



## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **Between the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD),

Recalling the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organization of 30 May 1946;

Acknowledging their long-standing and effective cooperation, in line with their respective expertise, mandates and distinct yet complementary roles within the United Nations System;

Whereas the mission of the ILO, as a specialized agency of the United Nations is to promote social justice and rights at work as human rights, create opportunities for decent employment, enhance social protection for all, and strengthen tripartism and social dialogue on work-related issues and policies affecting the world of work;

Whereas the mission of UNCTAD is to carry out economic research, produce analyses, policy recommendations to support government decision-making, foster consensus building and offer technical assistance to support the countries' effective and equitable integration into the global economy;

Recognizing the role of UNCTAD and ILO within the Bretton Woods Institutions and related fora, in examining financial and macroeconomic challenges relating to our respective mandates, and proposing policy options for the international community;

Recognizing the role of UNCTAD and ILO within the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity, in developing inter-agency policy initiatives materialized through joint programmes at the country level;

Determined to develop and strengthen that cooperation as an efficient and effective means to achieving the shared objective of enhancing sustainable development through their respective mandates in support of the efforts of all countries, as recognized by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 67/226 on the Quadrennial comprehensive policy review and related resolutions of the UN Economic and Social Council;

Recognizing the need to provide empirical evidence and analysis of the economic impact of policies to foster decent and productive employment creation and advance equity and social justice, especially in developing countries;

Desiring to develop in-country collaboration, in particular within the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity and other capacity building activities;

Recalling the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2008 urging the ILO to invite international and regional organizations to contribute, within their respective mandates, to the implementation of the integrated approach to decent work;

Agree to maintain and expand their cooperation by developing a joint work programme as follows:

## **I. Purpose and Scope**

1. The ILO and UNCTAD will endeavour to strengthen their cooperation and coordination in fields of common interest and activity as follows:

- a) Joint policy-oriented research activities, including but not limited to:
  - i) Contributions to the UN system, G20 and similar fora;
  - ii) Research and policy advice on multilateral responses to global, regional and country-specific financial, economic, employment and social challenges;
  - iii) Collaboration on statistical compilation and analysis, including indicators on trade and investment flows and labour market and social outcomes;
  - iv) Research and analysis including modelling and econometric work to inform the two organizations' advice on employment, trade and growth;
  - v) Research and policy advice on investment, industrial and technology policies in relation to trade-related productive capacity and job creation;
  - vi) Research and policy advice on sustainable development in commodity-dependent developing countries, tackling important challenges such as sustainable and decent job creation, social protection for all, and local productive capacity;
  - vii) Research and policy advice on the economics of climate change and the effects of a long-term shift towards a low-carbon economy, in particular the impact on trade and investments flows and the labour market.
- b) Identification of common policy understandings based on joint research activities to support policy advice in joint country-level work;
- c) Based on the above, development and assessment of proposed joint in-country projects, in particular relating to the United Nations Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity and other funding opportunities to realize joint programmes at country level, including by such means as pooled funding and other funding mechanisms.

2. Any activities conducted under this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are subject to their inclusion in the Organizations' respective programme of work and budget and shall be carried out in accordance with their respective rules and practices.

## II. Means of Cooperation

3. The ILO and UNCTAD will establish a Steering Committee to coordinate activities as outlined in paragraph 1 of this MOU, which will include overseeing a programme of research deliverables, identifying common policy understandings that flow from this research programme, and developing recommendations for joint technical programs at country level based on common policy understandings. The Committee will be chaired by senior level management and composed of members from the relevant units of each Organization. The Committee will also assess funding opportunities, including for a pooled funding mechanism. The Committee's recommendations will be delivered by February 2015.

4. Subject to review of the joint recommendations of the Steering Committee, further steps to operationalize the joint work programme and identify specific means of cooperation will be agreed.

### *Participation in meetings and bodies*

5. Each Organization will invite the other to participate in meetings and bodies when subjects of mutual interest are on the agenda, in accordance with their rules and procedures.

6. With regard to meetings of UNCTAD bodies, the ILO will continue to be invited as a regular observer in the UNCTAD Ministerial Meetings, Trade and Development Commission and Board meetings.

7. With regard to meetings of ILO bodies, UNCTAD will continue to be invited to the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body, and where appropriate to other general, regional or other special meetings the International Labour Organisation may convene.

### *Exchange of information*

8. In accordance with their respective rules of confidentiality and subject to such arrangements as may be necessary to safeguard the status of confidential material, UNCTAD and the ILO will:

- a) exchange information, documentation and access to databases on matters of common interest; and
- b) keep each other informed of developments in the work of their Organizations and of current and planned activities of mutual interest, including for the purpose of identifying areas in which cooperation may prove desirable and for the purpose of preventing needless duplication of work.

9. For matters related to general institutional cooperation, the designated contact points will be:

- a) For UNCTAD: the Deputy Secretary-General; and
- b) For ILO: Director, Department for Multilateral Cooperation.

### III. Final Provisions

10. The implementation of this MOU, which does not entail any financial obligation, is subject to the procedures, rules and regulations of the respective Organization. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as interfering with the independent decision-making authority of each Organization.

11. Either Organization can terminate this MOU by providing three months written notice to the other Organization to this effect.

12. Subject to the policies and procedures of the ILO and UNCTAD with respect to the disclosure of information, ILO and UNCTAD may make this MOU publicly available.

Signed in Geneva on 4 December, 2014, in two original copies,

**For the International Labour Organization**



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**For the United Nations Conference on  
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**Petko Draganov**

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