

III

Resolution on Advancing Social Justice through Decent Work¹

EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE ILO DECLARATION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR A FAIR GLOBALIZATION AND CONCLUSIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization, meeting at its 105th Session, 2016,

Having undertaken an evaluation of the impact of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, adopted in 2008,

Adopts the following resolution.

I. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE DECLARATION

1. In unanimously adopting the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (the Social Justice Declaration) in 2008, the International Labour Organization and its Members confirmed that their commitment and efforts to implement the ILO's constitutional mandate and to place full and productive employment and decent work at the centre of economic and social policies should be based on the four inseparable, interrelated and mutually supportive strategic objectives of employment, social protection, social dialogue and tripartism, and fundamental principles and rights at work, with gender equality and non-discrimination also as cross-cutting issues. The Social Justice Declaration provides an important framework for better governance and policy making.

2. The Social Justice Declaration is more relevant today than ever to address global, regional and national challenges and to have a decisive impact on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). This evaluation of the Social Justice Declaration should: (i) inform the ILO actions in pursuit of its centenary initiatives leading up to, and beyond, the 100th Anniversary of the ILO in 2019; (ii) encourage Members' endeavours to achieve the full potential of the Social Justice Declaration; and (iii) guide the ILO and its Members in responding to the urgent call for a full and active role in the 2030 Agenda.

II. IMPACT OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE DECLARATION

3. Decent work is now widely recognized as a global goal. The Social Justice Declaration has served as a reference point for Members and as an organizing framework for the ILO to provide support to its Members. It has underpinned a continued commitment of the ILO to reform in order to better support its Members. It offers a framework for effective action and policy coherence, coordination and collaboration for decent work between the ILO and relevant national, regional and international institutions.

4. Members have fully endorsed the Social Justice Declaration and taken various steps to promote decent work both individually and in cooperation with each other, including through development partnerships. A growing number of member States have adopted Decent Work Country Programmes.

¹ Adopted on 9 June 2016.

5. The Social Justice Declaration informed the Global Jobs Pact (2009), which remains a useful policy framework for addressing the social and employment impact of the recent economic and financial crisis. Through the follow-up to the Social Justice Declaration, the Conference has adopted the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, and the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204).

6. At the same time, achieving policy coherence in implementing the Decent Work Agenda is still a challenge in many parts of the world. Members have faced complex choices in prioritizing their efforts to advance decent work in an integrated way. More work is needed to improve the implementation and ratification of standards, facilitate the transition from the informal to the formal economy, raise awareness and promote a better understanding of the Social Justice Declaration as an instrument to guide future action, including policy making, by Members individually and in cooperation with each other, and foster ownership by constituents.

7. Reforms of the Conference and the Governing Body have improved the Organization's governance, policy-making and oversight functions. The ILO is enhancing its work on standards policy, notably through the Standards Initiative, and it has implemented a scheme of recurrent discussions of each of the strategic objectives at the Conference.

8. However, recurrent discussions need to be improved to achieve a better understanding of the diverse realities and needs of Members and to realize their value as a tool for assessing implementation of the Social Justice Declaration and for informing future action. In addition, there has been limited progress in establishing and making use of appropriate indicators to monitor progress towards decent work.

9. Decent Work Country Programmes have proven a useful tool and more Members should be encouraged to adopt them. However, more needs to be done to make them better focused, prioritized and grounded in the specific realities and challenges faced by Members. All Decent Work Country Programmes should be determined and owned by constituents; reflect their diverse national needs and priorities; and include balanced strategies integrating all four strategic objectives and gender equality and non-discrimination also as cross-cutting issues.

10. A number of steps have been taken to translate the integrated approach into the work of the Office. Progress has been made to enhance evidence-based research and policy analysis to assist Members in pursuing the aims of the Social Justice Declaration in their specific national circumstances.

11. The Social Justice Declaration has helped to increase policy coherence, coordination and collaboration among the ILO, other United Nations agencies and the multilateral economic institutions, but challenges remain. The promotion of the Decent Work Agenda within international and regional institutions needs to be furthered through institutional partnerships and collaboration mechanisms. Collaboration with international and regional organizations and other actors should be improved in order to foster comprehensive and coordinated policies and strategies to promote all the strategic objectives and to leverage their contribution to decent work. Translating high level commitments effectively into policies and programmes at the regional and country level continues to be a challenge.

III. PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

A. Principles and policies to achieve the full potential of the Social Justice Declaration

12. Further concrete action is needed to achieve the full potential of the Social Justice Declaration, with due attention to advancing decent work in the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular by integrating decent work into national sustainable development strategies.

13. In the changing world of work, given the rapidity of technological, societal, demographic, economic and environmental changes, Members' efforts to reach the inseparable, interrelated and mutually supportive strategic objectives of decent work should be based on the urgent need to promote:

- (a) employment by creating an enabling institutional and economic environment for productive, profitable and sustainable enterprises, together with a strong social economy and a viable public sector, to foster inclusive growth, employment and income opportunities;
- (b) social protection – social security and labour protection – to ensure a just share of the fruits of progress for all;
- (c) social dialogue and tripartism as crucial means for the effective achievement of the four strategic objectives at national, regional and international levels;
- (d) the universal and immutable fundamental principles and rights at work and their particular significance both as rights and enabling conditions, in particular freedom of association and collective bargaining;
- (e) gender equality and non-discrimination also as cross-cutting issues in the four strategic objectives;
- (f) greater ownership, policy coherence and complementarity of national, regional and international approaches to the full implementation of the Social Justice Declaration and the 2030 Agenda; and
- (g) cooperation among Members, as well as between Members and international organizations, on sharing national and regional good practices gained from the successful implementation of initiatives with a decent work element.

14. In order to reach the full potential of the Social Justice Declaration, the implementation of the four strategic objectives should be adapted to the specific needs and circumstances of each country, and subject to its existing international obligations and the fundamental principles and rights at work.

B. ILO action to effectively assist its Members

15. In order to effectively assist its Members in their efforts to achieve the full potential of the Social Justice Declaration, the Conference calls upon the ILO to make the best use of all its means of action to:

15.1. Standards system

Ensure that there are appropriate and effective linkages between the recurrent discussions and the outcomes of the Standards Initiative, including exploring options for making better use of article 19, paragraphs 5(e) and 6(d), of the ILO Constitution, without increasing the reporting obligations of member States.

15.2. Recurrent discussions

- (a) Adopt appropriate modalities to better focus recurrent discussions and ensure that they are grounded in current realities and challenges so as to:
 - (i) deliver a regularly updated review of Members' diverse needs and realities with respect to each strategic objective;
 - (ii) assess the results of the ILO's activities in respect of the strategic objectives to facilitate decision making on future priorities; and
 - (iii) inform ILO strategic planning and programme and budget discussions.
- (b) Adopt modalities to ensure that general surveys and the related discussion by the Committee on the Application of Standards contribute to the recurrent discussions as appropriate.
- (c) Examine the possibility of a shorter cycle of recurrent discussions of each of the four strategic objectives, taking into account the:

- (i) specific requirements pertaining to the examination of each strategic objective;
- (ii) two-year programme and budget cycle and the four-year strategic plan;
- (iii) contribution of the recurrent discussions to the streamlining of the process of setting the Conference agenda;
- (iv) past practice of separately addressing labour protection and social security on the Conference agenda;
- (v) possible grouping of strategic objectives when placed on the Conference agenda;
- (vi) timing of the next evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration; and
- (vii) ILO's contribution to the follow-up and review by the United Nations of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

15.3. Strengthening the results-based framework and Decent Work Country Programmes

- (a) Develop the Strategic Plan for 2018–21 based on the integrated approach to decent work covering all four strategic objectives and the cross-cutting issues. Its implementation should be based on constituents' priorities and specific needs, make the best use of all the ILO's means of action and support the capacity development of constituents.
- (b) Review the programme and budget results framework, including indicators and the reporting on outcomes, good practices and lessons learned, to allow the ILO to assess results and to demonstrate to its constituents how its work has contributed to the realization of the four strategic objectives.
- (c) Strengthen the ILO's evaluation and institutional learning in order to demonstrate impact and improve delivery to constituents.
- (d) Ensure that all Decent Work Country Programmes comprise integrated and balanced strategies to promote all the strategic objectives and the cross-cutting issues in a set of priorities identified by national tripartite constituents; contain measurable, realistic and achievable outcomes; and should have tripartite steering committees or similar fora to ensure ownership and increase impact.
- (e) Support Members to better align Decent Work Country Programmes with national and, where appropriate, regional sustainable development strategies that integrate the 2030 Agenda and its decent work components, as well as with United Nations planning frameworks at the country or, where appropriate, regional level.

15.4. Institutional capacity building

- (a) Further strengthen the institutional capacity of member States and representative organizations of employers and workers according to their needs, to pursue relevant, effective and coherent social policy for decent work and sustainable development.
- (b) Strengthen the awareness, understanding and capacity of constituents – including through the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, regional and online programmes – to achieve the aims of the Social Justice Declaration, and measure and monitor the results of such capacity development efforts in a systematic and coherent manner.
- (c) Strengthen and streamline its development cooperation and expert advice to support and assist efforts by Members to make progress on a tripartite basis towards all the strategic objectives.

15.5. Research, information collection and sharing

- (a) Continue to strengthen its policy-oriented and evidence-based research, taking into account the needs of ILO's constituents, to support informed policy dialogue, with particular attention to the challenges and opportunities associated with trends and drivers transforming the world of work.
- (b) Strengthen the knowledge base to improve understanding of the contribution of the integrated approach to decent work for sustainable development.
- (c) Further enhance Members' capacity to produce, use and share statistics and information covering all four strategic objectives, as well as gender equality and non-discrimination as cross-cutting issues, and information on best practices, including through voluntary national peer reviews.
- (d) Further develop, through the Governing Body, a framework for decent work indicators that allows Members to measure their progress towards decent work according to their national needs and circumstances.
- (e) Assist Members' efforts to use decent work indicators that are appropriate to national needs and circumstances in order to monitor and evaluate progress made.

15.6 Partnerships and policy coherence for decent work

- (a) Develop a strategy for promoting decent work through partnerships and policy coherence based on the principles of complementarity and mutual reinforcement with relevant international, regional and national organizations that have mandates in closely related fields. In all such partnerships the ILO should promote understanding and recognition of its values, mandate and standards.
- (b) Include in such a strategy a special focus on promoting inclusive growth and decent work at the country level with international and regional economic and financial institutions.
- (c) Strengthen the ILO's capacity and that of its constituents to contribute to the achievement of decent work and related goals of the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and international levels, based on the integrated approach of the Social Justice Declaration.
- (d) Foster policy coherence by offering evidence-based policy advice and closely working with relevant government ministries and departments, and by facilitating the participation of the tripartite constituents in national sustainable development strategies and related United Nations planning frameworks.
- (e) Lead or engage in alliances related to Goal 8² as well as other decent work-related goals of the 2030 Agenda with the involvement of the tripartite partners consistent with the resolution concerning tripartism and social dialogue (2002), and within the framework of the Social Justice Declaration.
- (f) Contribute to the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda through inputs concerning decent work trends and indicators to national, regional and global reports that will feed into the annual reviews by the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
- (g) In the context of the Enterprises Initiative, and welcoming the recent growth in ILO public-private partnerships, further develop its engagement with the private sector, taking into account the guidance provided by the Governing Body at its 326th Session (March 2016) as well as the Conference Conclusions concerning the promotion of sustainable enterprises (2007), the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (1977), the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204), and the Conference

² Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Conclusions concerning small and medium-sized enterprises and decent work and productive employment creation (2015).

- (h) Promote strategic partnerships with relevant non-state actors consistent with the principles of tripartism and social dialogue.
- (i) Promote the implementation of Goal 17³ of the 2030 Agenda and its complementarity with the ILO Development Cooperation Strategy.
- (j) Attract additional resources for the implementation of the Social Justice Declaration, further diversify funding sources, promote South–South and triangular cooperation, and enhance the integrated pursuit of the four strategic objectives through larger development projects and programmes.

C. Action by member States

16. The Conference calls upon member States to take appropriate action in the context of national circumstances to:

- (a) mainstream the Decent Work Agenda in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including in national and regional strategies for sustainable development;
- (b) step up action with a view to achieving progressively the ratification and implementation of the fundamental and governance Conventions;
- (c) promote policy coherence across ministries and integrate decent work into national policies. These efforts could include, where appropriate, effective consultations among concerned ministries and with social partners; and
- (d) promote sustainable enterprises.

IV. FOLLOW-UP BY THE GOVERNING BODY AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

17. The Conference invites the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to:

- (a) determine appropriate modalities to integrate the outcome of the present evaluation into the work of the Governing Body and the programme of work of the International Labour Office;
- (b) consider the possibility of convening a high-level tripartite exchange on the role of decent work in the 2030 Agenda and the ILO's leadership on decent work related goals;
- (c) request the Director-General of the International Labour Office to:
 - (i) take into account the outcome of the present evaluation in the proposal for the Strategic Plan for 2018–21;
 - (ii) submit to the Governing Body, in November 2016, detailed proposals relating to the modalities of recurrent discussions as outlined in subparagraph 15.2, with a view to better meeting their objectives and to ensure a prompt transition from the current cycle of recurrent discussions to the next cycle;
 - (iii) submit to the Governing Body, in March 2017, proposals for a programme of work to give effect to the outcome of the present evaluation, including specific deadlines and appropriate measurable targets and indicators; and
 - (iv) communicate to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, at its meeting in July 2016, and to relevant international and regional organizations and fora, the elements of the present resolution that are of particular relevance for the implementation of the components of the 2030 Agenda relating to the achievement of decent work.

³ Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

18. The Conference decides that the action outlined in the present resolution will form an integral part of the next evaluation of the impact of the Social Justice Declaration to be undertaken by the Conference.