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Decent work, between slogan and reality... of dying in the Mediterranean



Sources: CLAE

Sustainable Development Goal 8 on Decent Work for All is the only SDG that brings together social, economic and environmental goals. It has an impact on all the other goals of the 2030 Agenda, but what is needed to ensure its achievement? This is the question posed by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

We wake up and the world seems entangled in something worse, despite the fact that we lived in the intricacies of the fear of a society stunned and, at the same time, conformist,

since if what scares today reveals a certain proportion, the forecasts only coincide in the announcement that tomorrow adversity will grow.

In fact We are witnessing a world of work that is undergoing profound changes. Self-driving cars, drones distributing medicines, artificial intelligence that augments human creativity, megacities that are overheat. All this until some time ago was pure science fiction. Today are the technological, demographic and change-related forces climate that reconfigure the way we work.

What we don't We know – for sure – whether these forces will change our world of work. for better or worse. This uncertainty increases because changes are taking place. producing at a time of enormous existing challenges and Inequalities are reaching unprecedented levels: global growth of employment will be only 1.0% in 2023, less than half that in 2022.

It is expected that Global unemployment will rise by about three million by 2023 to 208 million unemployed, although some data place it around the 220 million, as the cost-of-living crisis is pushing more people to poverty, including working poverty. Among workers More vulnerable are 200 million living in absolute poverty and 2,000 millions in the informal economy, where they often lack legal rights or social protection.

This panorama The global also masks important geographical imbalances. For example, in Low-income countries Employment is not expected to recover this year. pre-pandemic levels. In those regions where unemployment is now below pre-crisis levels, the ILO analysis shows this is mainly due to displacement towards the informal economy, which is likely to postpone – rather than solve – the Workers' problems.

So what can be done, how can you ensure that these currents of change lead us to the more equitable, sustainable, prosperous and peaceful future to which the Member States of the United Nations committed themselves when they adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015? This will be one of the key issues to be addressed at the SDG Summit to be held in New York in September 2023.

Decent work for all?

This is where Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 plays a role crucial. SDG 8 pursues inclusive and sustainable economic growth and full and productive employment, i.e. decent work for all. But its impact goes further, because it is the only SDG that meets social goals, economic and environmental goals, a 'multiplier target' of the entire sustainable development, since, if achieved, it will have a positive impact on the other.

How it happens with all the objectives, to fulfill the promise of [SDG 8](#) will be It is necessary to restore faith in multilateralism and global cooperation. In a globalized economy, developing countries cannot be expected Act alone. International solidarity is needed if wants to make a practical difference.

The creation of Universal social protection systems is one example. These can relieve poverty, reducing vulnerability and inequalities and helping to manage conflicts and social tensions. To achieve this objective, the aid Humanitarian must be oriented in a way that supports protection systems and strengthen the capacity of States.

A Reorganized and rebalanced approach to globalization. Although the Concern about the impact of automation on job losses Work is valid, technological progress can also create new Employment opportunities in emerging markets. But the important thing is that the benefits reach everyone along these chains of supply.

To bring together All components of this approach must have policies and actions clear and transparent, and make sure they are considered fair. That is why the ILO convenes a Global Coalition for Social Justice, bringing together constituents of the ILO, the UN and other multilateral agencies, institutions global financiers, the private sector, civil society and other partners.

This wide range of views and knowledge is expected to contribute to ensure that policies reflect all facets of the problems to which they are concerned that we face - economic, social and environmental - and thus achieve a Wide acceptance. The Coalition will also build on the work [of the Global Jobs and Social Protection Accelerator to Just Transitions](#). Both are based on a solid foundation of human rights, with a strong link to international human rights standards work and the promotion of social dialogue.

Whereas the Coalition will bring together a wide range of views and experiences, the Accelerator will help channel investments from a wide range from sources - national, international, public and private - towards the Extension of social protection and job creation, including Green, digital and care economies.

ILO notes that the world of work will be different for the next generation, and this is inevitable. It is up to everyone how to shape that change. SDG 8, focused on Decent work for all can guide us towards a more future equitable, dignified, productive and humane.

Does the future belong to young people?

What does it mean? "all"? Are there particularly disadvantaged groups when it comes to finding a decent work? Yes, there is: today's youth – the best generation Formed from

history and our hope for a better future- are the group of age that has the hardest time finding a decent job. Something is being done doing wrong.

In 2022 -latest data available-, young people aged 15 to 24 represented about 21% of the total working-age population. However constituted less than 13 per cent of the total number of persons employed. The figures of Unemployment is even starker. 33% of the total unemployed were young people, who are also the most likely to occupy "bad" jobs. For example, they are twice as likely as adults living in extreme poverty, i.e. with less than 1.90 dollars per day in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms.

They also have much more likely to have an informal job, with little or no social protection. According to the [latest data available](#) on young people in informal employment, the rate of Youth informality was 78% in 2021, compared to 58% of adults. In addition, in times of crisis, young people suffer in a way that disproportionate and recover more slowly than other age groups.

We saw it during the Covid-19 crisis and we continue to see it during the current one "polycrisis", i.e. the multiple and multiple challenges facing It confronts the world, such as climate change, conflict and high inflation on a global scale.

A recent ILO report asks whether youth employment has recovered and It concluded that the period of crisis has subsided at many levels, but that the Youth labour markets have not yet fully recovered, which means that This is especially true in low- and middle-income economies, especially all in the Arab States, East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia Southern.

In 2022, to globally, almost a quarter of the world's youth were out of school, they were neither working nor trained. This is more than half a percentage point per above the pre-Covi-19 level, and is equivalent to about 289 millions of young people.

Dying in the Mediterranean

NEET rates -ni work, study or train- increased among young people Africans even before the pandemic. In 2015, the NEET rate (% of young people not in occupation, education or training) became the Key measure of progress in promoting decent work among youth within the framework of the SDG agenda for 2030.

Almost 13 Millions of young Africans are unemployed. But this excludes others Almost 60 million young people who are neither employed nor in education, the majority of whom are who would like to work, but face obstacles to search and/or Get a job. NEET rate provides better indication of magnitude of the obstacles faced by young people in the labour market the unemployment rate.

That is, more One in four young Africans, some 72 million, are out of school nor do they receive training in the occupation. Two-thirds of them are young women. Africa is in the unique position of being a relatively continent. young, with a rapidly growing youth population.

Since 2005, *NEET* rates have declined slightly across the but not in sub-Saharan Africa, which experienced an increase of 2.8 percentage points over the same period, and now more than a quarter of young people in the region are neither working, studying nor receiving training.

Although the *NEET* rates increased worldwide and in all regions in 2020 as a result of the pandemic (and subsequently recovered), had already been increasing since 2015 in Africa, including sub-Saharan Africa. *NEET* rates among Young people (aged 15 to 29) in the seven countries studied range from currently between 14.4% in Uganda and up to 34.9% in Senegal.

In front of the Endless economic gatherings, in front of the articles of thousands of analysts financial and socio-political, in the face of the world of broken promises, In the face of the international agendas of rhetoric, the capitalist world and the horrified "good" Western consciousness" wonders why the boats and the cemetery in the one that has become the Mediterranean.

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