



High-level Event

Partnering for Action: Implementation of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions in the Complex Setting of Overlapping Crises

Concept Note

*Friday, 23 September 2022 – 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. EDT
UN Headquarters, CR2, New York*

Description and background

Today, the world faces challenges of unprecedented scale. In addition to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has disrupted life and caused an enormous loss of jobs and livelihoods, the escalating climate emergency and impacts of the conflict in Ukraine are putting negative pressure on food, energy and finance, adding to immediate and long-term risks to our prosperity. Billions of people are facing the greatest cost of living crisis in a generation, compounded by an uneven and stalled labour market recovery.

The number of hours worked in the world has deteriorated in the first quarter of 2022 and remains 3.8 per cent below the level of the fourth quarter of 2019 (the pre-crisis benchmark), equivalent to a deficit of 112 million full-time jobs, indicating a significant setback in the recovery process. The fall-out from these multiple and cascading crises is felt most by some 4.2 billion people—who remain uncovered by any social protection, exacerbating inequalities and income insecurity for the most vulnerable more than half of the global population. To date, the world's failure to respond quickly and at-scale to the challenges at hand, including through the lack of effective debt relief or liquidity provisions to ensure governments can finance response measures to protect their populations, has sparked social unrest, posing further risks to societies and the attainment of the SDGs. As current rates of social unrest demonstrate, the world can no longer afford to under-estimate the importance of decent jobs and social protection.

Looking ahead, the anticipated structural economic transformations brought about by rapid technological and demographic changes are further compounding labour market risks. Constrained by higher debt burdens and shrinking fiscal space, countries now face a difficult trade-off between increasing much-needed public investments to overcome these multiple crises, achieve a human-centred sustainable

recovery and facilitate the structural transformations and just transitions that are necessary to achieve the SDGs and beyond, and, on the other hand, containing debt vulnerabilities.

[The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions](#), launched in September 2021 by the UN Secretary-General, signals the UN system's collective response for addressing the multiple challenges that threaten to erase development progress. The aim is to direct investments to help create at least 400 million decent jobs, primarily in the green, digital and care economies, and to extend social protection coverage to the over 4 billion people currently excluded. Efforts over the past year have focused on developing an integrated strategy to promote policy coherence on issues related to employment, formalization, social protection, including health and care work, youth and gender, and developing a financing and governance structure of the Global Accelerator. The executive summary of the integrated strategy is attached to this concept note.

Sustained funding and financing will be key. While it is expected that most of the financing will come primarily from domestic public resources and private financing, ODA will be required to complement and maximize the effectiveness of programming needs. Through the Joint SDG Fund, a new thematic window is being developed for partners to assist in providing catalytic funding to support the implementation of the Global Accelerator.

The next important phase will focus on engaging Member States and other stakeholders that have signalled an interest in supporting and implementing the Global Accelerator nationally and internationally. The High-level event will convene Heads of State and Government, heads of UN agencies, international financial institutions, and other major leaders to exchange on key actions needed to operationalize the Global Accelerator, to share plans, discuss opportunities for engagement and to express commitments of support.

Governments invited to participate in the high-level event are expected to commit to the Global Accelerator by one or more of the following actions:

- develop national policies and integrated strategies for just transitions, leading to the creation of green jobs including policies for employment creation, reskilling, social protection and through social dialogue;
- Formulate or having adopted integrated strategies and policies on social protection and employment, and/or having started their implementation through tripartite social dialogue;
- create a dedicated and inter-ministerial initiative or board involving social partners, which has leverage for change;
- increase domestic resources for social protection and jobs over the past 10–20 years, or having a record in extending social protection coverage and having a contemporary political commitment to further increase domestic resources;
- allocate significant ODA to the objectives of the Global Accelerator, either through the thematic window of the Joint SDG Fund or other funding mechanisms;
- share proposals to promote South–South cooperation on decent jobs, social protection and just transitions;
- advocate for stronger multilateral cooperation to implement the ambitions of the Global Accelerator (i.e. in the UN, IFIs, G20 and other forums).

Heads of UN agencies, IFIs, civil society and the private sector are also invited to announce concrete commitments, such as:

- contribute to the Technical Support Facility of the Global Accelerator, financially or in-kind
- commit to collaboration and coordination of programmatic work in pathfinder countries
- advise on sustainable, socially inclusive financing strategies and commit funding in support of joint country-level work
- advocate for the objectives of the Global Accelerator at national, regional and global levels.

This event will take place days after the Transforming Education Summit which seeks to mobilize political ambition, action, solutions and solidarity to transform education, while taking stock of efforts to recover pandemic-related learning losses and reimagining education systems for the world of today and tomorrow. This event will also build on the outcomes of the Summit, as social protection can prevent and eliminate barriers in accessing education for the most vulnerable and will build on and reflect about how the Accelerator constitutes a response to the multiple impacts that the Global Crises Response Group has identified through its various briefs and follows its recommendations. Leaders of the G7, Ministers of the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum and various country groupings have already welcomed the Global Accelerator and the role it can play in advancing the SDGs.