POST-2015: A RIGHT TO PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK?

Reflections on MDG 1 “decent work for all”: Where Do We Stand?
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1. Global inequities.  
   Who and what is this about?
2. From MDGs to SDGs and post 2015  
   Where do we stand?
3. Decent work and the MDGs/SDGs  
   Why elusive?
4. Remedies: capitalising on the “three UNs”  
   What can be done?
5. Towards a comprehensive, transformative, rights-based approach for “beyond 2015”  
   Where do we want to go?
1) Global inequities
Who is this about?
Intra and inter-Country Inequality, 2007

FIGURE 2. VULNERABLE EMPLOYMENT AS A SHARE OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT, 2011

2) From MDGs to SDGs/post 2015
Implementing the 20/20 Initiative

- full employment
- social protection
- participation
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Global partnership for development
We reaffirm the importance of supporting developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by effective social policies, including social protection floors.

Outcome document 2012
Main recommendations from the post-2015 global consultation

- a stand-alone goal on employment in the post-2015 agenda
- from the quantity to the quality of growth
- combining economic growth with the creation of decent jobs for the poor and most vulnerable
- Addressing thestructural causes of unemployment and promoting economic diversification
- governments must be responsible for driving structural transformation through coherent policies.
- Governments to develop economic sectors with high capacity to generate employment
- Industrial policy to be brought back into the development agenda
- Expanding social protection systems
- Strengthening social dialogue and the voice of workers
- Complementing ODA with reforms in the international trade, finance and technology transfer systems
1. End poverty everywhere
2. End hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Attain healthy lives for all
4. Provide quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all
5. Attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere
6. Ensure availability and sustainable use of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure sustainable energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, **full and productive employment** and decent work for all
9) Promote sustainable infrastructure and industrialization and foster innovation
10) Reduce inequality within and between countries
11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and sustainable
12) Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns
13) Tackle climate change and its impacts
14) Conserve and promote sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources
15) Protect and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, halt desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss
17) Achieve peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all, and effective and capable institutions
17) Strengthen the means of implementation and the global partnership for sustainable development
Proposed goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (30 June 2014)

8.4 By 2030 achieve **full and productive employment and decent work** for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
3) MDGs/SDGs and decent work
Decent work versus social protection

- Social protection and health insurance are protective, re-distributive objectives
- The right to decent work challenges the logic of the system
- Full employment and decent work would require genuine political, economic, social and ecological transformation
Why is decent work an elusive goal?

1. productive assets and wealth would need to be restructured
2. production chains would need to be equitable and sustainable
3. existing gender- and class-biased distribution of remunerative work would need to shift
4. existing gender- and class-biased distribution of care work would need to radically change
5. time budgets would need to be renegotiated
6. consumption and production patterns would need to be radically altered
7. the share of remuneration in GDP would need to be increased
8. The share of value added in lower income countries would need to be increased
9. education and skills training would need to be re-organised
10. the informal economy would need to be formalised
4) Capitalising on the “3 UNs”

- Member states
- Secretariat/Secretary General/agencies
- Civil society
“First UN”: governments
Declaration of Santa Cruz: For a New World Order for Living Well
“23. We recognize the progress achieved in sustainable development at the regional, national, sub-national and local levels and we reaffirm the importance of supporting developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty by empowering the poor and people in vulnerable situations, promoting developing sustainable agriculture as well as full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by effective social policies, including social protection floors.”

June 2014
European Consensus on Development: *decent work* as a priority.

- integrating decent work into development strategies and strategies to combat poverty;
- the participation of the social partners and civil society;
- improving the capacity of the authorities and civil society;
- budgetary support and social adjustment for countries involved in trade liberalisation;
- development of small and medium-sized enterprises;
- ...
EC on SDGs: Full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Increase **decent jobs** and increase sustainable livelihoods including for youth, older people, women and groups at risk of discrimination
- Increase the share of **productive employment** and decent work within total employment in line with the pillars of the decent work agenda
- Increase the coverage of **social protection floors** and gradual implementation of higher standards of social guarantees
- Protecting the **rights of migrant workers** and displaced persons in compliance with the ILO norms and standards.
UN-Organisations

- ILO
- UNICEF
- UNRISD
- UNDP

- Child-sensitive social protection
- Social Protection Strategic Framework
“Third UN”: civil society
Civil Society

**Formal voluntary action**

**Non-formal voluntary action**

**Participatory governance**

**Active citizenship**
- Implies rights and responsibilities not captured by “volunteerism”
- Includes voluntary action outside of state process (e.g., in community)

Approaches aimed at helping citizens engage in processes of public deliberation and decision-making
Main World Protests, 2006-2013, by type of grievance

Special Rapporteurs under the OHCHR

- Independent, detailed surveys and research
- Outspoken positions
- Advocacy
5) Towards a comprehensive, transformative, rights-based approach for “beyond 2015”
Key legislation and declarations (“soft law”)

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 1948
- International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights (ICESCR) 1964
- International Covenant on civil and political rights 1964
- Convention on the Eradication of all Forms of Racial Discrimination 1969
- CEDAW 1979
- UN Declaration on the Right to Development 1986
- UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families 1990
- CRC 1990
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 1996
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007
- Primary health care for all (World Health Assembly 2008)
- United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the right to water and sanitation 2010
- General Assembly resolution 68/177 on the right to food 2013
ILO-Conventions/Declarations

- ILO Philadelphia Declaration 1944
- ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization 2008
- Convention on social security C102 (1952)
- ILO Recommendation on Social Protection for all R202 (2012)
- Freedom of association C87 (1948)
- Right to organise C98 (1949)
- Minimum age C138 (1973)
- Worst forms of child labour C 182 (1999)
- Convention on homework C177 (1996)
- Convention on domestic workers C 189 (2011)
Rights-based approach to productive, equitable employment and decent work

- progressive governments
- visionary and empowered UN
- Powerful progressive civil society, including trade union and informal workers organisations, political activists, and intellectuals
The Global Footprint

Ecological Footprint (Global Hectares per Person)

- Africa
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Latin America
- Middle East and Central Asia
- North America

Global average available biocapacity per person with no area set aside for wild species.

Developed

Emerging

Developing

Human Development Index (HDI)
Who is this about?
Sources:


- Isabel Ortiz and Matthew Cummins. 2011. Beyond the Bottom Billion, Global Inequality. UNICEF. w.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_58230.html
