



GLOBAL CONFERENCE
MEASURING AND MONITORING PROGRESS ON DECENT WORK
Main results and global methodology

Brussels, 18-19 November 2013

Concept Note

Background

Decent work is central to efforts to reduce poverty and is a means for achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, provides security in the workplace and social protection for workers and their families, and gives people the freedom to express their concerns, to organize and participate in decisions that affect their lives.

In this regard, monitoring and assessing progress towards decent work at the country level is an important concern for the ILO and its constituents as well as for the European Union. In September 2008, the ILO convened an international Tripartite Meeting of Experts (TME) on the Measurement of Decent Work, and consequently adopted a framework for developing Decent Work Indicators that was presented to the 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in December 2008. The EU has endorsed the Decent Work agenda in the 2006 Communication *“Promoting decent work for all - The EU contribution to the implementation of the decent work agenda in the world”*¹ and refers to it in a number of documents such as the European Consensus for Development and the Agenda for Change².

The ILO-EC joint project Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Decent Work (MAP) (2009–2013), funded by the European Union, works with government agencies and employers’ and workers’ organizations to strengthen their capacity to self-monitor and self-assess progress towards decent work in their own countries. To date, the MAP project has supported nine countries in collecting data and identifying and compiling decent work indicators. The compiled indicators form the basis of a Decent Work Country Profile, which analyses all aspects of decent work in an integrated approach to boost social dialogue and inform national policy-making on decent work and help policy coherence. The project is also providing guidelines and tools for a global methodology on measuring and assessing progress on decent work at the national level.

¹ COM/2006/0249 final,

² See <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/european-consensus/> and <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/social-protection/>

Main objective:

The global conference will be a forum to present and discuss the **main results of the MAP project** and validate **the methodology** developed from experience in the pilot countries and the feedback from regional events.

The conference will set the question of targets and indicators in the context of the broad discussion on **the role of employment and decent work in development**, with a special focus on the outcomes of the on-going debate on the design and formulation of the global development agenda beyond 2015.

It will look at possible **next steps** in mainstreaming the methodology in countries implementing decent work country programmes (DWCP) and willing to set targets and monitor progress towards decent work into their national policies and programmes.

It will also seek to raise global awareness on measuring decent work and explore linkages and possible synergies with relevant **regional initiatives on measuring/monitoring decent work** (like the European initiative on measuring the quality of employment) as well as the burgeoning discussion on targets and indicators for the post-2015 development agenda.

Participants will include representatives of selected MAP countries, representatives of key regional institutions and international agencies, ILO and EC officers, experts from ITUC, IOE and the academia.

Organization

The two day conference will be organized in three parts:

- The first part will set the context looking at the growing recognition of the **role of employment and decent work in development** - including in the post-2015 debate - and the importance of a solid methodology to measure and monitoring progress.
- The second part will focus on the **main outcomes of the MAP project**: the key lessons/best practices from MAP countries will be shared and the methodological tools on monitoring and assessing progress on decent work developed under the project will be presented.
- The third part will explore **next steps, links to national policies and programmes and regional initiatives on measuring and monitoring decent work** in particular: (i) the dissemination of the ILO methodology and its application at the national level to monitor and assess progress on decent work, in line with the decent work country programmes, (ii) for the EC perspective, the use of project results to design and monitor employment and decent work outcomes within policies including national development strategies and programmes in other sectors of development, and (iii) links to regional initiatives on measuring decent work in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe (like the initiative on measuring quality of employment).

The methodological tools developed under the MAP project

- A manual on the global methodology for monitoring and assessing progress on DW

The manual describes the approach developed by the MAP project and the ILO, to apply the ILO framework on the measurement of DW at the national level for monitoring and assessing progress on DW in a sustainable way, through different steps: from the identification of DW indicators, to data collection and data analysis, publication and dissemination of national studies

(country profiles) and links to policy making. The manual is developed from lessons learnt and best practices of the project pilot-countries.

- A manual on DW indicators. Concepts and definitions

The manual is intended as a pragmatic tool to provide a basic understanding of how to define and interpret statistical and legal framework decent work indicators. It aims to support national partners (both users and producers of statistical and legal framework decent work indicators) on data collection, data compilation and data analysis. The Manual seeks to provide guidance to countries on DWIs, to promote international comparability and coherence in concepts and methods.

- Guidelines on assessing progress towards decent work at the national level

The guidelines aim to support national partners on analyzing the decent work indicators in an integrated approach and producing comprehensive national assessments (i.e. Decent Work Country Profiles) on a regular basis.

- Tools for designing Labour Force Surveys

These tools include LFS questionnaires developed at national level by MAP countries and a core questionnaire including revised questions related to the new concepts on employment, underemployment and labour underutilization (that will be discussed at the next ICLS, October 2013). They help national partners to collect better data on decent work and to promote the application of international standards, and regional and international comparability.

Employment and decent work and the discussion on targets and indicators for the global development agenda beyond 2015

There is growing interest in the question of targets and indicators in connection with the post-2015 debate. The Report of the High-Level Panel of eminent persons on the Post-2015 development agenda (*A New Global Partnership: Eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development*, May, 2013), has recently suggested that the effort to “*Transform economies for Jobs and Inclusive growth*” should be a key elements of the new agenda and it has proposed an illustrative candidate global goal 8 “*Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods, and equitable growth*”, embracing four tentative targets linking global aspirations with national development priorities and circumstances³. The ILO had reviewed options for measuring progress in jobs and livelihoods based on the availability of existing indicators on employment, the quality of jobs, income inequality, social protection, working poverty, vulnerability and insecurity at work. It concluded suggesting the need for a significant investment in data collection and dissemination (see ILO Concept Note 2. *Jobs and livelihoods in the post-2015 development agenda: meaningful ways to set targets and monitor progress*). The discussion in this global conference will look at these issues from the point of view of the MAP countries’

³ “increase the number of good and decent jobs and livelihoods by x%”; “decrease the number of young people not in education, employment or training by x%”; “strengthen productive capacity by providing universal access to financial services and infrastructure such as transportation and ITC”; “increase new start up by x and value added from new products by y through creating an enabling business environment and boosting entrepreneurship”,

experience, especially on the participatory approach that has been promoted and the sustainability mechanisms.

Measuring the quality of employment (UNECE): the statistical framework for measuring the quality of employment developed by the group of experts (with Eurostat participation and Eurofound) will also be presented and discussed in line with the ILO methodology for measuring decent work.

Venue and date

The global conference may be held in Brussels thus enabling maximum visibility for the project and ensuring accessibility for the EU member states.

Tentative dates: **18-19 November 2013** (two days).

The logistical part of this activity will be fully subcontracted and the substantive inputs will be provided by the CTA, ILO experts and EC experts.

Participation

The conference attendees will include the representative of selected MAP countries, guests from regional institutions, academic institutions and international organizations, representatives of the IOE and the ITUC and ILO and EC experts.

Number of participants expected: about 50 participants, from the invited countries, EC officers (Brussels), ILO officers (Geneva and Brussels), IOE and ITUC experts, international and regional institutions (Asia, Latin America, Africa, Europe).

Possible list of participants:

MAP countries: Indonesia, Brazil, Zambia, Ukraine (12)

ILO Officers (Geneva, regional offices, including experts from ACTRAV and ACTEMP) and EC Officers (from Brussels)

IOE and ITUC: 2 experts

International and regional institutions: UNECE, Eurostat, MERCOSUR, SADC, UN ESCAP, UN agencies based in Brussels.