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The G-24 Communique highlights how the global economy is currently experiencing subdued growth and facing significant downside risks. At the same time, we are facing an employment and environmental crisis as well as significant challenges to the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

Trade tensions and uncertainties are undermining global demand and investment, with repercussions on employment and labour productivity growth. The climate challenge is becoming increasingly pressing, affecting the livelihoods of present and future generations, including their health, employment and income prospects.

We are not on the right path to realise the SDG vision of “sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth”. National and international efforts must reinvigorate progress towards the SDGs and SDG8 in particular. Achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all requires that we take a long-term view to support the diversification of productive activities as well as stable investments. It requires investments in key strategic sectors and in policies that support the economic, social and environmental transformation of economies. This transformation is necessary to absorb informal workers in the formal economy and to increase firms’ productivity and capacity to create jobs, including through innovation and integration in trade. While such an approach focuses on increasing productivity and investment, it must also generate “inclusive economic growth” by delivering shared prosperity for all through a human-centred approach to development. Moreover, it must encourage “sustainable economic growth” in accordance with the collective obligation to protect our shared environment and preserve the planet.

The challenge for the global community today is to work together (through partnerships and social dialogue) to implement economic transformation strategies that lead to productive employment creation while ensuring social justice and environmental sustainability.

The G-24 has long recognized the importance of multilateralism as a form of global governance that can support economic, social and environmental sustainability, turning possible trade-offs into mutually beneficial outcomes. In particular, a rules-based and fair multilateral trading system that promotes inclusive growth and full and productive employment, the diffusion of knowledge and technology as well as the growth of labour productivity and incomes is essential to a human-centred development path and the realization of the SDGs.¹

Many Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs) have successfully integrated into the global economy and benefited from product expansion, technological upgrading, economic dynamism and productive employment creation, in part thanks to coherent sectoral and labour market policies. Other developing economies, however, have experienced expansion in trade and economic growth

¹ The G24 have called for an “international cooperation to foster a rules-based, open, transparent, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization at its center” (G24 Communique, Bali, 2018).

without productive employment creation, leaving many excluded from the benefits of increased trade and investment.

Policy coherence and mutually reinforcing and complementary mandates among the Bretton Woods Institutions, the WTO, the UN and the ILO can deliver better outcomes to achieve a fair globalisation, the SDGs and decent work for all.

Climate change poses a longstanding challenge to decent work. Several millions of jobs rely on services provided by the environment. Climate change threatens the provision of many of these vital ecosystem services and thus endangers the jobs that depend on them. Up to 50 per cent of jobs in G-24 countries rely directly on ecosystem services, with India and China having the highest proportion. This includes jobs in farming, fishing and forestry, food, drink and tobacco, wood and paper, biofuels and renewable energy sources, the pharmaceutical and chemical industries and environment-related tourism. Furthermore, the increasing frequency and intensity of various climate change related hazards have already reduced labour productivity. Between 2000 and 2015, 23 million working-life years were lost annually at the global level because of such hazards.

However, we have learned that the transition to carbon neutral economies can ensure a net creation of quality jobs if driven through well-coordinated economic and social policies by governments, social dialogue. Mitigation measures can create productive jobs. The pursuit of sustainability in the energy sector could create around 18 million jobs globally by 2030. Adaptation measures can also lead to employment gains and prevent job losses. Investment in adaptation infrastructure, for example, is likely to have positive effects on employment, in particular because of the increased demand for construction work in projects to reduce climate-related risks. For every 1 million of US dollars invested in the construction sector, close to 650 jobs are expected to be created in India, 200 in China and 160 in Brazil².

At the latest Climate Summit, the UN Secretary General launched the “Climate Action for Jobs” Initiative. Spearheaded by ILO, it will support a new generation of NDCs that will include “just transition” plans based on the ILO’s approach³, focussing on the creation of decent work in accordance with nationally defined development priorities and building on social dialogue. We are pleased to see that many G-24 countries have made formal commitments to formulate plans for just transition in the near future.⁴

Assessing the contribution of immigration to development and improving the design of migration and development strategies remains a priority for the ILO. A recent ILO-OECD research programme on “How immigrants contribute to developing countries’ economies”⁵ provides five policy priorities to enhance this contribution potential, including adapting labour migration policies to labour market needs. Likewise, new methodological guidelines endorsed by the 20th International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2018 will facilitate the collection and analysis of internationally comparable

² ILO. 2018. *World Employment and Social Outlook 2018: Greening with jobs*. International Labour Office – Geneva: ILO.

³ The ILO “Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all”, adopted through tripartite consensus in 2015, offer a guiding framework to support those negatively impacted by the transition to a carbon-neutral production system.

⁴ The G-24 members Algeria, Argentina, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guatemala, Mexico, Morocco, and Peru are among the 43 countries that have already committed to the “Climate Action for Jobs” initiative.

⁵ https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/projects/WCMS_344706/lang--en/index.htm (accessed on 7 October 2019).

data on migrant workers⁶. The ILO also looks forward to working with the WBG on evidence-based analytical work to strengthen policy responses to the labour market impact of forced displacement.

The ILO is fully committed to support the G-24 and to work with the IMF and the WBG to strengthen the multilateral system to deliver human-centred responses to the multiple crises the world is currently facing.

⁶ https://www.ilo.org/global/statistics-and-databases/meetings-and-events/international-conference-of-labour-statisticians/WCMS_648922/lang--en/index.htm (accessed on 7 October 2019).