



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11 March 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that on the occasion of the High-level General Assembly commemorative meeting of the one-hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the interactive dialogue on the Future of Work, I will co-host with Mr. Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organization, a High-level Luncheon on 10 April 2019, from 1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m., in the Delegates' Dining Room at the United Nations Headquarters, New York.

The theme of the luncheon will be "Progress towards SDG 8: good practices and lessons learned". It will provide an opportunity for taking stock of the progress in the implementation of sustainable development objectives in the area of promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. It will also allow for informal interactions on concrete and successful experiences in accelerating achievement of SDGs in the area of decent work.

In order to make the most of the open space for interaction, I look forward to the participation of your head of delegation for the High-level commemorative meeting. A draft agenda is attached herewith. Kindly confirm your availability by 22 March 2019 to Mr. Jonathan Viera (henry.vierasalazar@un.org) or Ms. Noxolo Mtshali (noxolo.mtshali@un.org), who are also available to respond to any questions regarding the meeting, logistics and other organizational arrangements.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "M. ESPINOSA".

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

High-level Luncheon

PROGRESS TOWARDS SDG 8: GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The ILO at 100: Collective Actions to Shape the Future of Work

Delegates' Dining Room (4th Floor)

10 April 2019

1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

Concept Note

The working luncheon is being convened on the occasion of the High-level commemorative meeting of the one-hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the International Labour Organization.

The objective of the meeting is to exchange good practices and identify opportunities for early scaling up and accelerating progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda, with a specific focus on SDG 8 (*Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*). It seeks to provide a candid space for policy makers and other stakeholders to interact under Chatham House Rules to share knowledge and lessons learned.

The ILO flagship report [World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends 2019](#) stated that progress towards SDG 8 has been slower than expected. There continues to be major gaps, both across and within countries. Poor working conditions are identified in the study as the main global challenge in the world of work. The global unemployment rate has declined but more than 170 million people are still unemployed. Furthermore, women, young people (ages 15–24) and persons with disabilities continue to be much less likely to be in employment. Progress in reducing unemployment around the world is not matched by improvements in the quality of work. Equally worrisome is the fact that more than one in five young people are not in employment, education or training (NEET). Global inequality, both within and between countries and regions, has been identified as the main obstacle to achieving decent work and sustainable growth.

Despite modest progress in reducing child labour, there are still 152 million children trapped in child labour and around 40 million victims of modern slavery. Although this number is decreasing, at the rate of change is too slow to meet the target of ending child labour in all its forms by 2025. Likewise, it is estimated that 2.3 million women and men around the world succumb to work-related accidents or diseases every year and there is no signal of improvement.

Progress towards SDG 8 must therefore be examined, in a more comprehensive future analysis, alongside progress on other related targets, especially those associated with SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). Member States need to step up their commitment to the 2030 Agenda if the SDG targets are to be met.

To fully realize SDG 8, it is necessary that higher growth rates be accompanied by decent work opportunities for all women and men, including young people and persons with disabilities. This involves ensuring equal pay for work of equal value, protecting labour rights, making work environments secure and eradicating forced labour, slavery and child labour. It is also important to create decent work opportunities in all areas of employment, encourage entrepreneurship and formalize micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Draft Programme

1:15-1:20	Opening remarks by H.E. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, <i>President of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly</i> Mr. Guy Ryder, <i>Director General, International Labour Organization</i>
1:20-2:15	Interactive panel on Progress towards SDG 8: good practices and lessons learned
2:15-2:40	Open floor for discussion
2:40-2:45	Closing (Moderator)