



G20 Labour & Employment Ministers Meeting - Catania June 2021

2021 marks a year when people are still living with COVID-19, with unemployment, insecure work, exclusion, poverty, and extreme weather events due to climate change. But it is also a year when governments must implement serious plans for recovery and resilience with jobs, decent work, social protection, and inclusion. The risk of a fragile and unequal recovery fueled by austerity policies with continued increases in informal and precarious work and high unemployment can only be avoided through work with a new social contract at the centre of recovery.

The impact of COVID-19 has hit the lowest paid and most vulnerable workers the hardest – women, young people, informal economy workers, and workers in non-standard forms of employment, even fuelling massive withdrawal from the labour market. Our global labour market is broken with 60% of workers in informal work and more than a third of those workers in formal work with jobs that are increasingly insecure or precarious. The explosion of platform businesses largely creates informal work and must be regulated.

The G20 Labour and Employment Ministers must work to ensure that the G20 recovery plans are based on a new social contract that creates quality climate-friendly jobs with a Just Transition, a floor of fundamental rights including OHS for all workers, minimum living wages and universal social protection, equality of treatment and opportunity and inclusion of women and all excluded groups and all nations in a human centred recovery in line with the ILO Centenary Declaration just reinforced at the ILO Conference in its Covid response. More broadly the SDGs must be realised with Goal 8 at the heart of a just development model.

With almost 50% of households saying they have lost jobs or working hours because of the pandemic, investment in jobs must be at the heart of a recovery. This is even more important for women who are underrepresented in the labour market and for young people locked out of school to work transitions. Jobs plans should be a feature of every government's ambitions for recovery - transparent plans with involvement of social partners. These jobs must be climate friendly jobs with Just Transition measures.

And safe work is essential with universal access to vaccination, testing, and treatments for all

people in all countries. Ensuring a preventative approach to occupational health and safety would protect working people and drive confidence to restart economic activity. We need your support at the ILO to make OHS a fundamental right.

We also urge you to prioritise universal social protection, strengthening your own systems, including contributory systems, but equally supporting a global fund for the poorest countries.

The G20 Labour Ministers have made previous commitments on labour income share, fair wage principles, and workers' rights, including in global supply chains along with commitments to achieve the Brisbane 25-25 Goals, the Antalya G20 Youth Goals and equal treatments for migrant workers. The outcomes are lagging yet ever more urgent in recovery. For women realising equal pay and C190 to eliminate violence at work are also critical.

We need you to convince your leaders to fast track policies for inclusive labour market outcomes in line with the ILO COVID response and the labour movement's call for a New Social Contract. Your support for social dialogue and collective bargaining can deliver the recovery plans needed for every nation.

We ask you to co-ordinate the funding of recovery with the G20 Finance track to:

- support domestic revenue mobilisation with elimination of tax evasion, a minimum rate of corporate taxation that goes beyond 15%, which is far below what workers pay, and other progressive tax measures including financial transaction taxes, digital and wealth taxes along with global funding for the poorest of countries to create the needed fiscal space for national governments to ensure universal social protection and jobs in care, infrastructure and other sectors with industrial policies,

Recovery plans will also require:

- investment in quality public education, vocational and adult training, with a special focus on youth and apprenticeships inclusive of women with an ambitious agenda to ensure life-long learning for all together with social partners.
- regulation of the digitalisation of the workplace so as to strengthen transparency, protection and ownership of employee data, prevent algorithmic discrimination, provide governance on surveillance and monitoring and give workers a voice in strategic decisions to ensure that productivity gains from technology are distributed in an equitable manner, preventing remote work regimes from lowering labour conditions and standards.
- And investment in jobs jobs and jobs - jobs in care - healthcare, education, childcare and aged care, jobs enabling green infrastructure and jobs through industrial policies in all sectors. Full employment will take 575 million jobs and we need to target formalisation of at least a billion informal jobs.

We thank you for your work and commit to work with you all on a just recovery.