



INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
OFFICE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Check against delivery

ECOSOC Operational Activities for development segment
Dialogue with Executive Heads of UN Funds, Programmes and
Specialized Agencies: Functions and Capacities to improve the UNDS collective support to the
implementation of the 2030 Agenda
28 February 2017, 3- 6 pm

Statement of Mr Greg Vines, ILO Deputy Director General for Management and Reform

The ILO appreciates the opportunity to participate in this panel this afternoon both from the perspective of a specialized agency and our unique vantage point as a tripartite organization. The decision-making of the ILO's governance organs not only include representatives of 187 member States, but also representative of workers' and employers' organizations from those member States.

We absolutely endorse the comments made by the Deputy Secretary-General this morning regarding the imperative for effective delivery of the 2030 Agenda. And we also believe that there is an imperative for greater and more effective coordination and collaboration between all parts of the UN system and between us and our constituents.

The ILO and its tripartite constituents agree that the 2030 Agenda must be underpinned by the international standards of the UN system and that the anchoring of the Agenda in those frameworks will be the key to greater coherence and integrated approaches at the global and country levels.

The ILO's Decent Work Agenda, which comprises four main components --promoting employment creation, social protection, core labour rights and social dialogue, are very well represented across the SDGs, and of course in particular in Goal 8. The ILO's Decent Work Country Programmes, which are being aligned to UNDAFs, are our principal vehicles for delivery of assistance in relation to the 2030 Agenda. These programmes are designed and agreed to by ILO member State governments together with the representatives of employers and workers within those member States. This provides the ILO a number of entry points for a very collaborative engagement with both our tripartite constituents and other UN entities in the context of joint programmes under UNDAFs or similar development frameworks.

From the perspective as a specialized agency, we believe that diversity is one of the greatest strengths of the UN system and the complementarity of mandates an important advantage.

Our convening and technical capacity to reach diverse constituencies globally, regionally and within countries, and the vast range of specialized expertise is unique to the UN system and clearly one of our core comparative advantages. The challenge remains how we can best harness and organize this expertise across the UN system to more effectively provide for integrated policy advice. We see the new UNDAF guidance and MAPs processes as good first steps in this direction at the country level, but clearly there is more that needs to be done.

The ILO is also leading or participating in a number of issue-based multi-stakeholder alliances and partnerships related to the SDGs, including Alliance 8.7 to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour; the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth; the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection; the Global Deal on Decent Work and Inclusive Growth; the

Health Employment and Economic Growth initiative and the new Equal Pay Coalition. To each of these areas of activity, we bring our tripartite constituents.

The ILO's approach to working within the UN system and with our constituents on the 2030 Agenda derives from our mandate, which is clearly articulated in the ILO constitution and reiterated in the three key Declarations that the International Labour Conference has adopted since the organization's founding nearly 100 years ago. All of these support the preamble to our constitution which clearly states that lasting peace is only possible if based on social justice.

Our universal normative and supervisory functions in the creation and supervision of international labour standards as our core business, and our technical expertise and capacity building experience in policy areas related to the world of work are important assets we bring to the UNDS in assisting countries to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. We also see our tripartite membership and governance structure, including representatives of governments, workers and business, as a true asset in pursuit of the "revitalized Global Partnership" called for in the 2030 Agenda Resolution.

Recent governance decisions taken within the ILO set our approach to the 2030 Agenda. At the last International Labour Conference in June 2016, ILO members adopted a resolution on Advancing Social Justice through Decent Work as follow up to the 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. That resolution calls for ILO action to effectively assist member States in the planning, implementation and reporting on progress towards the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda in the areas of partnership and development cooperation strategies, the alignment of ILO country programming with UN frameworks, capacity building for ILO tripartite constituents to engage in sustainable development policy-making processes and assistance to national statistical offices to produce and analyse labour-related statistics and develop SDG indicators.

The ILO has taken important steps to integrate the SDGs in its programming, planning and budgets, which helps fulfil a key request of the UN member states in the QCPR resolution for UNDS entities to mainstream the SDGs in strategic planning at all levels and strengthen results based management:

Our Strategic Policy Framework 2018-21, which was adopted by the ILO Governing Body in November 2016, cites the strong decent work content of the 2030 Agenda as the basis for the ILO's contribution to its implementation. The ILO Programme and Budget for 2018-19, which will be discussed by the ILO's Governing Body at its meeting next week, explicitly reflects this ILO contribution. Each of the 10 policy outcomes of our proposed Programme and Budget identifies the principal SDG targets to which it directly contributes, as well as the relevant SDG indicators that the ILO will apply in assisting member States to measure and monitor their progress towards those targets. We have also for the first time included environmental sustainability as a cross-cutting policy driver along with our usual drivers of gender and non-discrimination, international labour standards and social dialogue.

This activity is supported by a major reform process being undertaken throughout the ILO. Whilst we share the view that we need to focus less on process and more on delivery, it is however our view that we do need to fix the process as well. The ILO has over the last two years been able to redirect about 12 per cent of its spending on back office work to frontline direct service delivery to constituents. Those reallocations from the back office to the front room will continue in the coming years. Given our specialized agency status, we need to seek the guidance of our Governing Body on the implementation of the QCPR resolution. The ILO Governing Body will discuss the new resolution and its implications for the ILO as well as the means of ILO support to countries on the SDGs at its Governing Body meeting next week.

The session on the QCPR will immediately follow a High-Level Segment on Decent Work for Sustainable Development. The President of ECOSOC, Ambassador Frederick Shava of Zimbabwe will be the guest speaker. This High-Level discussion will focus on the contribution that decent work and the ILO

can make to the eradication of poverty and promotion of prosperity, which is the main theme of the 2017 HLPF in July. The discussion will inform the ILO input to the HLPF and other UN organizations may attend and make interventions. .

The ILO supports and funds the Resident Coordinator system, and we believe it does have a critical role to play in coordination and facilitating collaboration between UN agencies. The RC should be able to leverage the expertise of both resident and non-resident agencies to contribute to the System's shared results and empower collective leadership of the UNCT. We believe that the RC system should be properly funded if it is to fulfil its functions. We have and will continue to increase our participation in the pillars of the SOPs based on our assessments of cost effectiveness and the requirements of fulfilling our historic and normative mandate. We believe that in some cases there needs to be a detailed assessment of that cost effectiveness and the benefits that will come from the standard operating procedures.

The ILO appreciates the opportunity to participate in this discussion. We reiterate our support for these initiatives and look forward to working with constituents and the UN system in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.