

DECENT WORK IN AFRICA



IN THE POST-2015 CONTEXT

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹ creates a major opportunity for the UN as a whole, and the ILO in particular, to support member States in their commitment to ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

ILO and the SDGs

As a result of the inclusion of significant components of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda in the 2030 Agenda, ILO has a major opportunity and a significant responsibility to play a full and active role in the implementation of the SDGs.



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

Africa and the SDGs

African leaders warmly endorsed the 2030 Agenda at the Summit

Vice-President Manuel Domingos Vicente of Angola said, "... it is important to note that there is much work ahead. Several million people still live in extreme poverty or in conflict situations, being forced to migrate to other destinations; and we witness the daily growth of inequality and blatant human rights violations and environmental degradation of our planet."

President Jacob Zuma of South Africa said "South Africa endorses this transformative post-2015 Agenda without any reservations. The triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality that the development agenda seeks to address is the primary focus of the people and Government of South Africa."



President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita of Mali said "Between now and 2030, the only way for us, the world leaders, to ensure the successful outcome of this summit, is to demonstrate our joint capacity to truly commit to a global partnership in order to achieve a balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, namely the social, the economic and the environmental dimensions."

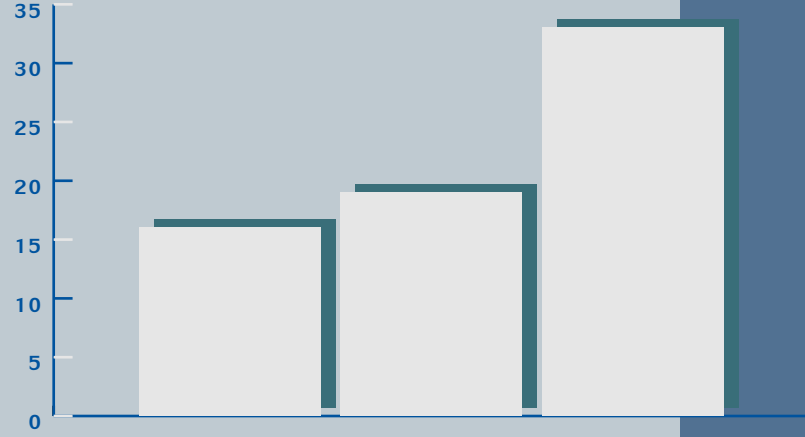
President Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia said, "We must set in motion national processes that will guide member States' efforts to integrate and domesticate the new Agenda into local content that will engender national ownership in the implementation process."

Africa and Decent Work



Decent work plays a central role in achieving a new development paradigm in Africa².

Africa has the potential to become the main engine of job creation in the world.



If new entrants are equipped with the right skills and have access to decent work opportunities, the continent can become a magnet for sustainable enterprises, investment and business innovation. Africa can be at the vanguard in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over the next 15 years, one in three new entrants to the global labour market will be African³.

ILO policy development and the SDGs

The central role accorded to decent work in the 2030 Agenda represents a major endorsement of the ILO's role in promoting sustainable development and thus accords the Organization a significant opportunity to play a strategic role in its implementation. The ILO has been developing a number of strategic initiatives:

The end to poverty centenary initiative brings together significant areas of the ILO's work that contribute to the 2030 Agenda and help define the ILO's contribution to achieving the SDGs.

The ten policy outcomes and three enabling outcomes of the ILO Programme and Budget for 2016/17 will enable ILO resources to support the SDGs. They cover more and better jobs, labour standards, social protection floors, sustainable enterprises, rural economy, informal economy, compliance, unacceptable forms of work, migration, and workers and employers.

At the International Labour Conference in 2013, ILO constituents adopted a resolution concerning sustainable development, decent work and green jobs which provides a framework to support just transition and decent work in the pursuit of climate change and sustainable development solutions.

The ILO is developing technical guidelines for country analysis drawing on experience in supporting the Decent Work Country Profiles and other relevant experience.

Issues for discussion:

What are governments planning to do as a national follow-up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda?

What are national trade unions and employers' organizations' plans for engagement with government and international partners?

Is the preparation of a national sustainable development strategy on the agenda for national tripartite consultations?

What sort of support will the ILO's constituents wish to have from the Office? For example, are broad-ranging reviews of policy options for inclusive growth through the promotion of decent work useful? Are there clear priority issues requiring urgent action? What adaptations to previous ILO capacity-building programmes are needed to enable constituents to fully engage in national policy-making for sustainable development?

What role should the ILO aim to play in the continental follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and through the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)? The 2030 Agenda envisages follow-up regionally and globally enabling the exchange of information on progress and policies.

How can the ILO's tripartite partnership best develop engagements with other international agencies, development cooperation agencies, and other actors to support implementation of decent work for sustainable development?

Tackling major opportunities and challenges for ILO in the post 2015 context

¹ Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>.

² A number of key events have underscored the central role of decent work for achieving a new development paradigm for Africa. Such events include the African Union (AU) Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa (Ouagadougou, September 2004); the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Abuja, May 2005); the Conference of African Ministers (Ouagadougou, May 2006); and the 11th and 12th ILO African Regional Meetings held in Addis Ababa (April 2007) and Johannesburg (October 2011), respectively. More recently, the AU adopted a declaration making decent work a central goal of economic and social policies (January 2015) and it launched Agenda 2063, which provides a vision for seizing new development and investment opportunities.

³ Towards sustainable and inclusive growth in Africa through decent work, Report of the Director-General, 13th African Regional Meeting, November 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Geneva, ILO, 2015).