L20 Speaking Notes, 1st Employment Working Group (EWG1), March 8-10, 2022, Online meeting

Inclusive Labour Market and Affirmative Decent Jobs for Persons with Disabilities

A New Social Contract

The latest ILO Global Wage Report shows pressure on wages and income decreases in two-thirds of the countries. At the current pace, it would take years for employment levels to be restored to pre-pandemic levels, and many workers, especially in developing countries, have fallen into poverty.

Working people need a New Social Contract - an ambitious plan for recovery and resilience based on rights, wages, and social protection.

1. The global workforce needs new quality jobs to achieve a just transition to net-zero. We have asked the Leaders to increase investment in care, infrastructure, greening industry, agriculture, and transportation.
2. We need the G20 to strengthen resilience, and social protection is a cornerstone of resilience. Implementing past commitments would make a difference, and the G20 should go further and coordinate global policy to establish a global social protection fund to support people in the poorest countries.
3. Digitalization should benefit everyone. The G20 should address the lack of protection for millions of platform workers. An employment contract under national labour law, protecting the rights to organise and collective bargaining, a clear remuneration system, access to healthcare, and social protection, are life-changing policies that the G20 should implement.
4. Fulfilling the promise of the ILO Centenary Declaration for labour protection is on the EWG agenda – we welcome this.
5. Workers in supply chains demand an international, binding standard for human rights due diligence and guarantees of decent work.
6. We call the G20 to ensure equal pay and gender equality and end discrimination in the workplace and, indeed, everywhere. Once again, implementing past commitments would be a great deal of progress in achieving inclusion for all on equal terms.
Inclusive Labour Market and Affirmative Decent Jobs for Persons with Disabilities

Specific strategies are required to ensure the economic and social inclusion of people with disabilities in order to overcome societal barriers as well as pathways to decent work, including access to social protection and access to education and training. As a result of the pandemic, we see that people with disabilities have faced even higher barriers to formalised work, and maintaining or recovering lost incomes and hours of work.

An inclusive labour market would ensure that persons with disabilities have access to equal opportunities and decent work.

We call the G20 countries to

- ratify and implement the ILO Convention on Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons), No. 159, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- implement the 2018 G20 commitments on persons with disabilities undertaken in Argentinean Presidency;
- update laws to address accessibility, meet special needs, and ensure that discrimination is addressed;
- ensure that education and vocational training are available and accessible;
- ensure social protection coverage, that includes and addresses the needs of persons with disabilities;
- adopt or reinforce affirmative action legislation; eliminate social stigma;
- and ensure consultation with organisations representing persons with disabilities, trade unions and employers’ organisations.