

Opening Remarks

22/08/2022

Ms. Martha Newton, Deputy Director General (DDG) for Policy of ILO

TICAD 8 ILO/JICA side event “Human Security and Emergency Jobs for Peace and Resilience”

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Please allow me to welcome you to this event on “human security and emergency jobs for peace and resilience”, on behalf of the ILO.

Let me begin by recognizing the presence of Mr. NAKAMURA Toshiyuki, Senior Vice President of JICA, and thanking him for the excellent arrangements made by JICA for this side-event to take place. Also, our gratitude to the Government of Japan for the support to several of our ILO technical employment-intensive investment programmes over the last years.

I would further like to recognize many good friends who are with us today:

- Mr. Randria Tsiferana Simon, General Director of Water from the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Madagascar
- Mr. Ato Yetimgeta Asrat, Deputy Director General of Ethiopian Roads Authority
- Mr. Américo Ocuá Dimande, Director General of National Roads Administration in Mozambique

Ladies and Gentlemen,

TICAD8 takes place in a critical moment. 2 years and a half into the COVID-19 pandemic, the remnants of the socio-economic impacts have still been felt by many. The health threats are still there.

The number of hours worked in the post-COVID world has deteriorated in the first quarter of 2022 and represents a deficit of 112 million full-time jobs, indicating a significant setback in the recovery process.

The Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine has resulted in a devastating humanitarian crisis, causing large losses of life and massive destruction of infrastructure. Not only do the consequence of the war create an immense human suffering in Ukraine, but also the disruption of global supply chain has triggered food insecurity in many African countries.

As of mid-June, more than 7.5 million Ukrainians have fled the country and 8 million have had to relocate within the country with national incomes that will drastically drop this year by between 35 and 45 per cent. According to [ILO estimates](#) 30 per cent of all jobs in Ukraine – approximately 4.8 million – have been lost since the outbreak of the war.

In the countries where the panellists are represented here today, namely, Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Mozambique, there is ongoing civil war, drought and famine, cyclones and floods induced by the climate change. We are facing a myriad of challenges for our future generations, including rising temperatures and increasing heat stress at work which will lead to the loss of 80 million full time jobs and to global economic losses of \$2.4 trillion in 2030.

Action is needed, now.

Carved into the ILO's foundation as part of the Treaty of Versailles, which ended the World War I, is "*si vis pacem, cole justitiam*" – "If you desire peace, cultivate justice". It is no less certain today than in 1919 that universal and lasting peace must be established based on a foundation of social justice.

How do we advance social justice in the fragile context we live in?

A guiding principle for concrete actions can be found in the ILO's Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience that was adopted by the governments and social partners in 2017. The Recommendation represents a unique normative framework for the world of work in conflict and disaster settings, stressing the role of decent work for peace, disaster risk reduction, social cohesion, and resilience. It also stresses the importance of concerted efforts and the need for international cooperation and partnerships among regional and international organizations, which is the very reason we are gathered here today.

Fragility, conflict and disaster may increase the multitudes of adverse effects on already marginalized or disadvantaged groups and they may act as drivers of further vulnerability. They may in the worst case result in the detrimental deficit of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, such as the proliferation of child and forced labour practices, discrimination of certain groups, lack of freedom to associate and express, and also the lack of safe and healthy working conditions.

One of the options to address these decent work deficits as well as unemployment and underemployment in such fragile settings, is public investments. The ILO has over the last 50 years supported African countries in the design and implementation of public infrastructure investments with the principal objective of creating more and better jobs for people that need them. The approach is called employment-intensive investments.

The ILO, through its [Employment-Intensive Investment Programme](#), has been working with many development and local partners to inject public finance into infrastructure and environment, as well as to develop human and institutional capacity so as to create jobs to meet immediate needs of vulnerable people in the short-term, and also to develop their skills and employability as a mid to long-term objective. We have been collaborating closely with the Government of Japan in Ethiopia, Madagascar, and Mozambique. We look forward to further strengthening these partnerships in order to meet growing demand.

In fragile contexts, such as in post-conflict situations or in the aftermath of disasters, the means of livelihood are often destroyed. Key socio-economic infrastructures are destroyed, and job opportunities in the labour market are lost. However, even in these circumstances, people's future prospects should not be lost. Their human security should be maintained.

The concept of human security, in fact, resonates strongly with the unanimously agreed agenda on the human-centred approach and human-centred recovery in the ILO's Centenary year and also at the International Labour Conference in 2021. Human-centrality, as its name suggests, must put people at the core of our approach. It should encourage self-reliance and ownership of the people to build their own resilience and their future prospects.

That is why it is critically important to, on one hand; continue to provide immediate and emergency humanitarian support to those most in need, while keeping a sustainable development objective in the trajectory, on the other. Decent work is the bridge for that, along the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus. That is why we chose emergency jobs for sustaining peace and resilience, as a topic of the discussion today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With these words of introduction, I look forward to hearing the views, and the experiences, of the panellists, as well as from our audience today. Insights coming from the concrete partnership with the ILO and Japan will shed lights on how, concretely, decent work has been critically important in the context of fragility. At the end of the event, I am hopeful that the discussions will turn into concrete actions.

Thank you.