



International
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International Labour Organization

Statement to the G-24 Ministers and Governors Meeting

Washington D.C., October 22, 2024

The ILO's latest revised projections indicate that the global unemployment rate is expected to reach 4.9 percent in 2024 and remain at that rate in 2025. This translates into 183 million persons that are unemployed in 2024. In addition, there are 219 million persons who do not meet the strict unemployment criteria and yet have an unmet need for a job. Moreover, the jobs gap is unevenly distributed, with more significant gaps occurring in developing countries and among women

Job rich and inclusive growth and structural transformation are essential for EMDEs to meet their sustainable development objectives. Investments should have both positive environmental and social outcomes, particularly ensuring that workers and vulnerable populations are protected and empowered. *Just transitions* are the means for achieving structural transformations that are truly inclusive and environmentally sustainable. A just transition requires private capital to be aligned with climate action and social justice, with mechanisms in place to ensure that benefits are shared equitably.

In line with their development mandate, the IFIs and MDBs with the support ILO and the broader UN system can drive the financing of just transitions and make them a key component of a truly sustainable development. Member States can review the current policies guiding the operations of national and international development banks and increase the importance of social aspects in decision-making, driving change in national financial sectors and thus amplifying their impact through their influence on private finance.

More broadly, international development cooperation remains crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through shared responsibility and collaboration. In particular, for African countries, international solidarity is crucial to support their efforts in ensuring universal social protection, given their significant financing gap 17.6. In many of these countries, Official Development Assistance (ODA) should kick-start and support efforts to strengthen the delivery of social protection and healthcare benefits, which in turn contributes to enhanced productivity and inclusive growth, thereby broadening the tax base and expanding government revenues.

The IFIs and MDBs play a central role in financing international development cooperation, but their current models need reform to meet today's complex challenges. They possess significant untapped capital that can be deployed more efficiently to mobilize both public and private investments for sustainable development. By focusing on social justice and climate resilience, IFIs and MDBs can better align their activities with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Moreover, development financial institutions can further strengthen their coordination with national governments to ensure that development assistance aligns with domestic priorities, henceforth the enhancement of project relevance, sustainability, ownership and effectiveness. By improving governance models and enhancing cooperation with governments, IFIs and MDBs can play a pivotal role in directing international financial flows toward projects that reduce inequality and build long-term resilience. These efforts would ensure that development financial institutions contribute more effectively to a truly global partnership for development, enhancing the impact of international cooperation on the ground.

The international financial architecture, including its business models and financing capacities, must be made more fit-for-purpose, equitable and responsive to the financing needs of developing countries, to broaden and strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance.

Recent crises and global warming are further entrenching inequalities and perceptions of injustice around the world. Many shareholder governments and the leadership of development financial institutions are committed to modernizing these organizations to enable them to serve the international community much more effectively in this unprecedented moment of need. Reforms are needed in the interests of the long-term cohesion of the international system as well as of countries' own national security, in the spirit of the ILO's 1919 Constitution words: "If you desire peace, cultivate justice."

One of key systemic risk that for financing sustainable development is the ongoing failure to fully utilize the tools of international cooperation already at its disposal. To be certain, strong collective leadership will be necessary to bring about these changes. In this regard, the Second World Summit for Social Development in November 2025 and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in June-July 2025 offer a significant opportunity for the Member States, the IFIs and MDBs to reinforce the social dimension and the promotion of social justice placing decent work at the heart of multilateral cooperation.

In this context and based on these shared objectives, the ILO is fully committed to work together with all partners, developed and developing countries, the IMF and the WBG, other IFIs and MDBs and the UN System to expand the financing capacity, the effectiveness and the social and environmental contribution of the international financing for sustainable development system.

That is why the ILO has launched a Global Coalition for Social Justice that will act as a platform to elevate the political debate and action on social justice and all Member Countries and observers are invited to join.