



European Union
Statement

ILO

316th Session of the Governing Body

(1 – 16 November 2012)

**Green jobs, decent work and sustainable development, with a focus on the
implication for the ILO's programme of work of the outcome
of the UNCSD 2012 (Rio+20)**

Geneva, 7 November 2012

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

ILO Governing Body
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EU Statement on

"Discussion about the effect given to the decision adopted in November 2011 on the item entitled Green jobs, decent work and sustainable development, with a focus on the implication for the ILO's programme of work of the outcome of the UNCSD 2012 (Rio+20)"

(GB.316/POL/3)

Chairperson,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We appreciate the paper presented by the Office on the implications for the ILO's programme of work of the outcome of the Rio+20.

We consider that the agreement reached at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 and the outcome document "The Future We Want" constitute a sound basis for further work in the ongoing quest for achieving sustainable development, globally, regionally, nationally and locally.

We believe that the ILO has an important and active role to play in the social dimension of sustainable development and in the implementation of the agreed Rio+20 outcomes.

An open and inclusive follow-up process should allow the full and active participation of all major groups and other stakeholders. Strong involvement of civil society as a whole, the private sector, trade unions, employers' organisations and local authorities is particularly important. We therefore support an active involvement and empowerment of civil society through strengthened institutional arrangements.

We welcome the agreement at Rio +20 that an inclusive green economy is one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development. We are committed to pursue a just, global transition to an inclusive green economy in collaboration with other international partners.

We support the development of international standards and voluntary initiatives undertaken by business and industry such as corporate social responsibility and corporate sustainability reporting. Businesses and industry should be further encouraged to adopt corporate social responsibility policies.

Concerning decision point (a), the following should be included in paragraph 19 among the priorities for practical follow-up by the Office, within existing budgets, in support of constituents :

- enhancing the capacity of education and training systems to provide people, particularly those with low employment rates (youth and women), with the related skills to pursue green economy as a means to achieve sustainable development.
- Giving particular attention to social protection floors while implementing the Social Security Plan of Action adopted at the 312th Governing Body in November 2011, the Recommendation Concerning National Floors of Social Protection and the Resolution concerning efforts to make social protection floors a national reality worldwide adopted at the 2012 International Labour Conference.
- Paying particular attention in the informal ILO working group on indicators and measurement to scientifically based evidence and expert analysis and inputs from the broadest possible range of stakeholders.
- Providing focused messages from a Decent Work Agenda perspective on Sustainable Development Goals, by addressing and incorporating the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced, holistic, coherent and synergistic way, while capturing inter-linkages and cross-cutting issues. SDGs should be coherent with internationally agreed goals and targets. They should be coherent with and integrated in the post-2015 UN development agenda without deviating focus or efforts from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Bearing in mind the above comments, we can agree on the priorities identified in paragraph 19.

In conclusion, we encourage the ILO to actively contribute to the Rio+20 follow-up process. We are committed to set in motion actions and initiatives to move forward, fully operationalise and implement all the commitments in “The Future We Want” building bridges, engaging partner countries, social partners and stakeholders, building stronger alliances at regional and international level. We are committed to work with the ILO to this aim.

Finally, we support the decision points under (b) and (c).

Thank you, Chair.