

**Accelerating global actions towards decent work:
with special focus on youth**

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Overview

- Introduction
- Decent Work Challenges
- Decent Work Policy Portfolio for Sustainable Development
- Policy Integration for Decent Work, Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication
- Promoting Integrated Strategies for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development

Integrated Approach

- General Assembly Resolution 72/233 and 2030 Agenda call for integrated approach to sustainable development and poverty eradication but easier said than done
- Specialization valuable but needs context to avoid “silo syndrome”
- Paper discusses experience and possible ways forward from experience of promoting decent work as one of many policy fields requiring an integrated approach
- Specific contribution of 3rd Decade SWAP should be focus on integrated approach by UNDS to poverty eradication within 2030 Agenda

Decent Work Challenges

- Extreme and working poverty remains high
- Near poor working women and men also very large group
- Lack of social protection risks sustainable eradication of poverty
- Decline in vulnerable forms of employment (and informality?) halted
- Lack of decent work opportunities for still-growing youth workforce of poorest countries major concern
- 3rd Decade is a rapidly closing demographic window for least-developed to “get rich before they get old”

Decent Work Policy Portfolio for Sustainable Development

- For work to constitute a sustainable route out of poverty it needs to be decent
- ILO multidimensional approach endorsed by UN and others such as G20, EU
- Four pillars are: respect for rights especially fundamental principles; employment and enterprise development; social protection; and social dialogue. Paper illustrates rather than enumerates policies e.g. green jobs
- Rising consumption based on improved earnings and increased employment stimulates investment which in turn lifts productivity and enables increase in tax base and public investment on health, education, communications etc.
- Structural transformation increasingly led by shift from employment in agriculture to services, leading to a slower pace of reduction in informal and vulnerable employment than in past. Impact digitalization uncertain.

Policy Integration for Decent Work, Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

- Employment trends highlight scale of challenges in accelerating pace of poverty eradication and establishing trajectory of development to achieve SDGs
- 72/233 sees way forward as “sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding the duplication of efforts”
- Several promising examples, notably Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth. Also PAGE, SPIACB, Rural Decent Work, health employment

Promoting Integrated Strategies for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development

- Inter-UN agency partnerships blossomed ad hoc without adequate financial and human resources
- 3rd Decade SWAP should draw on experience to strengthen policy integration within 2030 framework
- Key issues include:
 - Targeting human and financial resources on countries requesting integrated policy advice;
 - Identification of key objectives and core principles for collaborative interagency action;
 - Joint integrated research and analysis of impact on jobs and incomes of policies e.g. environmental sustainability, infrastructure investment, health care and educational services;
 - Joint work by multidisciplinary UN teams with national teams from ministries and civil society;
 - Improved staff training on integrated policy-making and implementation;
 - New approaches to planning and budgeting that incentivize collaborative work and ensure funding lines nationally and internationally to implement integrated programmes.