



## 107<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference (May-June 2018)

### Agenda item IV

#### Briefing Note for Workers' Delegates

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## Towards 2030: Effective development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals – General Discussion

### BACKGROUND

The world of work is facing unprecedented challenges occasioned by the acceleration of urbanization, demographic shifts, income inequality, climate change, denial of basic human rights, conflict, forced displacement and migration and technological advancement. International development cooperation is undergoing profound changes marked by the new finance for development framework and the reform of the United Nations development system. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has put decent work at the forefront of the global development agenda. The ILO's normative mandate and its tripartite structure represent a unique added value in development cooperation when achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The report of the Director General on the End to Poverty Initiative (2016)<sup>1</sup> examined the responsibilities and opportunities of the ILO and its constituents in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In November 2016, the Governing Body decided to include the topic of effective development cooperation in support of the SDGs on the current agenda of the International Labour Conference (ILC).

The role of the ILO in what was then called technical cooperation was last considered at the ILC in 2006.<sup>2</sup> Considering the profoundly changed context in which development cooperation is taking place today and the continuing changes in the international development landscape, the time is ripe for a discussion on the future of the ILO's development cooperation. It is expected that this discussion will furnish the Office with guidance by its constituents on how to enhance development cooperation and partnerships in support of decent work outcomes and attainment of the SDGs in countries. The discussion will also guide the development of a new medium-term ILO development cooperation strategy beyond 2018<sup>3</sup> and will contribute to the ILO centenary discussions at the ILC next year.

As a background to the Conference discussion, the ILO prepared Report IV *Towards 2030: Effective development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals*<sup>4</sup>. The Committee will have to adopt conclusions that will guide the work of the ILO in the coming years. To that end, the Office has suggested discussion points that can be found at the end of the report. After completing the discussion of the questions, a small tripartite drafting committee will be convened to prepare draft conclusions. The full Committee will then have a chance to modify the draft conclusions through a procedure of amendments. A summary of the chapters is provided here below together with some initial indications on the answers to each question.

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<sup>1</sup> ILO: *The End to Poverty Initiative: The ILO and the 2030 Agenda*, Report of the Director-General, International Labour Conference, 105th Session, Geneva, 2015, ILC.105/DG/IB. Available online at [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_479681.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_479681.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> ILO: *The role of the ILO in technical cooperation. Promoting decent work through field and country programmes*, Report VI, International Labour Conference, 95th Session, Geneva, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> ILO: *ILO Development Cooperation Strategy 2015–17: Report on progress*, Governing Body, 329th Session, Geneva, Mar. 2017, GB.329/POL/5.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/107/reports/reports-to-the-conference/WCMS\\_624037/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/107/reports/reports-to-the-conference/WCMS_624037/lang--en/index.htm)

## Chapter 1: Global context

*Chapter 1 outlines the global trends affecting the world of work, and describes how constituents perceive them in relation to ILO development cooperation.*

Overall, ILO constituents consider increases in unemployment, inequality, poverty and social exclusion among the most important trends influencing ILO development cooperation. They directly affect the availability of decent jobs, and hence touch on the core of the ILO's mandate and the 2030 Agenda. The report recalls that the ILO is a custodian or partner agency respectively of goal 8 and various targets across different goals (SDG 1 on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere; SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls; SDG 8 on decent work and sustained and inclusive economic growth; and SDG 10 on reduced inequalities within and among countries).

## Chapter 2: Development cooperation in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

*Chapter 2 discusses the centrality of decent work in the 2030 Agenda and presents the global agreements that frame international development cooperation today. It also explains shifts in perceptions of ILO development cooperation over the past decade, and gives insights into the proposed UN reform and how the UN system delivers on decent work.*

### *Decent Work as a corner stone in global agreements on socio-economic- environmental development*

In 2015, the UN Member States adopted an ambitious and transformative vision for achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental. Anchored in the principles of universality and human rights with an overarching imperative to leave no one behind, the *2030 Agenda* for Sustainable Development seeks to bring about a transition to an era of sustainable development centred on people and the planet. This requires integrated strategies that ensure economic growth, while addressing a range of social and environmental needs, including education, health, social protection, decent job opportunities, climate change, environmental protection and the development of sound institutions.

The 2030 Agenda is notable in that it introduces a rights-based approach. The promotion of decent work, with full respect of labour rights, and a particular focus on the labour-related human rights enshrined in the ILO fundamental Conventions are central elements that cut across many of the SDGs, with SDG 8 at their core.

Besides the 2030 Agenda, other global agreements shape the development scene: the *Paris Agreement* on climate change, the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA). In particular, the AAAA refers to decent work and social protection, including floors. Moreover, the Paris agreement recognizes the need for just transitions. Together they provide a critical context for the ILO's future development cooperation strategy.

### *From Aid to Effective Development Cooperation*

Twelve years after the 2006 ILC discussion, changes in the world of work, the global geopolitical context and the multilateral system have brought about a change in perceptions of international development cooperation in the global community and within the ILO. Development is a complex, universal and long-term process which can succeed only if grounded on comprehensive, mutual and accountable partnerships. In addition to purely technical aspects, development cooperation encompasses new areas such as rights, dialogue and participation, good governance, social justice and capacity development. Obviously, the Decent Work Agenda fits very well in this shifted perception. As a reflection of these changes, in 2014 the ILO replaced the term “technical cooperation” (referring to specific projects) with the term “development cooperation” entailing a broader perspective, based on capacity development, where the social partners are able to play a proactive role towards (sustainable) development.

The principles underlying *effective development cooperation*, initially embodied in the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, were incorporated into the Global Partnership for Effective

Development Cooperation (GPEDC) established in Busan in 2011<sup>5</sup>. The GPEDC brings together 162 countries, including traditional donors and the many partners engaged in South-South and triangular cooperation, along with multilateral agencies, representatives of civil society and private funders. Trade unions sit in its steering body since its constitution.

Although the report does not mention it, the Workers' Group may consider recalling that the Outcome Document of the last High Level Meeting of the GPEDC in Nairobi (2016) included for the first time:

- specific criteria to hold business accountable, with direct reference to International Labour Organisation (ILO) labour standards, UN Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises;
- recognition of trade unions and social partners as key actors of development effectiveness
- emphasis on the value of decent work and the recognition of social dialogue as a way to realize sustainable development, in particular by recognising the link between an enabling environment and freedom of association and collective bargaining, along with other development effectiveness commitments.

### The proposed UN reform: how the UN system delivers on decent work

The last part of the chapter touches upon the issue of the UN system reform, mainly due to the adoption of Agenda 2030. This matter has obvious implications on the role of the ILO within that system. Hence, the priority on decent work and the role of the social partners in national policymaking processes around SDGs. United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) would be repositioned as the single most important United Nations planning tool in all countries, and progressively taking precedence over individual entity country programmes and plans. The intended outcome is to make more resources available for programmes on the ground, while incentivizing country teams' integrated policy capacities and reducing transaction costs for partners. This will be supported by the use of common operational services and back-office functions to become the default option for country teams. This should allow for the emergence of a new generation of country teams, centred on a strategic UNDAF and led by an impartial, independent and empowered Resident Coordinator. Moreover, re-profiled UN regional economic commissions<sup>6</sup> are proposed to increase efficiency in their cooperation with the UN Development Group (UNDG).

The Workers' Group may consider stressing the need for the UNDAF to capture the specific challenges of the world of work. This should be done by integrating Decent Work Country Programs (DWCPs) in UNDAFs together with a prominent ILO role in UNDAFs and in joint programming. What should be preserved and further strengthened is the contribution of the ILO to a rights based approach in development cooperation. International labour standards (ILS) and the comments of the ILO supervisory system have to be integrated in the implementation of the SDGs.

The Workers' Group should fully support social dialogue as a way to implement the SDGs. Social dialogue is one of the criteria to assess the implementation of Agenda 2030 at country level (trade union SDGs country reports). The Secretary-General foresees a greater role for the Global Compact in facilitating UN engagement and partnerships with private sector entities, in particular at the country level. No detailed plans are available at this stage. However, the Workers' Group may recognize that this raises the issue around governance rules that should be defined and applied for guiding the intervention of the private sector in development cooperation. See also chapter 3 here below.

## **Chapter 3: Financing for Development**

*Chapter 3 examines how the SDGs can be financed and looks into the role of ODA, domestic resources, the private sector, trade, and investment, as well as new financing instruments.*

<sup>5</sup> Development Effectiveness Principles: OWNERSHIP: partner countries have the right and responsibility to exercise leadership; ALIGNMENT: donors respond to partners policy priorities (use of partner countries systems in procurement); HARMONISATION: they need to make their aid predictable including untied aid ; MANAGING FOR RESULTS: aid focus on poverty eradication and transparent reports; MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY: both recipient and donor countries are accountable for development results.

<sup>6</sup> These are in charge of following up the monitoring of the SDGs implementation at regional level.

*Official Development Assistance* - The report illustrates the general trends on ODA and hints at the current debate relating to the necessity to find more financial resources if we are to achieve the SDGs. Constant attention should be given to ensuring that ODA flows are directed at the priority areas essential to the attainment of the SDGs and of particular importance to the Decent Work Agenda. Tracking ODA contributions to the four decent work pillars is challenging<sup>7</sup>. However, the Workers' Group may want to recall that these challenges will be definitively overcome if the trade union proposal on reforming the "creditor reporting system" (CRS) used at the OECD-DAC will be adopted<sup>8</sup>. This proposal entails the reform of the way donors report on allocating development cooperation resources to support each pillar of the decent work agenda. The Workers' Group should also support Donor Governments 0,7% commitment when it comes to allocate resources to development cooperation.

*Domestic Resource Mobilisation* - development financing will depend significantly on the availability of domestic public and private investments in sustainability. Some of the most critical areas needed to implement sustainable development plans, however, are improvements in fiscal policies, tax administration and collection, and fighting tax evasion, avoidance, and corruption. The formalization of the informal economy would also have a significant impact for many countries. The Workers' Group may recognise the key ILO role in formalization processes, providing support to constituents in putting in place regulatory frameworks and following up implementation phases, including capacity building.

*Private Finance* - the report refers to the role of private sector, to trade and investment and to innovative forms of financing. The report hints at the call for a more coherent approach to engaging the private sector in the UN system, including at the country level through a revised role of the Global Compact. The ILO Centenary Enterprises Initiative, facilitating two-way learning between the ILO and enterprises to achieve decent work, is particularly relevant in this context. The Workers' Group may wish to note that it remains unclear what the revised role of the Global Compact will be. The Global Compact, as it stands, is not an adequate or suitable standard for engagement with the private sector.

When it comes to the ILO Enterprises Initiative it is worth recalling that the Workers' Group of the ILO Governing Body stressed on several occasions that engagement with the private sector must be based on respect for ILO values and principles, in particular ILO standards, trade union rights and tripartism. The various initiatives that fall under the enterprise initiative should include trade unions much more systematically and specific efforts should be made and strategies developed to realize their participation. Therefore, the Workers' Group should stress the need that partnerships with private entities need to be developed on a solid engagement and monitoring criteria aimed at ensuring accountability and transparency, including results assessment frameworks. This is applicable to both donor governments and business entities engaged in development cooperation initiatives. There is a need for a framework within the UN for guiding the role of the private sector in development cooperation, and the ILO should have a promotional role in upholding those criteria. Public-private partnerships (PPP) are put forward as an important fund-raising strategy for the ILO. This can only be a relevant/appropriate approach if transparency, independence and clear criteria of engagement with the private sector are in line with ILO's core values. The Workers' Group may wish to emphasize the need for companies wanting to fund the ILO to have a good labour record and to fund projects that contribute to the achievement of decent work and social justice.

<sup>7</sup> There are three main reasons: 1) donors may be contributing to some areas of the Agenda without necessarily defining it as decent work 2) references to efforts to promote decent work often provide only limited evidence of how this reflects the actual allocation of resources 3) it may not be evident how to trace and attribute specific resources to the broader Decent Work Agenda, or to identify which parameters or indicators should be taken into account when trying to assess donors' contributions to decent work.

<sup>8</sup> UPDATING THE CRS PURPOSE CODES TO IMPROVE THE TRACKING OF THE DECENT WORK AGENDA

[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT\(2018\)15&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)15&docLanguage=En)

## Chapter 4: Partnerships and Cooperation

*Chapter 4 describes various forms of partnership and cooperation modalities, such as multi-stakeholder partnerships, and South-South and triangular cooperation, and considers how this changed development cooperation context offers opportunities and challenges for the promotion of decent work.*

The value of the role for social partners and tripartism is stated, as well as, the integrity of the DWA for the achievement of the SDGs. At the same time, the report opens the question of the need for further inclusive approach. Paragraph 93 states that: “The Organization must find more ways of reaching out to a wider variety and greater number of partners so as to include them, alongside ILO constituents and traditional allies, in key responses to the challenges of implementing the Decent Work Agenda”. The Workers’ Group may caution this statement. Partnerships for the 2030 Agenda seem primarily geared towards businesses without taking into consideration the importance of the status of tripartite constituents at country level as partners. When it comes to the ILO and the UN reform, it is crucial to maintain the engagement with the social partners as a distinctive feature. Social partners should be primary actors when it comes to the implementation of the decent work agenda. The Workers’ Group may recall that trade unions have years of experience in SSTC and have undertaken innovative initiatives in the framework of development. ILO development cooperation should map these innovative initiatives and foresee the possibility of technically and financially supporting them.

## Chapter 5: Reaching out: ILO development cooperation strategies

*Chapter 5 recalls the ILO’s framework for development cooperation and its strategies and partnerships.*

ILO development cooperation delivers on the four-year ILO Strategic Plan and the related biennial Programme and Budget that are discussed and approved by ILO constituents (now fully aligned with the SDGs). At the country level, ILO development cooperation supports national priorities through DWCPs and eventually support UNDAFs. The ILO development cooperation strategy builds on four strategic components:

- *Focus*: full alignment with ILO internal results frameworks, which in turn support the SDGs, national development plans and UNDAFs;
- *Effectiveness*: compliance with the principles of development effectiveness – results orientation, transparency and cost-efficiency, using national systems and expertise;
- *Capacity development*: approach based on constituents’ needs and enhances the role of constituents in translating the SDGs into national goals;
- *Resource mobilization*: consolidating the ILO’s resource base by diversifying its range of funding partners, including national resources, and involving the private sector.

The Workers’ Group may consider highlighting that ILO development cooperation should be implemented following principles like coherence, transparency, partnership, ownership, accountability and sustainability. These are key to promote equitable and balanced relations within development initiatives. Moreover, ILO development programmes should be built up, taking into account the priorities of worker organisations, and complement them.

The chapter goes on illustrating key findings of evaluation of ILO development cooperation, including the views of ILO constituents and partners. The main findings that the Workers’ Group may concur with are:

- A revamped approach on capacity building based on ownership and sustainability. This might include training of trainers programmes at county level
- More needs to be done to ensure that DWCPs comprise a balanced approach to the DWA and are fully owned by constituents;
- DWCPs should be accompanied by tripartite steering committees to oversee the design, implementation and evaluation of these programmes.
- More alignment between DWCPs and UNDAF. Constituents consider that the alignment of ILO’s capacity development work with national frameworks, development plans and programmes, such as UNDAFs and DWCPs, is the most important measure needed to improve the relevance, impact and sustainability of capacity-development activities. Raising awareness on DWCPs with other ministries

at country level (besides the ministry of labour) would help increasing the relevance of DWCPs within UNDAFs and would also help the financial sustainability and actual implementation of the DWCPs.

The bulk of ILO operational development cooperation is supported by voluntary funds (voluntary contributions and voluntary core funding), which make up approximately 40% of total ILO funding. Since 2006, the Office has succeeded in diversifying the contributions of voluntary funding. Beyond adding emerging country public donors, the Office has increased engagement with the private sector, signed new framework agreements with multilateral development banks to facilitate country-level collaboration, and benefited from increased contributions from the European Commission and domestic funding for ILO development cooperation.

The Workers' Group may recall that although the declining availability of development funds is a challenge, the ILO should keep its support to middle-income countries where inequalities have increased significantly, tapping into additional funding sources, including wider areas of domestic resources.

The assessment leads to the conclusions that the Office needs to pursue this approach – diversifying voluntary funding: a) improving its delivery capacity and communication on results achieved b) increasing SSTC; c) engaging in multi-stakeholder partnerships d) in-kind contribution, such as leveraging of private sector expertise to develop new products; e) expand the planning horizon to 6 years to ensure predictability. Finally, the chapter also provides an overview of the ILO's regional approaches to development cooperation.

## **Chapter 6: Development Cooperation – what works**

*Chapter 6 discusses the results achieved by ILO development cooperation, based on lessons learned through projects and programmes in the strategic areas of international labour standards, employment, social protection, and social dialogue.*

Over the period 2010–17, nearly one third of projects involved tripartite constituents in project design and identified social partners as direct recipients and nearly 25% of projects aimed to strengthen mechanisms for social dialogue, across the ILO's four strategic objectives.

*International labour standards* - the primary function of development cooperation is to develop the capacity of Member States to ratify and apply international labour standards. The governance Conventions play an important role in ensuring sustainable results through solid labour inspection systems, tripartite consultation mechanisms and active labour market policies. The ILO has pursued a more holistic approach by expanding and reinforcing its technical assistance on legal reform, social dialogue and policymaking, along with capacity building for public services and for social partners' organizations.

The Workers' Group may consider emphasizing the fact that a lot remains to be done to ensure that development cooperation and DWCPs promote the ratification of ILO instruments as well as their implementation based on the comments of the supervisory system. This is particularly important also in light of the UN reform. The Workers' Group may also consider supporting the statement in paragraph 152 that the reports of the supervisory bodies should be used as progress measurement indicators and milestones for development cooperation results in terms of realization of rights at country level.

*Employment* – the ILO is providing key support in a variety of areas: empower constituents to engage in the design of comprehensive employment policies; influence existing national investment strategies and programmes in order to increase employment outcomes; support to the formulation of policy and legislation on skills development, and support to formal training systems and institutions, in particular when they are responsive to the needs of young people; youth employment strategies and employability programmes; capacity building on entrepreneurship; formalisation of business through reforms of SME-related policies.

*Social Protection* - social protection has risen on the global development agenda. With the launch of the UN social protection floor initiative in 2009, the adoption of a two-dimensional strategy in 2011, and the subsequent adoption of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), the ILO was given the mandate to support the development of basic social protection guarantees for all (horizontal dimension), while promoting progressively higher levels of protection guided by up-to-date ILO social

security standards (vertical dimension). In the 2030 Agenda, social protection is recognized as a key tool to end poverty and to reduce inequalities. The ILO's flagship programme on Social Protection Floors for All supports constituents in giving effect to Recommendation No. 202 and contributing to the achievement of the related SDG targets.

*Social dialogue:* In ILO development cooperation, social dialogue and tripartism are a dedicated objective of ILO projects as well as an instrument for involving constituents and achieving results in other policy areas. The promotion of social dialogue has been pursued as one of the ILO's strategic objectives mostly through the strengthening of workers' and employers' organizations, and of other institutions, including labour administrations and inspectorates, labour dispute resolution mechanisms, sectoral bodies, collective bargaining institutions, and national tripartite social dialogue institutions. Support has been provided to diverse tripartite and bipartite social dialogue mechanisms at national, regional, sectoral and local or enterprise levels.

## **Chapter 7: Shaping the future of ILO development cooperation**

*Chapter 7 sketches out a possible scenario for the future of ILO development cooperation. It draws on the vision and expectations of constituents and development partners, discusses ongoing UN reform processes, and assesses the vehicles for delivery on the SDGs.*

*Importance of different areas of support* - While social dialogue is recognized as the most important area of support by ILO constituents, respondents among development partners consider the ILO's standards-related work as the most important area of support for ILO development cooperation. Evidence-based policy advice and capacity development with and for constituents and other partners are recognized as equally important areas. While considered to be one of the least important areas at the moment, access to funding sources and financing mechanisms such as Green Finance, multi-partner trust funds and crowdfunding is expected to become more important in the future, especially by governments. The greatest expectations, however, surround the ILO's power to convene stakeholders on world of work issues. The forging and leveraging of partnerships, including through SSTC, are also gaining popularity. These findings are similar across the regions.

*Importance of aspects* - Whereas employers find it most important that their organization be able to participate as a beneficiary of ILO development cooperation, workers attach greatest importance to their participation in initiatives linked to the transparency of results and financial flows. Governments assign high importance to their participation in the design of ILO development cooperation.

*Proposed trends for the future that the Workers' Group may uphold:*

- 1) From Projects to Programmes (from activities to longer term results) enhancing predictability;
- 2) ILO within the UN reform: ensure dialogue between social partners and UNCTs/Resident Coordinator which will allow the integration of the DWCPs objectives in the overall UNDAF;
- 3) Leveraging Rights for Development: Stronger links between the ILO's supervisory bodies and its development cooperation would increase the capacity of the ILO and its Member States to deliver on the SDGs;
- 4) Social Dialogue as governance instrument: further research new forms of social dialogue whereby the interests of groups of employers and workers such as those in the informal economy, in SMEs or in new forms of employment are brought to the policy table;
- 5) Capacity Development: promote ownership and coherence as stated above, in order to bring ILO services closer to the constituents' priorities;
- 6) Regional Integration: regional integration could draw on the enhanced role of the UN's regional economic commissions in pursuing the 2030 Agenda through regional forums for sustainable development and inputs to the HLPF reviews;
- 7) PPPs: the report suggests to explore the full potential of PPPs to support the decent work agenda and ILO programmes - the wide range of bodies with which the ILO has entered into public-private partnerships (enterprises, foundations, public institutions, universities, knowledge and research centres, and the social partners themselves) illustrating this need. The Workers' Group may caution this approach by stressing once again the need to adopt specific criteria to grant transparency and independence of ILO operations' objectives and modalities and ensure that

- PPPs respect ILO values and standards and involved social partners – greater efforts are needed in this regard in order to avoid a privatization of development cooperation;
- 8) Multi-stakeholder partnerships, social partners, and civil society: criteria to ensure effectiveness and success, and clearly define the procedures that the ILO should follow to ensure appropriate governance, effectiveness, transparency, and visibility; key in this regard is to maintain the added value of the ILO in these partnerships, notably its normative mandate and the consultations of workers' organizations as a specific group outside civil society;
  - 9) SSTC: the ILO should ensure that full account is taken of the Decent Work Agenda in UN system-wide preparations for the second High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Argentina in 2019. That meeting should highlight the kind of results that SSTC can achieve most effectively and make it easier to assess and explain South-South principles and diversity in the context of the 2030 Agenda. In this context, there is scope for further engagement by the ILO with partners from the global South and UN initiatives developing knowledge platforms for South-South cooperation in decent work related research and policy dialogues. This will enable the ILO to position its strategy accordingly;
  - 10) Public information and research: strengthen both advocacy and public support - the ILO should therefore do more to showcase examples of successful decent work initiatives and tailor the stories to national contexts;
  - 11) ILO should ensure its involvement in all policy making areas around development and international development cooperation, ranging from the HLPF and UN regional bodies, to Financing for Development process, Development Cooperation Forum and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).

## Chapter 8: Suggested points for discussion on the future of ILO development cooperation

The last chapter presents the key areas where further guidance is needed from constituents on the future of ILO development cooperation. Comments made above on the report can be taken into account and in addition some initial suggestions for each question are provided here below. The comments may be relevant in framing a Workers' Group response and worker members of the Committee will be invited to enrich the discussion by bringing their own national experiences.

### Overall Main Messages

- The right's based approach which is at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals offers a unique opportunity to enshrine the ILO normative agenda in ILO development cooperation;
  - Full recognition within the UN system/UNDAF at country level of the role of social dialogue and collective bargaining for regulating labour markets and contribute to SDGs. ILO development cooperation and DWCPs should play a greater role in UNDAFs. DWCPs should strategically used as a demand-driven tool for the effective involvement of social partners in mainstreaming the integrated Decent Work Agenda into UNDAFs;
  - Need to enhance capacity development for the social partners and ensure that capacity-building initiatives are owned by social partners and thus more sustainable;
  - Partnerships with business entities should be built on a solid monitoring and assessment framework granting transparency, accountability and development results; these partnerships should be consistent with ILO values and standards;
  - ILO should scale up its involvement and visibility, upholding the decent work agenda, in all policy-making areas around development and international development cooperation;
- a) **How can ILO development cooperation adapt to the new context with a view to best supporting constituents at national, regional and international levels in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, all the aspects of decent work they are calling for, and, in particular, SDG 8, which calls for promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work, and other relevant goals for the ILO?**
- ILO development cooperation should reflect a holistic approach bringing together inclusive and sustainable economic growth and promotion of labour rights as called for by the rights' based approach of the 2030 agenda. As Goal 8 combines economic development with inclusiveness and



decent work, this means placing rights squarely into economic development. The ILO should ensure that labour rights become the cornerstone of development projects at every level;

- ILO Development Cooperation should continue to strengthen the capacities of the social partners. In order to reinforce social dialogue and tripartism we need greater emphasis on enhancing the capacity of the social partners. This means capacity/institution building with dedicated programmes for each constituent and, as a second level, capacity development with all constituents (tripartism and social dialogue as the main instrument for promoting Decent Work and the SDGs);
- ILO Development Cooperation needs to ensure that capacity-building initiatives are owned by social partners (inclusion of their priorities and ensuring alignment). This would include also a shift to the training of local training providers to make them become the lead providers of training in their country or region;
- Workers have developed their own set of principles and modalities when it comes to “development effectiveness” and “organisational capacity”. Those should inform ILO development cooperation policy and approaches;
- ILO Development Cooperation should – besides providing technical assistance - also offer the possibility to jointly implement certain programmes together with constituents, supporting new initiatives.

**b) The ILO offers a particular added value through its normative agenda, tripartite structure and social dialogue principles and practices. In view of the rights-based approach of the 2030 Agenda, what could be done to strengthen the link between this ILO added value and development cooperation and in particular how could ILO development cooperation assist in effectively addressing gaps at national level, in the ratification and implementation of international labour standards as well as in social dialogue and tripartism?**

- The normative role of the ILO should be reinforced as a key contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. The ILO should stand firmly on the principle that no job is decent without rights, and can greatly contribute to advancing policy coherence at country level by comparing a broader group of policies (i.e. trade and foreign direct investment policies) against international labour standards;
- ILO development cooperation and DWCPs should be used to promote the ratification of core and governance conventions as well as technical ones and improve their implementation taking into account comments of the supervisory bodies;
- The ILO should enhance cooperation and collaboration with constituents, including at country level. In each country there should be a tripartite committee to oversee ILO development cooperation programmes;
- Partnerships and collaborations with other relevant actors (beyond its constituencies) at local and national level should serve to develop rights-based development programmes, in full coherence with the ILO mandate and constituents role.

**c) Considering the reforming UN at the country level, how can ILO development cooperation best support its constituents in facilitating policy coherence and in mainstreaming decent work into national development strategies and budgets? How can the DWCPs be strategically used as a demand-driven vehicle for the effective involvement of ILO constituents in mainstreaming the integrated Decent Work Agenda and gender equality into national development planning and UN Development Assistance Frameworks?**

- The ILO needs to ensure the effective recognition of the role of social dialogue and collective bargaining for regulating labour markets and contribute to sustainable development;
- ILO development cooperation should support the capacities of the social partners in monitoring the implementation of the SDGs;
- Further increase the role of the ILO Supervisory Bodies reports and recommendations in the measurement and monitoring of the SDGs implementation;

- Produce case studies that clearly demonstrate where the exercise of labour rights (right to organize, bargaining collectively) has had a tangible positive impact on economic development and has generated progress toward sustainable development;
- We need ILO development cooperation and DWCPs to play a greater role in the SDGs and in UNDAFs. DWCPs should be the policy documents that drive the intervention model of the ILO and provide convergence with the SDGs. The DWCPs should be strategically used as a demand-driven tool for the effective involvement of ILO constituents in mainstreaming the integrated Decent Work Agenda into UNDAFs. Constituents need also to be represented and play a key role in UNDAF. Only this would ensure effective contribution and ownership of the social partners to the SDGs. There needs to be a better balance between the four strategic objective of the DWA in DWCPs;
- The involvement of other ministries (besides labour ministries) at country level, would increase awareness and adherence to the DWCPs and enhance policy coherence at country level for the achievement of decent work.

**d) In the context of the financing for development, partnerships and innovative funding trends – also being promoted in the UN reform – what are the roles and responsibilities of governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations and the Office in ensuring the achievement of decent work outcomes at national level at large? What would be the optimal combination of partnerships and modalities, including with business and civil society for adequate funding of an effective and accountable ILO development cooperation?**

- Partnerships with different other organisations and institutions is important to increase the funding possibilities of ILO development cooperation. However, this should happen in the full respect and implementation of the core values of ILO normative mandate and tripartite nature. This is true for both SSTC and private funding;
- Partnerships with business entities in the context of ILO development cooperation need to be developed on a solid monitoring and assessment framework, granting accountability, transparency and development results;
- The new mechanisms for development financing, and certainly those including the private sector, must fulfil a set of criteria related to accountability (rights-based), transparency, and related to the adoption of results assessment frameworks. This is applicable to both donor governments and private entities engaged in development initiatives. We need a framework within the UN for guiding the role of the private sector in development cooperation/SDGs, and the ILO should have a key role in that regard;
- Public-private partnerships (PPP), as put forward as an important fund-raising ILO strategy, can only be a relevant approach if criteria of transparency and independence are applied in line with ILO’s core values;
- The ILO should take the lead in bringing together development actors around several SDGs related to the four pillars of the decent work agenda. The ILO should scale up its involvement and visibility, upholding the decent work agenda, in all policy-making areas around development and international development cooperation.

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