
Special Meeting of the Economic and Social Council

*The future of work: towards a productive, inclusive and sustainable
global society*

23-24 January 2024
ECLAC Headquarters – Santiago, Chile

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Background

Since the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration in 1995, countries have made significant strides in reducing poverty and advancing social development. Average levels of income, education, health and other markers of wellbeing have reached historical highs. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development reinforced the importance of the commitments made in Copenhagen, including through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), prioritizing poverty eradication, education, health, gender equality, decent work and the reduction of inequality, to ensure that no one is left behind. It also emphasized that the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - are mutually reinforcing and indivisible.

Despite this, persistent inequalities within and between countries, rising economic insecurity, the intensifying impacts of climate change, escalating conflicts and the widening digital divide continue to represent roadblocks to achieve prosperity for all. Halfway through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, progress on critical social sectors has stalled and, in many cases, reversed. The commitment to leave no one behind is in peril.

With the [Political Declaration](#) of the 2023 SDG Summit as a roadmap for the future, there is a need to take a critical look at levers of transformation towards more sustainable and inclusive development. Decent work is one of those key levers; it can reduce poverty and inequalities while promoting inclusion. Furthermore, it is recognized that decent jobs and social protection constitute one of the transformative entry points - or key transitions - that can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs and an outsized determinant impact for achieving the Goals. Labour markets are undergoing unprecedented transformation, owing to factors such as technological change, new production paradigms, demographic change, human mobility and migration in addition to global economic integration and the green transition. While rapid changes in the labour market can garner significant benefits, labour market transitions are a difficult and complex process.

These global trends, together with institutional and policy changes, have benefited some sectors of the labour market while creating disruption in others, particularly for the most vulnerable

groups, including low-skilled workers, especially those in the informal sector, among whom youth and migrants are overrepresented.

Gender gaps and barriers to women’s full and equal participation in the world of work still persist and the growth of the informal sector has resulted in precarious employment and limited access to social protection. The changing nature of work calls for decisive action.

Objective and outcome

The Special Meeting of ECOSOC will serve as an opportunity to discuss policy recommendations to:

- (i) Harness the opportunities that changes in the labour market bring and manage the challenges they pose to decent work;
- (ii) Explore the opportunities and limitations of technological advances and digitalization, including AI, and their impacts on the labour market while addressing the challenges of the digital divide;
- (iii) Identify policy options for advancing skills acquisition to build resilience and increase adaptation to labour transitions, with a view to accelerating progress on the SDGs; and
- (iv) Distill targeted efforts toward specific groups such as women, youth and migrants.

The outcome of the meeting will be a summary by the President of ECOSOC, which will serve as an input to the 2024 high-level political forum (HLPF), the Summit of the Future and proposed World Social Summit in 2025.

Format, modalities and participation

The Meeting will be organized as a special meeting of the Economic and Social Council in accordance with ECOSOC decision 2024/302. In person participation will be strongly encouraged.

Member States are encouraged to be represented at the level of Permanent Representative or Ambassador. The President of the Economic and Social Council will deliver brief opening remarks followed by keynote speakers to set the stage for the discussions. The meeting will include interactive roundtable discussions with experts, inviting a dialogue with Member States and other stakeholders.

Supporting institutions

Substantive support to the organization of the meeting has been provided by UNDESA, ECLAC, ILO and UNDP.

Draft Programme

Day of arrival: Monday, January 22, 2024	
Time and place TBC	Off-site visit to a municipality in Santiago to see SDG implementation in practice. (optional)
Day 1: Tuesday, January 23, 2024	

10:00 am – 10:30 am	Opening session
10:30am- 10:40am	Keynote address
10:40 am– 1:00 pm	Round Table 1: Balancing the opportunities and challenges of a changing labour market to ensure decent work for all
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Lunch Break
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Round Table 2: Harnessing the impacts of emerging technologies to support inclusive labour markets
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Reception
Day 2: Wednesday, January 24, 2024	
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Breakfast
10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Round Table 3: Shaping a future of decent work and social protection for all
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Conclusion and Closing
1:00pm- 1:30pm	Side event Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of ECLAC and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Interpretation

The official languages of the Special Meeting are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Statements made in the plenary meetings will be interpreted into the UN six official languages.

Speakers are requested to deliver the statement at a speed that is interpretable. While delegations are increasingly given a time frame in which to deliver their statements, they are kindly requested to do so at a normal speed, to enable the interpreters to provide an accurate and complete rendition of their statements. When statements are delivered at a fast pace, the quality of the interpretation may suffer. It is suggested not to exceed the speed of about 100 to 120 words per minute (as a guide for statements delivered in English) in order to ensure that the statement is delivered at a normal pace.

Webcast

The event will be webcasted live with audio from the floor.

Registration

Participants are invited to register through the link below. After your enrollment, the registration system will send you an automatic note confirming receipt. For delegates travelling from New York, entrance will be allowed with the UN ID Ground Pass. For other participants, a special badge will be provided at the Special Meeting.

<https://eventos.cepal.org/event/123/registrations/>.

Funding for participants

The meeting will not entail implications for the regular budget. It will be supported through extra-budgetary resources, with the generous support of the Government of Chile, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Travel funding will be available to one high-level representative of ECOSOC Member States from LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, as well as from developing countries, on a case-by-case basis.

The funding will cover economy-class round-trip air tickets, as well as daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses.

The process for the selection of representatives and the provision of travel support will be communicated to those who have registered to participate in the meeting and indicated their request for eligible funding in the registration form.

Participation of Non-Governmental Actors

Major Groups and other Stakeholders, as well as representatives of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, are invited to participate in the deliberations of the Special Meeting, as appropriate. Applications should be submitted through the registration link <https://eventos.cepal.org/event/123/registrations/>.

Requests and questions from civil society participants should be directed to the following email: salquijay@minrel.gob.cl.

Entry Requirements

Visa requirements must be met before arrival in Santiago. It is the responsibility of participants to check whether they need a visa to enter Chile and to ensure that the visa application submitted is complete.

Successful accreditation to the Special Meeting does not guarantee entrance to Chile. For further information on entry requirements, please refer to the Consulate General of Chile in New York to check whether a visa is required and to know the details of the application procedure.

Consulate General of Chile in New York

Address: 600 3rd Ave #2808 New York, NY 10016

Telephones: 212-980 3706 / 212-980-3504 / 212-9803366

Email: cgchileny.visas@minrel.gob.cl

Given the time required for visa processing and issuing, those wishing to attend the Conference should submit their visa application as early as possible, at least 15 working days before departure from New York.

Arrival in Santiago and Transportation

The Government of Chile will provide transportation from the airport to the Hotel the day of arrival, as well as the day of departure from the hotel to the airport. Likewise, transportation will be provided for the activities that are part of the Special Meeting.

Hotel Accommodation

The ECLAC Conference Services Unit has reserved a block of rooms at special rates at the following hotels:

Hotel Pullman Santiago Vitacura (**)**

Av. Vitacura 3201, Vitacura.

Tel: (+56) 2 2947 3612

Single room: USD 125 + tax/night

(includes breakfast, Internet and gym access)

Lockout expiration date: December 15, 2023

Hotel Hyatt Place Vitacura (***)**

Av. Américo Vespucio Norte 1597

Tel: (+56) 2 2989 1206

Single room: USD110 + tax/night

(includes buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant)

Lockout expiration date: December 22, 2023

Hotel NH Collection Casacostanera (***)**

Av. Nueva Costanera 3900, Vitacura

Tel: (+56) 2 2496 2000

Superior single/double room: USD 125+tax/night

(includes breakfast, Internet, gym access, and parking)

Lock-out expiration date: January 11, 2024

These rates do not include the value added tax (VAT) of 19%. Visitors paying in dollars, or with international credit cards are exempt from VAT. In that case, the hotel will request the slip issued by border control upon entry into Chile.

Climate

January is the prime summer season in Chile with great weather. The average monthly temperature in Santiago in January is 21°C. Daytime averages hit 30°C and this is consistent throughout the entire month. Nights drop down to an average of 11°C. The chance of rain is less than 4% in January.

Santiago has a sunny January. On average there are 11 hours of sunshine every day throughout the month. The length of the day is between 14 hours 19 minutes at the beginning of January and 13 hours 43 minutes at the end of the month. There's only a 10% chance of mostly cloudy or overcast skies.

Santiago is very dry in January with an average relative humidity of 59%, slowly climbing as the month progresses.

Voltage

In Chile the power plug sockets are of type C and L. The standard voltage is 220 V and the frequency is 50 Hz.



Banking services and currency

The unit of currency of Chile is the Chilean Peso. There are currency exchange offices and banks at the airport and nearby the venue. Change is about 900 Chilean pesos per dollar. All major credit cards are accepted. An automatic teller machine (ATM) can be found next to the Special Meeting venue.

Internet services

There will be free wireless internet access throughout the event. Please see posted signs at the conference venue for network and access code details.

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