Effective strategies for overcoming inequalities and creating decent work for all

Overcoming inequality is critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. SDG 10 is aimed at reducing inequality within and among countries. The reduction of inequality is recognized as a cross-cutting issue supporting the achievement of other Goals, including access to clean energy, water and sanitation, and to the eradication of poverty and hunger.

The pandemic has revealed and worsened inequalities in the labour market. The groups most affected were those who were already facing discrimination and marginalization in employment, as well as workers in informal and insecure jobs. The existing structural deficiencies and inequalities in the labour market are making the negative impact of the pandemic even worse and lasting longer.

**SDG 8**

With close to 60 per cent of the global workforce being informally employed, the majority of all workers are being left behind, trapped in a cycle of poverty, uncertainty and vulnerability. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated their situation and further widened inequalities in the labour market.

Breaking this generational vicious cycle means ensuring that everyone has access to full and productive employment and decent work, with a particular focus to support women, older persons, young people, persons with disabilities, migrants, minorities and Indigenous Peoples to transfer to decent jobs.

**SDG 10**

Ongoing trends and the uneven economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to increase inequalities between and within countries unless effective policies are implemented.

Central to such policies are increased investments in universal access to health care, quality education and social protection, as well as access to basic opportunities, including safe drinking water and sanitation, affordable housing, reliable and sustainable energy services, and digital technologies. Policies need to ensure that design and implementation features promote the inclusion of population groups in disadvantaged and vulnerable situations.