

Statement for July 8 HLPF

Building back better after COVID-19 and acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs:

Responding to the economic shock, relaunching growth, sharing economic benefits and addressing developing countries' financing challenges

- I thank ECOSOC and the co-conveners of this session - UNDESA, the World Bank, UNWomen and UNRISD with which the ILO partnered in the preparation for today's event.
- I also thank the high-level technical experts who have produced the background report for this session. Their expertise and collaboration is invaluable.
- The report they produced is unequivocal: While economic growth has increased national incomes significantly, inequality in labour markets has widened in unprecedented proportions and it has also degraded the environment.
- Due to the COVID19 crisis, the equivalent of 400 million full-time jobs have been lost in the second quarter of 2020 and ILO projections suggest that the labour market recovery during the second half of the year will be difficult.
- This is a staggering observation, but already before the pandemic, organizations of the multilateral system were operating in times of great uncertainty. The implementation of the SDGs was already off track; and there was widespread disillusion about prospects for sustainable social and economic outcomes. The calls to ensure fairness, equality, shared opportunity, inclusivity and sustainability in the world of work remain to be answered.
- The current health and economic crisis, albeit its dreadful impact, presents us with a unique opportunity to imagine a "better normal". It should build

on the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work and its human-centred approach, which the UN General Assembly has endorsed in 2019.

- As we speak, the ILO convenes a [global summit on COVID19 and the world of work](#). Let me share some key points, which were raised by heads of states and ILO constituents to support a job rich and environmentally sustainable recovery. They focus on 1) stimulating the economy and employment with appropriate active fiscal policy; 2) extending social protection floors; 3) protecting workers in the workplace with stronger occupational safety and health measures; 4) facilitating the green transition; and 5) promoting social dialogue and strengthen employers' and workers' organizations.
- Let us not forget the overwhelming majority of workers who continue to be directly impacted by the crisis. Now is the time to enforce labour rights and to protect the most vulnerable - women, youth, informal workers, migrant workers and many more who are trapped in vicious cycles of informality and working poverty. They count on policy makers to generate fairer labour market outcomes, based on international solidarity.