



# Decent work and the post-2015 development agenda



Aurelio Parisotto  
Policy Integration Department, ILO  
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# 1. The changing development discourse



- The global economic and financial crisis is stimulating a shift to a broader view that connects poverty reduction to inclusion, equity and sustainability
- Rio+20
- LDC4
- Doha
- ECOSOC 2012
- G20 Development Working Group

***Greater relevance of employment and decent work***



## 2. Assessing and rethinking the MDGs



- Major **global framework** for concerted development action to address extreme poverty
- Format of **simple goals and targets** - helped monitoring and accountability
- More focused and coordinated **ODA**
- Emphasis on **social policy** at times of rampant globalization





- Important progress but **uneven** across countries and goals
- **Attribution**: were the MDGs achieved because of the MDGs?
- **Minimalist development approach** – Did the MDGs distract attention from other pressing priorities ?(fair globalization, inequality, human and political rights, the macroeconomy and employment)
- Neglect of **means** and **processes**



### 3. Looking ahead



- A dramatic and prolonged job crisis,
- An uncertain and volatile economic outlook,
- Growing demographic and technological divides
- A highly skewed distribution of income within and across countries
- New vulnerabilities as a result of climate change

All contribute to make the economic and political fabric of our societies more fragile –  
Can they be solved just through uncoordinated national efforts?



# A prolonged jobs deficit – cyclical aspects

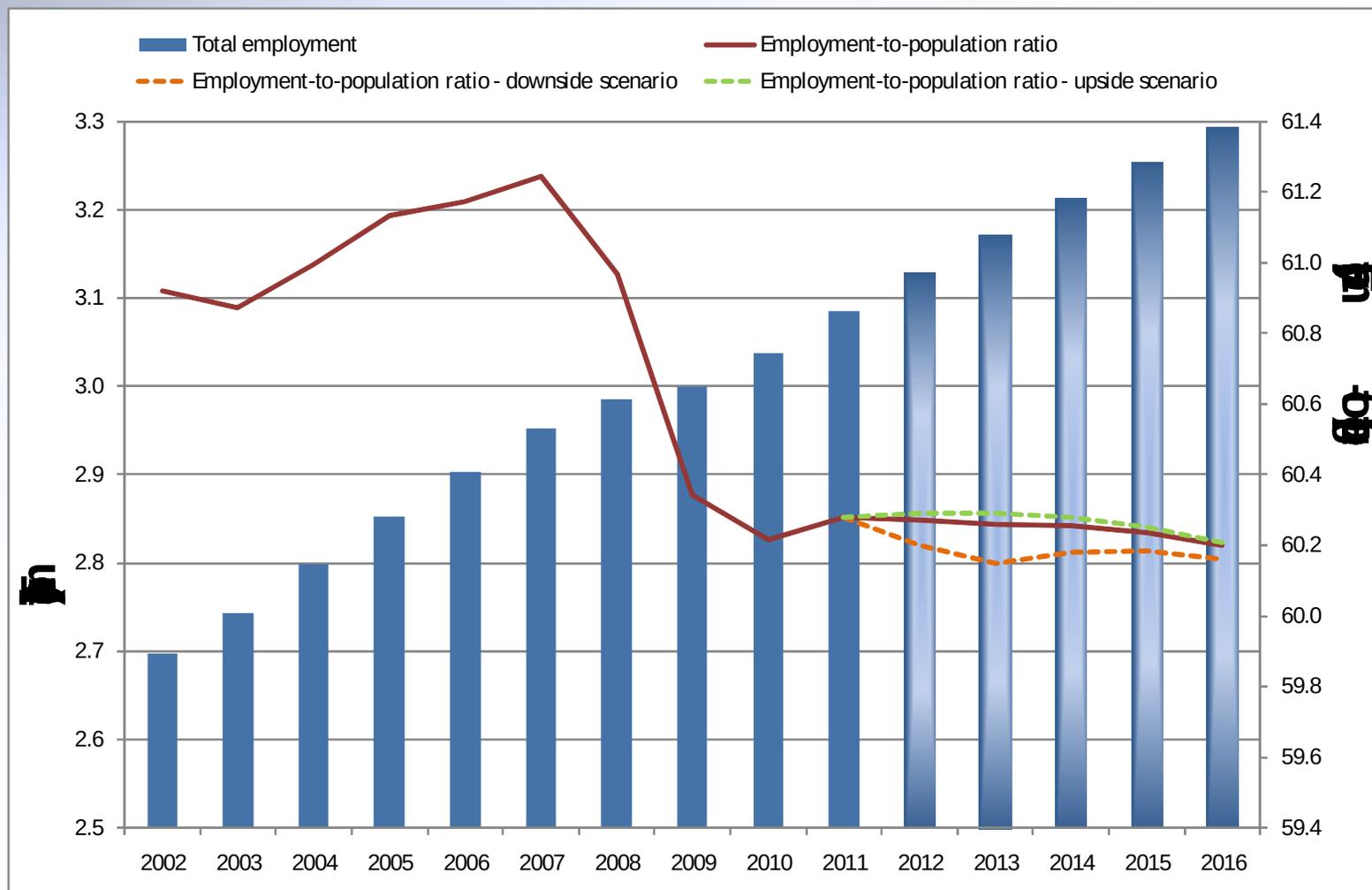


## High levels of unemployment, especially for youth

- Global unemployment estimates of over 200 million in 2012 (75 million are young people)
- Youth unemployment rates around 50% in Spain and Greece; over 30% in Slovakia, Ireland, Portugal and Italy; 16% in the US
- Large number of discouraged workers
- Jobs recovery slower than economic recovery



# Global employment trends and projections, 2002–2016.



Note: 2011 are preliminary estimates; 2012-2016 are preliminary projections.

Source: ILO Trends Econometric Models, October 2011 (see Annex 4).



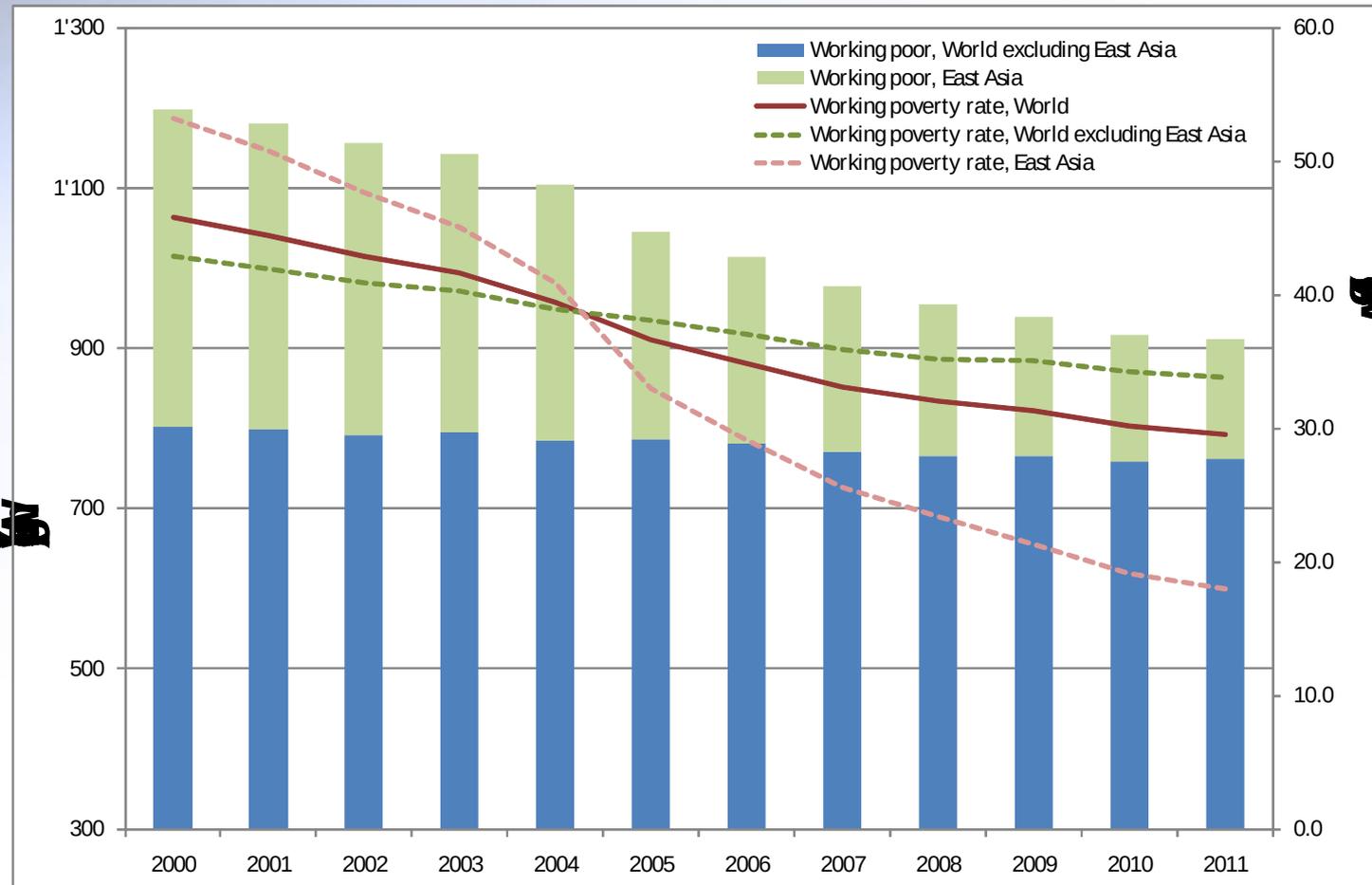
# Persisting underemployment, casual work and vulnerable employment



- Poverty has declined in absolute terms, but most of the reduction took place in East Asia
- Nearly 30% of all workers in the world (ie 970 mn workers) are living with their families below the US\$2 poverty line
- Of those, 458 mn workers are under extreme poverty
- Working poverty is increasing in SSA, North Africa, South Asia and the Middle East;



# Global working poverty trends, 2000–2011 (US\$ 2 a day).



Note: 2011 is a preliminary estimate.

Source: ILO Trends Econometric Models, October 2011 (see Annex 4).



# Other structural factors

## Demographic change



- About 40 million new jobs will be needed very year over the next 10 years just to keep pace with labour force growth (15 million in LDCs).
- Low income countries might enjoy a potential « demographic dividend », provided young people find good jobs
- Improved longevity means that the share of population >65 will swell from 6% in 1990 to 25% by 2020, requiring major adaptation of social protection systems
- Migration flows, both internally and internationally will also swell



# Technological change



- A new wave of technological change is weakening the potential of manufacturing and services to create jobs
- It affects mainly « knowledge economy jobs » that have been the fastest-growing categories of employment: managers, engineers, salespeople, doctors, lawyers, teachers
- Changing geography of skills – low incomes countries suffer of large skills gaps; emerging economies increasingly have high-skills, low-wage workforces; « learning equal earning » assumption under question in advanced economies



# Widening inequalities: productivity across regions



Labour productivity (output per worker) in regions as a percentage of productivity level in developed economies, 1991 and 2011

	1991	2011
Middle East	64%	53%
CSEE (non-EU) & CIS	38%	35%
Latin America & Caribbean	37%	32%
N. Africa	27%	25%
East Asia	6%	20%
South-East Asia & Pacific	10%	14%
South Asia	6%	11%
Sub-Saharan Africa	9%	8%

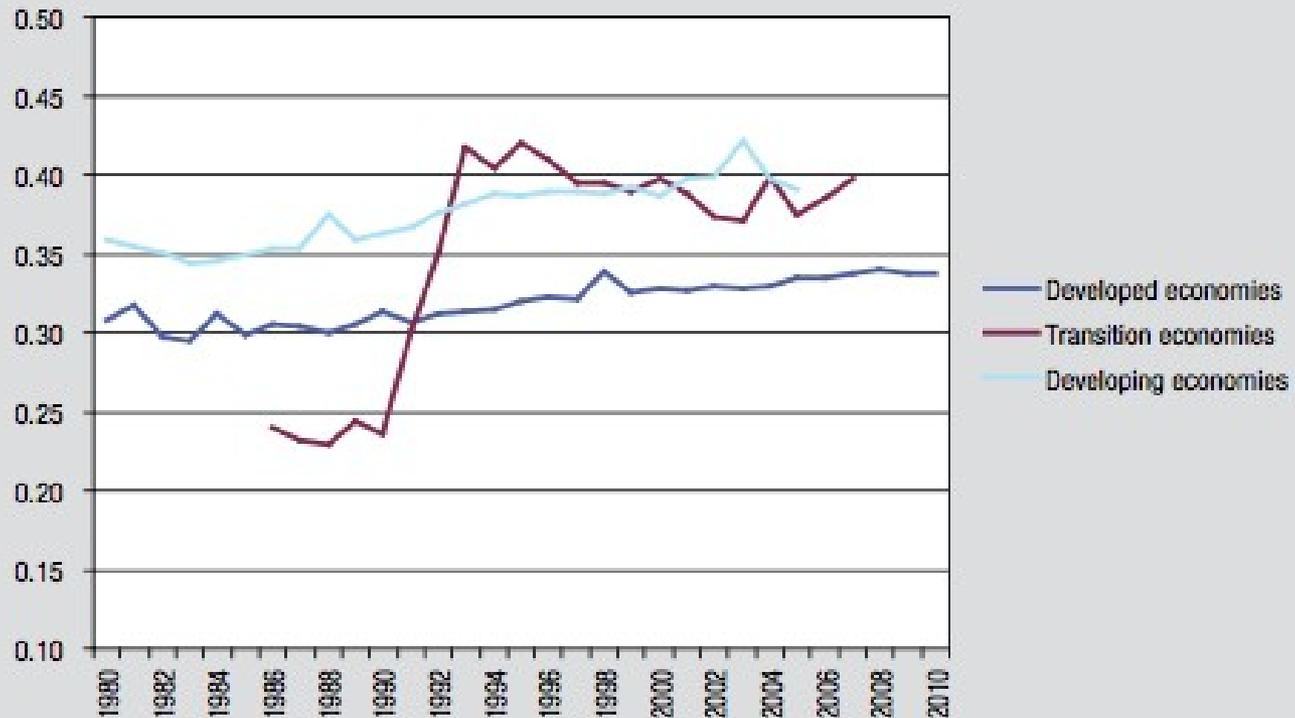
Source: ILO Trends Econometric Models, October 2011; World Bank, World Development Indicators 2011



# Growing income inequality



Figure 1. Gini index, 1980–2010 (net income)



Source: UNCTAD secretariat, based on the *Standardized World Income Inequality Database*.

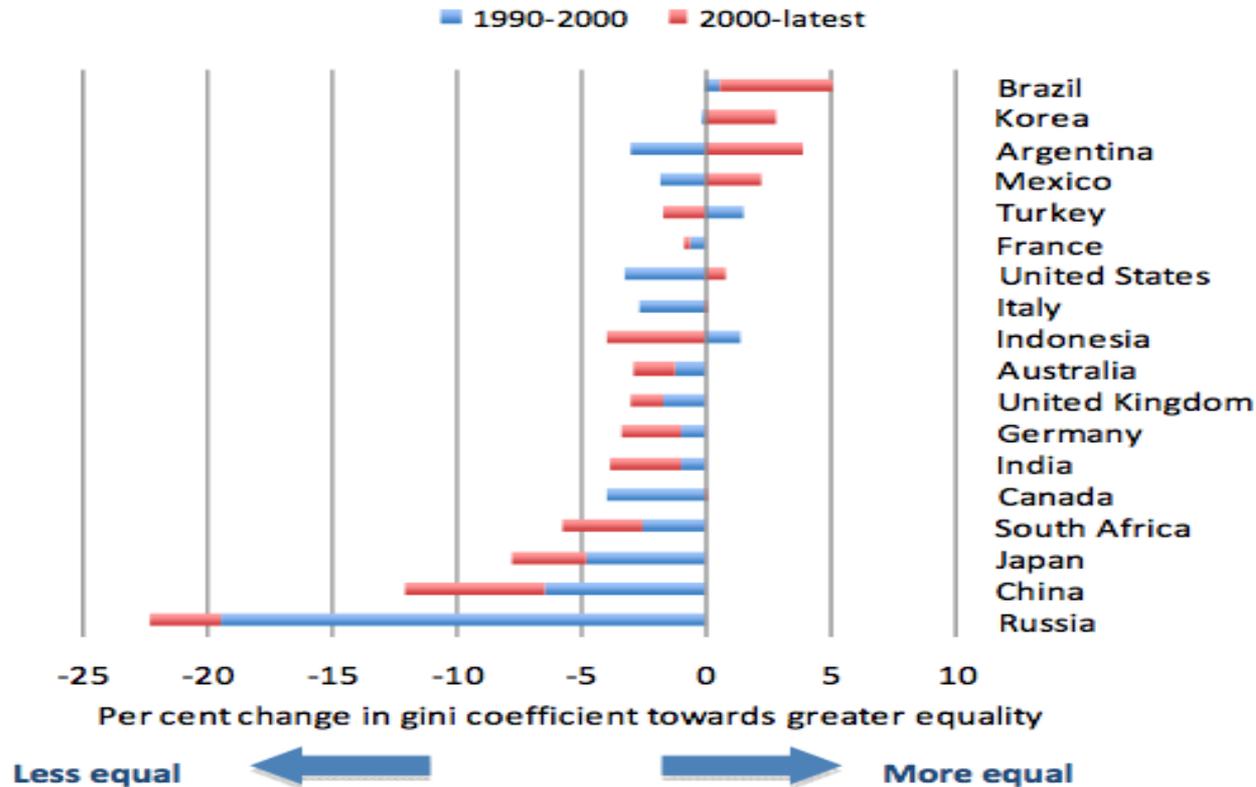
Source: UNCTAD, Policy Brief N. 5, June 2015



# Gini Coefficient in G20 countries



**Figure 3: Comparison of percentage point change in gini coefficient of income in G20 countries over two decades, 1990-2010**



Source: Figure compiled by Oxfam using data sourced from F. Solt (2010) 'The Standardized World Income Inequality Database', <http://hdl.handle.net/1902.1/11992> (Version 3.0)

Source: Oxfam Briefing Paper No. 157, 19 January 2012



# 4. Towards the Post 2015 Development Framework



- Rethinking the MDGs – UN task team
- UNDG consultation process
- High-Level Panel
- Post Rio+20



# The options



- MDGs 1.1 – incremental improvement (ie better targets and indicators ...)
- MDG 2.0 – substantial upgrading (some broadening of goals, focus on some coherence of means ...)
- SDGs – New set of goals and principles (achieve global public goods through effective global partnership)



# The UN Task Team vision





감사합니다 Natick  
Danke Ευχαριστίες Dalu  
Thank You Köszönöm  
Спасибо Dank Gracias  
谢谢 Merci Seé  
ありがとう

Grazie

Obrigado

