

RIO +20 FACILITATORS REPORT
FOR
UNEMPLOYMENT, DECENT WORK AND
MIGRATION DIALOGUE

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INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Dialogues, also known as the Rio+20 Dialogues, an undertaking of the Brazilian Government with the support of the UN, is a pioneering initiative expressly designed to create a direct channel for civil society to increase and improve global participation in Rio+20 .

The theme : **Unemployment, Decent work and Migration** was one of 10 themes discussed in the RIO + 20 online Dialogue. The facilitators for this theme were Professor Neville Ying , University of the West Indies , Professor Eduardo Luiz Gonçalves Rios-Neto Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brazil) and Professor Stephen Hamilton , Cornell University.

There was active on line discussions on this theme resulting in a set of concrete recommendations which were crafted and refined and put to public voting.

These votes will be useful to inform which recommendations the panel will consider for presentation to the Heads of State at the Rio+20 Conference.

This presentation by the facilitators to this panel focuses on :

- Summary of the **process of dialogue** which concluded with recommendations,
- **comments and critique** of these recommendations and
- **conclusions** which sums up what the facilitators consider to be the priority considerations for selecting recommendations to be presented to the Heads of Government.

SUMMARY

The process of the Dialogue included two main roles performed by the facilitators :

- **Initiating the dialogue and**
- **Facilitating the dialogue**

INITIATING THE DIALOGUE

The dialogue was initiated by a KICKSTART paper which attempted to set the context for the discussion.

The context for the discussion consisted of the two major components.

1. The Global Unemployment Crisis
2. Cross Cutting issues to consider for addressing the Unemployment crisis

FACILITATING THE DIALOGUE

Participants were invited from a diversity of groups worldwide to give points of views and recommendations related to the Theme. There was interactive discussion between the facilitators and participants and among participants.

This process was allowed to flow freely with periodic comments and requests for clarification by the facilitators.

The discussion cascaded into a set of recommendations for which persons indicated their support.

The 10 most supported recommendations were put up on the site for public voting.

MAIN POINTS FOR THE CONTEXT FOR THE DISCUSSION

Global Employment crisis

The statistics based on the Global Unemployment challenges using ILO Reports were highlighted. The following are main points from these reports which were presented to participants for their consideration:

The world today faces an urgent challenge of creating 600 million productive jobs worldwide in the next decade. 200 million people are unemployed including 75 million young people and 1.52 billion workers are in precarious employment, many of whom are women. Another 900 million people around the world that are working but are living with their families below the two dollar a day poverty line.

Almost 60% of the world's workers have no secure employment contract. 75% of the world's people have no social protection. Never has the world generated so much wealth, while inequality between the richest and the poorest has become wider. Unemployment, underemployment and the combined effects of inequality and social exclusion represent a threat to human security. Gaping inequality, poverty and unemployment are driving increased social unrest and consequently social and economic risk.

In addition to the ILO Reports the point was also made that the multi-dimensional aspects of international migration were also important to consider. Migration directly associated with environmental consequences of urbanization and climate change pose particular unemployment problems. However migration can be leveraged in terms of finding solutions for unemployment problems. In this regard partnerships with migrant communities, leveraging migrant capacities, harnessing migrant wealth, and protecting migrant rights should be considered as important strategic initiatives for tackling global unemployment challenges.

Taking into consideration the complexity of the theme, participants were asked to focus on five cross cutting issues as they consider and offer viewpoints, recommendations and solution strategies.

Five cross cutting issues were presented:

- 1. Sustainable Business Enterprises**
- 2. Social Protection**
- 3. Youth Unemployment**
- 4. Productivity for international competitiveness**
- 5. The Green Economy**

The following are some perspectives on each which participants were asked to consider as they participated in the dialogue.

1. Sustainable Business Enterprises

Promoting Sustainable Business Enterprises is important in national strategies for job creation and employment. But there two important issues to consider. First, we have to be cognizant of the fact that we are dealing with both the formal and informal economy. Both provide jobs but the latter does not contribute maximally to the tax intake of governments. Second, there is a mix of sizes of business operations ranging from large to medium small and micro business enterprises. This diversity requires a mix of national policies to provide an enabling environment for business development and growth. . This includes, for instance, financing support for especially small and micro business which exist in both the formal and

informal economy and provide economic opportunities for persons especially in developing countries.

2. Social Protection

Social Protection and the provision of social safety nets is a global issue related to unemployment. The ILO statistics relating to millions of persons living below the poverty line and in precarious jobs point to the need for comprehensive and inclusive Social Protection Programmes.

The coexistence of the formal and informal business enterprises pose problems for having an inclusive social protection programme that covers both sectors. This affects a national approach for establishing and strengthening the Social Protection Floor as well as attempting to address the vertical dimension of Social Protection.

3. Youth Unemployment

The high levels of Youth Unemployment especially youth in vulnerable communities represent a social crisis internationally. The world is facing a worsening youth employment crisis. The ILO has warned of a “scarred” generation of young workers facing a dangerous mix of high unemployment, increased inactivity and precarious work in developed countries, as well as persistently high working poverty in the developing world (ILO , April 2012).

4. Productivity for international competitiveness

Productivity is of paramount importance for countries to be internationally competitive, achieve sustainable development and improve the quality of life of people.

The economies of small nation states have had to make some drastic shifts in order to respond to challenges of globalization. Some of these shifts include less reliance on Agriculture to greater reliance on service industries such as Financial Services, Tourism and ICTs.

The shift from Agriculture to Services and the productivity related to the Agricultural sector need to be considered carefully because of the imperative of food and nutrition security.

5. The Green Economy

In the context of connectivity between the core pillars of sustainable development the green economy should be considered as a driver both investments as well as job creation and employment. However the greening of jobs has two implications. First we have to ensure that the jobs are safe and healthy. Second the green economy will provide opportunities for investments in areas such as renewable and alternative sources of energy. This will create new jobs but it will also make some current jobs redundant. Training and retraining for employability are important for the green economy to have a positive net effect on job creation and employment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

MOST SUPPORTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The following were the 10 most supported recommendations:

1. Leveraging the Green Economy for jobs and employment

Governments to create a strategy for jobs and employment by leveraging the green economy for investment to generate jobs as well as financing training and retraining for employability.

2. Education as key for Sustainable Development

Put education in the core of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda

3. National Goals for Green jobs

Set national goals for green jobs based on assessments in terms of current and potential value, gender dimension, working conditions and other aspects of the decent work agenda.

4. Care for Aging Populations

Include care for aging populations in the international framework for sustainable development.

5. Education and empowerment of Women

Improve human capital by promoting access to health, including reproductive health, investment in education and empowerment of women.

6. Women's Empowerment principles key to Sustainable Development

Advance women's empowerment principles as a way to advance the sustainable development agenda.

7. Human Rights of migrants

Compel national governments to respect the human rights of migrants in Temporary Foreign Worker programs.

8. Lowering immigration barriers for Environmental Migrants

Establish a mechanism under the United Nations, similar in function to the World Trade Organization, to negotiate a lowering of barriers to immigration and to allocate environmental migrants equitably among countries able to receive them.

9. Healthy Jobs

Ensure all jobs and workplaces meet minimum safety and health standards.

10. Social Protection and Decent work for All

Governments to commit to a Social Protection and Decent Work for all goal by 2030, including access to health, unemployment, ill health, maternity, child protection and disabled people.

COMMENTS AND CRITIQUE

The Global Unemployment crisis and the cross cutting issues pointed to the need for solution oriented recommendations related to 8 key solution oriented areas. These areas and their coverage by the top 10 recommendations are as follows:

1. Decent Jobs

Recommendation # 10 incorporates this.

2. Social Protection

Recommendation # 10 addresses this.

3. Special employment programmes for Youth

Not addressed specifically and pointedly

4. Harnessing the wealth of Migrants

Not addressed

5. The Green Economy

Covered by Recommendation # 1

6. Human Rights for migrants

Covered by Recommendations # 7 and 8

7. Education and Training

Covered by Recommendations # 2 and 5

8. Empowerment of Women

Covered by recommendations #4 and 6

This analysis shows that all of the 8 solution oriented areas are covered by the top 10 recommendations except Special Employment programmes for Youth and the harnessing of the wealth of migrants to tackle unemployment in the country of origin.

The recommendation dealing with Healthy Jobs and the recommendation dealing with aging population could be considered to be covered by the

recommendation on Decent Work for all. National goals for green jobs could be incorporated in the recommendation for leveraging the green economy. There are two recommendations dealing with empowerment of women which could be streamlined into one. This process could reduce the top 10 to 6 recommendations.

IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS NOT IN TOP 10

Interesting and useful recommendations that did not make it to the top ten recommendations with rationale for them to be given consideration are as follows:

1. HARNESSING THE WEALTH OF THE DIASPORA

With the trend of declining Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) developing countries need to diversify their sources of Investment for economic growth, job creation and employment. Harnessing the wealth of migrants (the Diasporas) is an important strategy for doing this.

2. INTERNATIONAL SKILL TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Develop an International coordinated and collaborative drive for Skills Training and Certification for Employability and Productivity improvement.

Skills training with focus on technical vocational training is important for persons to grasp new job opportunities such as those that will be generated by the green economy. Of course they can also use these new skills to create jobs for themselves. It is important to have Internationally recognized certification associated with this training programme so that people can access jobs when they migrate internally from rural to urban centres or from one country to the other. This type of training and certification can also be leveraged especially by developing countries to get funding support for the planning and implementation of this programme from donor countries and agencies as well as International Financial Institutions

3. HIGHER EDUCATION AS A DRIVER OF INNOVATIONS AND COMPETITIVENESS

Stimulate innovations and competitiveness of the national industries through increasing the role of a higher education and supporting young skilled workforce with affordable housing and startup business initiatives

4 .APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

Develop an apprenticeship programme where employers train young people in a certifiable skill and the state and businesses partner in providing payment of decent wages.

Youth unemployment is a critical problem globally. It is important that urgent solutions are found for this problem. An Apprentice programme is an important part of the menu of solution options. Because of the tight fiscal space for making a programme like this happen in a meaningful and effective manner a key strategy is the state- private sector partnership for creating employment for youth.

4. EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES TO STEM RURAL TO URBAN MIGRATION

Provide micro-financing for women in rural areas, as well as training on entrepreneurship skills in developing countries.

5. SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH.

The international youth unemployment crisis justifies urgent action in this area.

CONCLUSION

This was a very engaging dialogue that produced a diversity of views. However the viewpoints had one common objective – finding effective and sustainable solutions to the global unemployment crisis. Education and Skills Training, Innovation and productivity for competitiveness and green healthy and safe jobs are key elements of these sustainable solutions. Inclusive Social protection programmes are important for providing social safety nets especially for vulnerable groups such as women, youth and disabled persons .Internal and external migration poses both challenges and opportunities for dealing with the global unemployment. Compliance with international conventions for migrant rights is a relevant imperative. The harnessing of the wealth and expertise of migrants (Diasporas) are important strategies for job creation and employment especially for developing countries.

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