



Virtual Event

“Leaving no one behind and building back better from COVID-19: The Future of Work in LDCs”

19 November 2020

9:00 – 11:00am (EST)

UN Headquarters

Description

The future of work has emerged as a central topic of concern as policy maker’s grapple with the impacts of trends in globalization, demographic transitions, climate change, technological progress and their effects on the quantity and quality of jobs. As the global recession brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic is causing labour market ravages in all regions, some of those trends are accelerating, thereby generating new challenges and opportunities for job creation. While advanced economies are responding promptly and stand ready to invest to take benefit from the spread of remote working arrangements, increasing automation and the reshuffling of global value chains, LDCs struggle to overcome deep rooted and pre-existing decent work deficits wrought by informality, limited social protection, skills gaps and inadequate infrastructure. Along with these challenges, LDCs face constraints associated with limited fiscal space, technology deficits, environmental degradation and a growing youth population that must be absorbed by already fragile labour markets.

As underscored in the ILO Centenary Declaration and endorsed by the UN General Assembly, the future of work offers countless opportunities to improve the quality of working lives, expand job creation including for young people, improve the health and safety of workers, close the gender gap, promote environmental sustainability, reverse the damages wreaked by global inequality, and much more. Yet none of this will happen by itself and the current COVID-19 pandemic is making progress more difficult. The right mix of policies are needed including future of work strategies to ensure LDCs benefit from the global changes underway and achieve the commitments outlined in the IPOA and 2030 Agenda.

Nearing the end of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA) and pursuing the UN Decade of Action, this event will reflect on the continued labour market vulnerabilities and targeted actions required at national and international levels to achieve a promising future of work in LDCs. The event will look at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on labour markets in LDCs and the uncertainties lying ahead and it will explore the policy frameworks that can foster recovery and build future resilience. The discussion aims to equip policy-makers with key future of work priorities to consider as they embark on the Decade of Action and the LDC-V conference.

Key Questions

- What are the implications of the COVID-19 crisis for labour markets in the LDCs, and what lessons can be learnt from the LDC policy responses to the crisis? How can those lessons be used to promote job recovery and future resilience?

- As progress in automation, digitization, connected systems continue to advance, and economies are de-globalizing, how will this impact LDCs?
- Recognizing the limited fiscal space in LDCs, what types of frameworks for employment creation and investment are required to boost job creation and productivity, while also ensuring adequate income security?
- What forms of international support would be most helpful?

Objective

The objective of this special event is to stimulate an open, in-depth and interactive discussion of good practices while highlighting both opportunities and challenges. The side event brings together governments, policy-makers, researchers and social partners to provide guidance and recommendations on key questions concerning the future of work in LDCs. It will provide the latest employment data in LDCs and present a snapshot of policy options to explore further as member States embark on the road to LDC5. It will provide an opportunity to take stock of progress made and share best practices or lessons learned to ensure a productive future of work where no LDC is left behind.

PROGRAMME

Chair

H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

Opening Remarks

H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Perks Ligoya, Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Mr. Moussa Oumarou, Deputy Director General for Field Operations and Partnerships, ILO

Moderator

Ms. Beate Andrees, Special Representative and Director, ILO Office to the United Nations

Panellists

Mr. Aurelio Parisotto, Head, Employment and Economic Analyses Unit, Employment Policy Department, ILO

Mr. Boštjan Skalar, CEO, World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies

Ms. Chema Triki, Advisor, Job Creation Commission of Ethiopia

Ms. Khamati Mugalla, Executive Secretary of East African Trade Union Confederation (EATUC)

Ms. Grace Suh, Vice President, Education and Skills, IBM Corporate Social Responsibility

Q&A

Closing

H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations