

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE BREAKFASTS 2012
Delegates' Dining Room (Main Floor, Secretariat Building)
8:15-9:45 a.m. 3-9 July 2012

<i>Agency/Agencies</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Theme</i>
UNICEF/ILO	3 July	“Workers with family responsibilities: connecting child development and the decent work agenda”
ILO	3 July	“The new ILO recommendation on Social protection floors”
DESA/FAO/ILO	5 July	"Promoting productive capacity for sustainable livelihood: the role of cooperatives”
UNICEF/WHO NCD Alliance	6 July	“Working Well: Safe-guarding adolescent and youth livelihood in the face of NCDs and their risk factors”
UN Women/ILO	6 July	“Decent work and women’s economic empowerment: Good policy and practice”
UNESCO/ILO	9 July	“Building Skills for Green Societies”
OSAA*	9 July	“Addressing youth unemployment as a strategy for peace building, conflict prevention and resolution in Africa”

***Please note:** The Ministerial Roundtable Breakfast organized by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) will now be held at the **Offices of the African Union, 305 E.47th Street (5th Floor), New York, NY.**

ECOSOC High-Level Segment Ministerial Roundtable Breakfasts 2012

Brief synopses

Tuesday, 3 July

***“Workers with family responsibilities: connecting child development and the decent work agenda”*, co-organized by UNICEF and ILO**

To achieve inclusive and equitable growth, outreach to working families with young children is essential, especially for the poorest and most marginalized and will result in positive outcomes for young girls and women. The roundtable discussion will among other things focus on the challenge for families of maintaining a work/child care balance while sustaining a decent household income; address families’ lack of access to critical resources and share working examples of government and non-governmental organizations, and public-private partnership for improved access of low income working parents to quality and affordable child care services.

***“The new ILO recommendation on Social Protection Floors”*, organized by ILO**

Effective social protection is a key component of a comprehensive policy package aiming at strengthening domestic sources of economic growth, reducing poverty and enhancing resilience to shocks. The Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) was adopted in April 2009 by the UN Chief Executive Board as one of its nine initiatives to cope with the current global crisis. Issues discussed at this breakfast roundtable will include the role of national social protection floors in sustainable development; how national social protection floors can help to attain internationally agreed development goals and what role ECOSOC could play in promoting the social protection floor.

Thursday, 5 July

***“Promoting productive capacity for sustainable livelihoods: The role of cooperatives”*, co-organized by DESA, FAO and ILO**

Evidence from around the world shows the contributions of cooperatives in promoting decent work and providing income security, especially among those who previously found themselves formally excluded. The United Nations General Assembly declared 2012 the “International Year of Cooperatives” and invited governments and international organizations, in partnership with cooperatives and cooperative organizations, to consider developing a road map or plan of action for the promotion of cooperatives for sustainable socioeconomic development. This event aims to promote dialogue among the various stakeholders on the advantages of the cooperative model and to promote shared strategies in the support and development of the model as the basis of developing the aforementioned road map.

Friday, 6 July

***“Working Well: Safe-guarding Adolescent and Youth Livelihood in the face of NCDs and their risk factors”*, co-organized by UNICEF and WHO NCD Alliance**

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – diabetes, heart attacks, stroke, cancer and chronic respiratory disease have reached veritable epidemic proportions globally having a significant impact on children and adolescents. The breakfast discussion will focus on situating this issue in the context of the mega drivers of current development and identifying the social and structural determinants that must be addressed to reduce and mitigate the impact of NCDs on the participation and productivity of adolescents and youth in the workforce. Attention will also be given to enabling multi-sectoral actions that address these factors and putting in place mechanisms to monitor progress and corrective measures.

***“Decent Work and Women’s Economic Empowerment: Good Policy and Practice”*, co-organized by UN Women and ILO**

Gender sensitive economic analysis shows that macroeconomic changes have gendered impacts, determining how women and men participate in the paid economy, their slide into the informal economy and how they allocate their time to unpaid work. Investing in women’s equal and effective participation in the workforce is central to achieving sustainable, inclusive growth and human development. The ECOSOC Ministerial Roundtable Breakfast will provide a forum to share good practice policies and programmes that have generated large scale employment for women; enhanced productive capacity, labour and social protections and increased women’s representation in leadership positions. A wider range of good practices that can facilitate longer term tailored application in other contexts will also be discussed.

Monday, 9 July

***“Building Skills for Green Economies and Societies”*, organized by UNESCO and ILO**

The need to transition towards a more sustainable development model is creating opportunities for new technologies, investment and jobs in green sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency in buildings and construction, sustainable transport, and organic farming. Green and inclusive education and training system is therefore not only an imperative but also an untapped strategic resource to achieve transition to “green economies” and “green societies”. This Ministerial breakfast will focus on how education and training systems need to be transformed to address new skills needs and to play a catalytic role in achieving low-carbon, climate-resilient development.

***“Addressing Youth Unemployment as a Strategy for Peace Building, Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa”*, organized by OSAA**

Providing African youth with adequate access to quality education and decent employment is critical to political stability, peace and security. Economic mismanagement, inadequate social investment and the lack of political participation and decent job opportunities for young people is becoming a major driver for discontentment and conflict as has been seen in part of North Africa. The attendant problems, such as conflict and increase in transnational crime affect not just African populations but the entire world. The 2012 ECOSOC High Level Segment provides an ideal framework to discuss and articulate the best responses. The main purpose of this roundtable breakfast is to engage high-level policy makers in discussing ways and means to address youth employment as an effective strategy for conflict prevention.