

Michele Parmelee,
IOE President and Deloitte Global Deputy CEO and Chief People & Purpose Officer

JOBS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR POVERTY ERADICATION

28 September

Question:

The private sector is a key partner in helping to create the transitions needed to move from informal to formal employment and assist in skilling for climate friendly jobs.

As the representative of both Deloitte and the International Organisation of Employers, what role do you see for the private sector in supporting decent job creation and facilitating a just transition? What can we count on the IOE to do in supporting the Accelerator?

- I am delighted to be with you today both as the newly elected president of the International Organization of Employers (IOE) ... and as the Global Deputy CEO and Chief People & Purpose Officer for Deloitte. We welcome the Secretary-General's visionary and ambitious report setting out Our Common Agenda. COVID-19 has emphasized the need for systemic change, solidarity, and all-hands-on-deck action to avoid a breakdown. The silver lining is that we know what needs to be done and we have the creativity needed to achieve a breakthrough.
- First, the digital divide is real.
40% of the world's population is without access to the internet. This divide is felt most in Micro and small enterprises [MSEs], that are the backbone of economies and vital actors in sustainable development, providing nearly 40% of jobs worldwide. However, they often remain trapped at low levels of performance and growth. According to a recent report by the IOE and ILO, MSEs suffer not only from a lack of access to digital technologies, but also necessary skills. Skills development and closing the digital gap are key to unlocking the incredible potential of the private sector for decent job creation and achievement of SDGs. IOE is committed to work with the UN, the government of Qatar, and partners to ensure that business is engaged and committed to close the digital divide in the poorest countries.
- Second – the need for sustainable social protection systems.
IOE is engaging with members to develop strategies for social protection floors. The informal sector, where 60 percent of the workforce resides, is especially vulnerable to economic shocks and is often excluded from social protection schemes. An

Michele Parmelee,
IOE President and Deloitte Global Deputy CEO and Chief People & Purpose Officer

JOBS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR POVERTY ERADICATION

28 September

enabling business environment, closing the digital divide, and skills development are all key ingredients to facilitate a transition to the formal sector.

- Finally – climate.
Companies need conducive frameworks, support, and clear policies at all levels to adapt and transition to using better technologies while accelerating the creation of climate-friendly jobs. Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection is a bold vision for action and IOE will be pleased to bring the valuable perspective of employers to discussions, but we need to be at the table and consulted as we move forward. Inclusive multilateralism, collaboration across the public and private sectors, and solidarity are the way forward at this pivotal moment.
- Thank you.