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Lab debate: **Decent work as a driver for development through social dialogue**
Thursday 4 June 2015, 12.30-13.45, room D3 (*We debate*)

Key messages

The [ILO Office for the European Union and the Benelux Countries](#) and the [Trade Union Development Cooperation Network](#) organised a Lab debate in the framework of the #EDD15, on the theme of [Decent work as a driver for development through social dialogue](#).

Moazam Mahmood, Deputy Director of the ILO's Research Department presented the *World of Work Report 2014: Developing with Jobs* (<http://bit.ly/ILOWoW2014>). This report shows that:

- Developing countries are catching up with advanced economies, with those countries that are investing in quality jobs making most progress.
- However, the **disparity in quality jobs remains significant**. Levels of working poverty remain elevated despite the considerable progress already made.
- It is essential to boost a diversified productive capacity rather than just liberalising trade. Also, it is crucial to **strengthen labour market institutions** rather than neglecting labour standards.
- Well-designed social protection floors should be extended, as drivers of inclusive development. Balanced income developments should be ensured, to avoid harmful inequalities.
- Decent work should be a central goal in the **post-2015 development agenda**.

Wellington Chibebe, Deputy General Secretary at the International Trade Union Confederation, shared his views on the relation between decent work and sustainable development (http://bit.ly/ITUC_SD):

- Social dialogue can play a role in promoting a **more sustainable economic growth accompanied with quality jobs**, particularly in developing countries. It can stimulate inclusive growth and combat inequality.
- Social dialogue also **facilitates social peace** and is a forceful instrument for reconciliation and reconstruction.
- Social dialogue requires an **enabling environment** guaranteeing freedom of association, right to collective bargaining, representative and independent employers and workers organizations, sound industrial relations practices, functioning labour administrations and respect for the "social partners".
- Participatory **accountability mechanisms** need to be in place in order to ensure effective implementation and to allow for different interests to be reconciled.

Veronica Rubio, Senior Manager Strategic Issues at Business Social Compliance Initiative presented what private companies are doing to promote better working conditions in the supply chain, particularly:

- Human rights due diligence to identify, prevent and remediate any human and labour right violations in their supply chain
- Promoting long lasting worker's protection at the workplace (e.g. trainings, empowering dialogue and workers involvement).

Françoise Millecam, Deputy Head of Unit, Employment, Social Inclusion, Migration, DG DEVCO, presented the position of the European Commission on the issue of decent work and sustainable development, and how the objective of a more inclusive and sustainable growth will be promoted by the EU in the context of the post-2015 framework. She also explained that voice should be given to informal workers and to the most vulnerable workers, or to the ones that are excluded from employment opportunities, emphasizing that social dialogue itself should be inclusive.

Irene G. Mbugua, Second Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Kenya Belgium, shared the experience of Kenya in promoting decent work for a sustainable development, and particularly:

- Education and training and the vicious circle of child labour
- Mainstreaming child labour issues in employers and employees organizations
- The centrality of appropriate legislation on the elimination of child labour

Tamara Gausi, Editor in Chief at Equal Times, moderated the debate between the speakers and animated the discussion with the audience.