



Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan



International
Labour
Organization



Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

2023 Commemorative Event on the Occasion of the World Day of Social Justice

**“Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities
for Social Justice”**

20 February 2023

Virtual event with Youth, followed by a multi-stakeholder in-person event

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.
ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ

The Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN and the International Labour Organization (ILO), in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), are pleased to convene the commemorative meeting of the 2023 World Day of Social Justice. This year’s theme will focus on the recommendations of Our Common Agenda to strengthen global solidarity and to rebuild trust in government by “Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice”.

Today, the majority of workers have not recovered their pre-pandemic labour incomes and the gender gap in hours worked has continued to grow. Increases in food and commodity prices is disproportionately impacting poor households and small businesses, especially those in the informal economy. Roughly half the world’s population remains without any access to social protection. And in too many places, having a job does not guarantee the ability to escape from poverty. A continued lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient investments in social policy, and an over-consumption of natural resources have led to an erosion of trust and a frayed social contract in many countries. Even before the pandemic, there was growing concern about the adverse effects of high and rising levels of inequality, and a recognition of the need for urgent and decisive action to reduce them and ensure more inclusive growth that provides decent work opportunities for all. The digital divide and disruptions to global trade and supply chains risk further deepening inequalities and poverty. Women and youth are disproportionately affected by overlapping crises, unemployment, and socio-economic insecurity and face many barriers in accessing decent work.

There are however many opportunities to unleash greater investments in decent jobs, particularly in the green, digital and care economy. In an era of rapid technological development, young digital natives can also find solutions to overcome inequalities. Youth entrepreneurship is on the rise and the increasing number of incubators, accelerators, and programs focused on supporting young entrepreneurs contributes to this trend. As tech leaders, young entrepreneurs can also use their influence to advocate for policies and practices that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, launched by the UN Secretary-General and welcomed by member States and many other stakeholders, also provides a platform to mobilize financing, to boost employment in the green, digital and care economy and to extend social protection floors.

Almost thirty years ago, at the World Summit for Social Development in 1995, global leaders pledged to make the eradication of poverty, the goal of full employment and social justice overriding objectives of development. The 2030 Agenda also aims to “promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all”. Decent work has increasingly been recognized as the lynchpin of strategies to achieve social justice by linking the social, economic and environmental components of sustainability.

The 2023 World Day of Social Justice provides an opportunity to foster dialogue with member States, youth and relevant UN institutions and other stakeholders on actions needed to achieve social justice by strengthening the social contract that has been fractured by rising inequalities, conflicts and weakened institutions that are meant to uphold and protect the rights of workers.

Key Questions for Discussion:

- What are the key bottlenecks and challenges to overcoming rising inequalities, decent work deficits, including lack of access to social protection, digital exclusion and disruption of trade?
- What are the opportunities in the green and digital economy to reduce inequalities and promote social justice, in particular for youth?
- What actions are needed by governments, the UN system, international financial institutions, employers’ and workers’ organisations, civil society and other stakeholders to increase investments for social justice?

The commemoration will start with an online dialogue with youth advocates and young entrepreneurs on their vision for social justice and shared prosperity and will be followed by an in-person side-event as outlined below.

PROGRAMME Virtual Segment with Youth	
9:30 – 9:40 a.m.	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Government Representative, Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Ms. Beate Andrees, Special Representative and Director, ILO Office for the United Nations</p>

	<p>Moderator</p> <p>Ms. Sinead Bovell, ITU Generation Connect Visionaries Board; Founder of WAYE</p>
<p>9:40 – 10:05 a.m.</p>	<p>Presentation and Panel Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Antonia Baskakov, ITU Generation Connect Youth Envoy Europe & Lead of the Youth Policy Working Group; Project Management at ONE Campaign • Ms. Karimot Odebode, ITU Generation Connect Youth Envoy Africa; Founder and Project Lead of the Black Girl’s Dream Initiative (BGDI) • Ms. Rabiya Anwer, Communication & Services Manager, The Employers’ Federation of Pakistan • Mr. Cameron Flowers, Founder & CEO of Floreo Lab (tbc) <p>Youth representatives share their views on the questions below</p> <p>Q1: How does your work help reduce inequality and promote social justice?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the platform/tool? • What are the issues to address? • What is your entrepreneurship journey? <p>Q2: What challenges exist and what kind of support do you think different stakeholders/the international community should provide?</p>
<p>10:05 – 10:25 a.m.</p>	<p>Q&A</p>
<p>10:25- 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Ms. Sinead Bovell (Moderator)</p>

DRAFT PROGRAMME ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ (In-person)	
1:15 - 1:25 p.m.	Chair H.E. Ms. Aida Kasymalieva , Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations Opening Video Messages H.E. Mr. António Guterres , Secretary General of the United Nations Mr. Gilbert Hounghbo , Director General, ILO
1:25 – 1:35 p.m.	Keynote Address H.E. Mr. José Antonio Ocampo Gaviria , Minister of Finance, Colombia (TBC)
	Moderator Ms. Beate Andrees , Special Representative and Director, ILO Office for the United Nations
1:35 – 2:05 p.m.	Panel Discussion H.E. Ms. Ana Paula Zacarias , Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations (TBC) Ms. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr , Professor of International Affairs, the New School (TBC) Representative , International Trade Union Confederation Representative , International Organisation of Employers Ms. Sinead Bovell , Youth Representative
2:05 – 2:25 p.m.	Interactive discussion Moderator: Representative, UNCTAD
2:25 – 2:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks by the Chair H.E. Ms. Aida Kasymalieva , Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations