



# ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW GLOBAL PREPARATORY MEETING

*3 April 2012, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., ECOSOC Chamber*

## CONCEPT NOTE

### **Background**

The 2012 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) will be held during the High-level Segment (HLS) of the substantive session of ECOSOC in July, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. It will focus on the theme of promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty, in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The prevailing multiple and interrelated global crises present major challenges to all United Nations Member States. In particular, one of the issues receiving increasing attention is the relationship between productivity, employment, decent work and inequality. In order to better understand this complex issue, it is of utmost importance for the Council to analyze the current situation and devise strategies for action at the global, regional and national levels.

In developed countries, despite the resumption of economic growth after the end of the “Great Recession” of 2007-2009, unemployment levels have remained high. This problem of persistent unemployment and “jobless recovery” of the recent business cycles is not simply about a lack of sufficient demand for labor. Technological progress is revolutionizing business processes and people who have the misfortune of possessing skills that are more efficiently and cheaply handled by computers are quickly finding themselves unemployed. Moreover, while advances in technology have led to increases in productivity and overall wealth, the distribution of that wealth has been unequal.

In both developed and developing countries, the global economic and financial crisis exacerbated pre-existing challenges to the achievement of full employment and decent work. While unemployment and inequitable labour market outcomes remain high in developed countries, labour markets in developing countries continue to be characterized by high rates of underemployment, vulnerable employment and informal work. Many economies are simply not generating sufficient decent work opportunities to reduce poverty. Currently, around 39 per cent of the global labour force – or 1.2 billion women and men in work – live on less than \$2 a day per person.<sup>1</sup> Young people are faring

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<sup>1</sup> ILO, [Global Employment Trends 2011](#)

particularly poorly; jobs are not being created quickly enough to absorb growth in the working-age population, which can contribute to social exclusion, political instability and conflict.

### **Objectives and Outcomes**

The main objective of the Global Preparatory Meeting (GPM) is to identify the key issues to be considered by Member States in preparing for the 2012 Annual Ministerial Review. More specifically, it is expected that the meeting will:

- Highlight key policy and other requirements for building productive capacity and promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth in developing countries, particularly least developed and vulnerable countries, as well as connecting its importance to MDG achievements and the discussion on a fairer, greener and more sustainable globalization;
- Put a spotlight on economic growth models that promote job creation, are sustainable, inclusive and equitable and can be tailored to the particular needs of countries, while promoting social protection and rights at work;
- Provide an assessment of progress towards achieving employment related goals and commitments and support provided by the UN system to that end;
- Highlight the inter-linkages between recommended policy measures and progress towards poverty eradication and other internationally agreed development goals; and
- Address the widening inequalities within and among countries.

### **Format**

The meeting will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will be divided into three distinct parts; a brief opening session with a keynote address and a presentation by a member of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) followed by a short session with representatives of the key United Nations organizations that are engaged in promoting the implementation of the Global Jobs Pact.

### **Focus**

The keynote speaker will speak about the rapid rate of acceleration of technological progress and its deep consequences for skills, wages, and jobs. In particular, he will discuss the nexus between technology and unemployment.

In its resolution 2011/20, the Council decided to engage in more frequent interactions with the Committee for Development Policy (CDP). The Council invited the Chair and other members of the Committee to meet with the Council prior to its annual substantive session, to discuss the views and recommendations on the themes of the high-level segment and other relevant issues contained in the annual report of the Committee. It is expected that the representative of the CDP will discuss issues related to employment from its annual report with the Council, including industrial policies that aim at structural economic transformation, on the role played by public employment generation

programmes in the rural sector and micro financing schemes in the informal sector. In addition, economic, social and legal schemes aimed at female farmers-the largest contingent of agricultural workers in many low income developing countries will also be addressed.

Also, in its resolution 2011/37, ECOSOC requested the Secretary-General to report on the use of the Global Jobs Pact (GJP) by the United Nations system and on progress made in implementing the resolution in his report to the annual ministerial review of the Council at its substantive session of 2012. In this panel discussion, representatives of key UN agencies will discuss various aspects of the policy tools/frameworks of the Global Jobs Pact that support job creation and promote sustained, inclusive and equitable growth.

ILO: The representative will set the stage by addressing policy options within the context of the GJP job intensive investment and strategies to spur employment and address underemployment;

FAO: The representative will address policies related to improving agricultural productivity, rural employment and development;

UNDP: The representative will discuss concrete examples of employment programmes and guarantee schemes to tackle employment in poorest countries.

### **Outcome**

An informal summary of the meeting's deliberations will be prepared, which will capture the key messages from the discussions. The informal summary will serve as an input into the Report of the Secretary General on the theme of the 2012 AMR and also help to inform the negotiations on the Ministerial Declaration.

### **Audience**

It is expected that the audience will comprise of representatives UN Member States, representatives of UN system and civil society organizations.

### **Proposed Panelists**

Key note speaker: **Professor Erik Brynjolfsson**, MIT Sloan School

### **CDP Member**

**Mr. Jose Antonio Alonso**, Director, Complutense Institute of Foreign Studies (ICEI), and Professor of Applied Economics, Complutense University of Madrid

### **UN System**

**Mr. Aurelio Parisotto**, Senior Economist, Policy Integration Department, ILO

**Ms. Eve Crowley**, Deputy Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment, FAO

**Mr. Degol Hailu**, Senior Adviser, Poverty Practice, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP