

IMEC

Agenda item PFA/7 High-level evaluations of strategies and Decent Work Country Programmes

Thank you Chair. I am speaking on behalf of IMEC.

1. IMEC thanks the Office for the report on the high-level evaluations of strategies and Decent Work Country Programmes conducted during 2020.

We appreciate that the pandemic has imposed limitations on conducting some of the usual evaluative activities, particularly for the Decent Work Country Programmes, and value the efforts made to undertake this important work. As the challenges of the pandemic and our remote operating environment continue, we encourage the Office to give consideration to how evaluations can be best conducted to ensure the effectiveness of program implementation and strategies is well understood and learnings are harnessed for continued improvements.

2. IMEC welcomes the review on the strategic planning documents and reports, and recommended actions for promoting sustainable enterprises.
3. We strongly agree that sustainable enterprises are key in the achievement of the ILO's decent work goals, and that the ILO must make an effective contribution in this area, as demonstrated by the demand from member states.
4. IMEC welcomes in particular recommendations 1 and 3. The development of a framework to draw together the ILO's work in this space, including in global supply chains, with the Organization's broader activities, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, will encourage a necessarily strategic and coherent policy approach. Understanding the longer-term impact and viability of projects is key to demonstrating their effectiveness so we would welcome an enhanced focus on monitoring and evaluation, in alignment with the results-based management approach.
5. IMEC notes the Office's response to the recommendations, and its commitment to implement them, aligning with work already underway such as the Green Jobs Programme and the Enterprise Innovation Facility.
6. In respect of research and knowledge management, IMEC welcomes the important assessment of the ILO's strategies in this area and recognises their role in contributing to overall organizational effectiveness. Research and knowledge management is central to strategic planning and its ongoing assessment is undoubtedly valuable to ensuring best practice is embedded in all ILO operations,

and that the ILO can deliver high quality evidence based policy advice within its mandate. This will be increasingly critical in contributing to the global response to COVID-19.

7. IMEC acknowledges the key findings of the evaluation and welcomes the recommendations, and the Office's practical responses for their implementation, noting the importance of internal collaboration and coordination. We look forward to seeing improvement across all indicators through the implementation of the recommendations, both as set out by the Programme and Budget, and in the development of the Strategic Plan for 2022-25.
8. Finally, IMEC also welcomes the findings of the independent high-level evaluation of the ILO's Decent Work Country Programmes in the Andean countries and acknowledges the challenges present in the region.
9. Despite these challenges, IMEC recognizes that the Decent Work Country Programmes are still highly rated, buoyed by the receptiveness of constituents to the ILO's presence and their perception of the positive impacts.
10. We support refinements to the programmes that are grounded in strengthening tripartite structures and enhance the operating environment and relationships to ensure future successful operations in the region.
11. IMEC commends the Office's engagement with the recommendations, and notes the importance of program implementation, giving due consideration to the ongoing reform of the United Nations system and integration of the Decent Work Country Programmes with the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.
12. We welcome the progress made in terms of gender equality in some of these areas and we encourage the Office to continue its efforts on this front, with a further focus on the inclusion of persons with disabilities and persons from other vulnerable groups.
13. We encourage the Office to continue to find new ways of conducting these important evaluations through the pandemic, as these reports offer unique insights and learning opportunities and contribute to a results-based management approach.

Conclusion

14. IMEC supports the decision point as drafted.