

Programme

Expert Group Meeting on the priority theme of the forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development

“Full Employment and Decent Work for All”

2-4 October 2007

United Nations Headquarters, New York

Day 1

1. Introduction and overview:

Opening address

Purpose and background of the meeting

Keynote address on major challenges and constraints for achieving employment and decent work

2. International policies for creating an enabling environment conducive to employment and promotion of decent work

This session will discuss policy coherence issues with regard to investment, trade, migration, and aid to support national policies to achieve employment and decent work.

Suggested questions for discussion:

How can an appropriate balance between national policy space and global commitments on trade and finance be achieved to pursue macroeconomic policies aimed at increased growth in output and employment?

What are the options for promoting better global economic governance that will have a positive impact on developing countries to achieve employment and decent work?

How can a better international coordination of policies contribute to higher growth and employment creation?

What actions would you recommend for the UN system, including international financial institutions, to support national strategies to achieve employment and decent work.

Interactive dialogue

3. National policies for creating an enabling environment conducive to employment and promotion of decent work

This session will address national-level experiences and policy recommendations to support growth, macroeconomic environment, investment, and enterprise development. (4-5 speakers)

Suggested questions for discussion:

Based on your country's national experience, what policies and strategies yielded results in terms of productive employment creation and decent work?

What policy measures would you recommend for creating more and better jobs, including through promoting agriculture, investment and stimulating small and medium-sized enterprises (including cooperatives) development?

What are the challenges for matching supply and demand factors in the labour market and what policy measures could be proposed to better align labour supply and demand at the national level?

What arrangements are needed to make employment and decent work a central objective of macroeconomic policies, including monetary policies of central banks?

Interactive dialogue

Day 2

4. Skills, employability and social inclusion

This session will focus on innovative national/regional policies and strategies to enhance employability through training and skills development for marginalized social groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, the informal economy workers, and the working poor, in the face of new challenges. (4-5 speakers)

Suggested questions for discussion:

Based on national/regional experience what are the most effective programmes/approaches in investing in skills and knowledge development for marginalized groups, especially young people, women and the working poor?

With changes in the nature and content of jobs, including outsourcing what kind of new training policies/initiatives have been introduced by enterprises, public and private employment services, and training institutions to reduce skills gap, improve access to ICT, information, knowledge, and lifelong learning for these social groups?

Interactive dialogue

5. Policies to promote social protection for all

This session will address novel policies to enhance social protection coverage and quality, including access to basic social services in the era of globalization. Tackling HIV/AIDS, and protection of workers in the informal economy, rural, agricultural sector, in unpaid work, and migrant workers will be also discussed. (4-5 speakers)

At the international level, there is a need to put social protection for all at the top of development agenda, including reaching workers in the informal economy. Participants can also exchange views on this topic.

Suggested questions for discussion:

What are the main challenges the traditional social protection systems face in the present? What are the new approaches/promising ways to improve social security systems that provide universal coverage for basic risks to address these challenges?

Based on national/regional experience what are the best ways/policies to overcome obstacles in the extension of social protection to excluded workers, including those in the informal economy, rural, agricultural sector, in unpaid work, and migrant workers?

Interactive dialogue

Day 3

6. Standards and regulatory policies

This session will look at national experiences in overcoming obstacles related to better application of labour law and regulations. (3-4 speakers)

Suggested questions for discussion:

Based on national experience what are the critical challenges in implementing international labour standards and anti-discrimination laws, including gender equality, wages, and protecting immigrants' workplace rights?

What policy recommendations would you suggest to overcome some of the key barriers?

Interactive dialogue

7. Brief summary and closing remarks