diagnostic study on labour market information systems in Côte d'Ivoire, 2017;
- Ghana Statistical Service: *Ghana Living Standards Survey Round 6: Labour Force Report*, 2014;
- Niger: Second edition of the Decent Work Country Profile, 2016;
- National statistical office of Mauritania: *Situation de l'emploi et du secteur informel en Mauritanie*, 2017;
- Statistics Sierra Leone: *Sierra Leone 2014 labor force survey report*, 2015.

### **5.2.1. Capacity-building activities**

**262.** A regional capacity-building workshop on rural labour statistics was organized in Abidjan from 20 to 24 June 2016, which was attended by around 30 participants from national statistical offices, ministries of labour, ministries of agriculture and research institutions from Cameroon, Guinea, Mali and Tunisia, as well as Côte d'Ivoire.

**263.** The Labour Market Statistics and Analysis Academy was organized for the first time in Africa in 2016 in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire. There were approximately 30 participants from 12 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal and Seychelles.

**264.** In the margins of the African Regional Meeting of Labour Statisticians in preparation for the 20th ICLS, a regional capacity-building workshop took place in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in May 2017 in collaboration with the African Development Bank and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. There were 40 participants from

---

34 countries, including representatives from the SADC and UNECA as well as the patron organizations.

- 265.** In 2016, the ILO participated in a training seminar organized by the Arab Centre for Labour and Employment Administration and the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Algeria on the role of labour statistics in the promotion of decent work. The ILO shared information on concepts and methods related to decent work, and also on the ILO's role in the development of labour statistics.
- 266.** A significant effort was made to strengthen labour market information systems in Southern and East Africa. Capacity-building workshops were carried out on mainstreaming gender in labour statistics and enhancing the technical capacity of ILO constituents in data collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination using international standards. Training was provided by the ILO in Botswana, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The workshops covered topics, including raising awareness of the Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160), the ICLS resolutions, the SDGs, labour migration, decent work indicators, the development and strengthening of labour market information systems, data processing with SPSS and STATA software, labour force methodology and report-writing using international standards.

### **5.2.2. Strategic partnerships with pan-African institutions on labour statistics**

- 267.** Over the last five years, the ILO has developed harmonization and coordination tools and provided training to the regional organizations and communities (African Union, UNECA, African Development Bank and AFRISTAT) and their member States which adopted regional and country roadmaps for the implementation of the Labour Market Information System Harmonization and Coordination Framework in line with international standards.
- 268.** Support to regional economic communities is of paramount importance in ensuring that the political impact of actions is more sustainable. In this regard, three regional capacity-building activities were organized for SADC member States: in 2013, a workshop on data management and labour migration; in 2014, a capacity-building activity on work statistics and labour migration; and in 2015, a workshop targeted at the social partners and focused on work statistics, working time, informality and wage statistics. In 2017, a regional capacity-building workshop was provided to the East African Community on the 19th ICLS Resolution I and SDGs in 2017.

### **5.3. Arab States**

- 269.** In collaboration with its International Training Centre, the first regional training course on the SDG indicators, “SDG indicator framework on employment and decent work: Measuring, monitoring and reporting”, was conducted in Arabic at the Turin Centre in May 2018, which was attended by ten participants from national statistical offices, ministries of labour and workers’ organizations. Also in collaboration with the Turin Centre and with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the ILO held a course on “Implementing the SDGs in the Arab States: Promoting inclusive, sustainable growth and decent work” in December 2016 in Turin. This course provided participants with detailed information on the goals, targets and indicators under the SDG framework, and included a dedicated session on statistical issues (concepts, definitions, sources and uses) related to the indicators.

- 
- 270.** In 2017, the ILO assisted the Central Statistical Organization of Iraq in assessing labour and child labour statistics in general, and preparing for the implementation of a new labour force survey. In 2016–17, the ILO also assisted the Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office of Iraq in reviewing and redesigning its labour force survey.
- 271.** At the request of the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority of the United Arab Emirates, the ILO conducted two missions to Dubai, in June 2017 and March 2018, to review the annual labour force survey questionnaire and results to be aligned with Resolution I of the 19th ICLS.
- 272.** A tripartite workshop was organized in Amman in November 2017 on mainstreaming decent work in the national SDGs framework in Jordan. The workshop aimed to raise awareness among the tripartite constituents and improve their knowledge of the SDGs and to support the Government of Jordan in implementation, data collection, and reporting on the SDGs. In 2015 and 2016, the ILO assisted the Department of Statistics of Jordan in revising the methodology of its Employment and Unemployment Survey to align it with Resolution I of the 19th ICLS.
- 273.** With the collaboration of the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, the ILO organized a regional workshop of labour statisticians in preparation for the 20th ICLS in Muscat, Oman, in October 2017, with the aim of obtaining feedback on the current proposals to revise ICSE-93.
- 274.** Under the Work4Youth project, the ILO worked with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics to implement two rounds of the school-to-work transition survey in August–September 2013 and June–July 2015. The results of the first survey were published in 2014 and those of the second in 2016.
- 275.** The ILO is supporting the Central Administration of Statistics of Lebanon through an EU-funded project to conduct a Labour Force and Household Living Conditions Survey. Covering 40,000 households over four consecutive quarters, this is the first fully fledged labour force survey – and the largest household survey – to be conducted in Lebanon. Household data collection commenced in the first quarter of 2018 and the project is expected to end in July 2019.

#### **5.4. Europe and Central Asia**

- 276.** The main capacity-building activities in the Europe and Central Asia region have focused on the implementation of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS. In the light of growing collaboration on data for the SDGs, the ILO Department of Statistics has lent increasing support to the region in servicing UN inter-agency mechanisms. The use of concepts outlined in Resolution I of the 19th ICLS was advocated in both the Regional undg and the Regional Coordination Mechanism. The success of this advocacy has been particularly present in statistical support given to the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support missions in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ukraine, where the provision of statistics by the ILO contributed to evidence-based policy recommendations and had an impact on the programming of UN interventions in these countries. In the area of labour migration, the ILO provided technical assistance in conducting modular surveys on labour migration in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. In the case of the Republic of Moldova, a report presenting a demographic and socio-economic profile of migrant workers was published, and estimations of the size and nature of labour migration, based on the findings of the ILO

---

Labour Force Migration Survey conducted in the country, were produced in 2017.<sup>91</sup> In the case of Ukraine, a report on short-term outward labour migration, with a focus on migration behaviour related to differences in the length of stay abroad, was produced.<sup>92</sup>

277. During 2014, the ILO worked closely with the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan to support the planning of its new labour force survey, including by participating in a high-level stakeholder meeting to discuss the objectives of the labour force survey, sharing information on decent work measurement and helping define stakeholder needs in terms of survey outputs which would be produced to ensure their alignment with Resolution I of the 19th ICLS.

## 5.5. Latin America and the Caribbean

278. Since the 19th ICLS, several activities have been carried out to provide technical support to many countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean region. In particular, the focus was placed on the implementation of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS by piloting and testing the various tools to be used in the final version of labour force surveys in the region. Pilot studies and cognitive tests were conducted in Ecuador and Peru with the direct support of the ILO. During this process, a subregional project was conducted on regional public goods, which was financed by the Inter-American Development Bank with support from the Canadian International Development Agency and implemented by the Latin American Institute of Social Sciences (FLACSO) in Chile, with a view to expanding the piloting and testing of new sequences of questions in labour surveys in Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru and Uruguay. The following countries also participated in the project activities: Argentina, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Suriname. The project was carried out in coordination with UNECLAC, the FAO and the World Bank, and included activities on capacity building, direct assistance and dissemination of results through knowledge sharing.
279. The ILO serves as the technical secretariat to the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators established by the Statistical Conference of the Americas within UNECLAC. The group's main purpose is to harmonize labour statistics in the region through meetings and knowledge-sharing activities, as well as to coordinate regional positions in the process of setting international standards on labour concepts. It currently comprises 14 countries from the region: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. During the period 2013–17, five meetings were held, some of which were also attended by El Salvador and Uruguay. The topics addressed included: sample design in household surveys; statistical measurement of informality; the impact of Resolution I of the 19th ICLS; decent work monitoring; harmonization of concepts at the regional level; revision of ICSE-93; and pilot studies comprising cognitive and field tests on statistics of work.
280. Special technical assistance was provided on establishment surveys in Costa Rica in support of the survey on vacancies; training, competences in private establishments, and cognitive tests in Mexico and Paraguay; labour market indicators in Guyana; occupational safety and health in Argentina; SDG indicators in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay; measures of

<sup>91</sup> ILO: *Migrant Workers: The Case of Moldova*, Geneva, 2017.

<sup>92</sup> ILO: *Short-Term Migrant Workers: The Case of Ukraine*, Geneva, 2017.



---

informality in Paraguay; wage setting in Chile; time-use surveys and child labour in the Plurinational State of Bolivia; and statistics on ethnicity in Peru.

- 281.** As for capacity-building activities, the ILO organized several training programmes on various topics in the region, such as training on the employment indicators from the new framework of statistics of work in Ecuador and the Plurinational State of Bolivia and, at the regional level, a workshop on household surveys, organized jointly with UNECLAC. In cooperation with the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, the ILO organized a national conference of producers and users of statistical information. It also conducted a special capacity-building activity targeted at UNECLAC staff in Santiago de Chile, and held a regional workshop on the forthcoming draft resolution on ICSE-08 in Uruguay under the regional project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank.
- 282.** The aforementioned SIALC project carried out several activities related to statistical analysis of topics including informality, labour migration, rural labour statistics and wages. In particular, in coordination with the ILO Regional Office, and the ILO Formalization in Latin America and the Caribbean project (FORLAC), along with the ILO Department of Statistics, it developed harmonized algorithms for the estimation of informality, taking account of the guidelines of the 17th ICLS. In the area of migration, a regional platform was established to collect data on employment among migrant populations, disaggregated by sex, age, educational level, industry and status of employment, among others. In the area of wages, the SIALC project estimated average monthly wages, hourly earnings (nominal and real), minimum wages, wage differentials and median salary, among others, also with a view to harmonizing diverse country practices by reprocessing microdata files. It is also the main party responsible for publishing the annual *Panorama Laboral*, the labour overview of the region.