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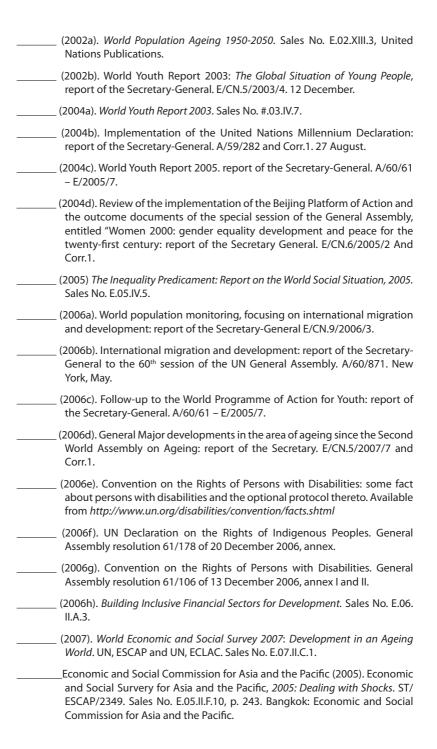
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The 2007 issue of the Report on the World Social Situation focuses on the key role of productive employment and decent work in reducing poverty and promoting social development. The Report surveys global trends in employment and work, as well as the evolution of the socio-economic context of the world of work in the last two decades. It closely examines four areas of increasing concern: jobless growth, global informalization of the labour market, economic and social liberalization, and migration. The Report shows that, in the current phase of globalization, labour markets have generated greater economic insecurity and greater levels of most forms of inequality, adversely affecting decent work and employment opportunities.

Against this background, the *Report* urges governments to place decent work for all, rather than economic growth per se, or even simply creating jobs, at the centre of economic and social policy making. It recommends policies and strategies to promote full employment and decent work, taking into account demographic and social changes. The *Report* emphasizes that political reforms and legal provisions are necessary to prevent work-related discrimination on the basis of race, gender and age, and to protect immigrants at work and in society in order to promote decent work for all. Finally, the *Report* points to the need to ensure some forms of universal social protection coverage as more and more workers are, by choice or by necessity, in employment situations that are casual, informal and unprotected by standard collective contracts.



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