



**SDGs in
Practice** | by **UN DESA
& UNITAR**

Accelerating SDG 8: Investing in Decent Jobs and Just Transitions Through the Global Accelerator

ILO, partners of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (GA) and its Technical Support Facility (FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP)

 18 July 2025, 01.00 - 02.30 PM (EDT)

 Virtual

 sdgs.un.org/2025/SDGsinPractice



A special event to the
**High-level Political Forum on
Sustainable Development**
14 - 23 July 2025



Accelerating SDG 8: Investing in Decent Jobs and Just Transitions Through the Global Accelerator

Friday, 18 July, 01.00 – 02.30 PM (EDT), virtual

Organized by ILO, partners of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions (GA) and its Technical Support Facility (FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP)

Background

With five years until the 2030 deadline, progress is on track for 20 per cent of SDG targets while 15 per cent shows moderate progress. Progress on Goal 8 has been mixed. While there have been important gains, in particular in reducing unemployment and expanding financial access, setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing structural challenges have slowed or reversed gains in productivity, employment and worker protections. While global employment grew in line with the labour force in 2024, keeping the unemployment rate steady at 5 per cent, youth unemployment showed little improvement, remaining high at 12.6 per cent. Informal work and working poverty returned to pre-pandemic levels, and low-income countries faced the most difficulties in creating decent jobs.¹ The thematic review of SDG 8 at the High-level Political Forum in July 2025 presents a pivotal opportunity to assess progress, identify best practices and mobilize collective action to accelerate SDG implementation.

Challenge and objective

The Expert Group Meeting on SDG 8 held in preparation of the HLPF in February 2025, identified a disconnect between aggregate economic growth and improvements in the quality of employment. While headline indicators such as GDP growth and official unemployment rates offered an indication of progress, they concealed structural weaknesses in labor markets. Precarious employment, informality, and underemployment remained pervasive, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Social protection systems were recognized as both enablers of and indicators for progress toward SDG 8. When universal, inclusive, and rights-based, they contributed to formalization, gender equality, and crisis resilience. The next five years should be marked by bold, rights-based, and systemically coherent interventions that realign economic development toward decent work, equity, and sustainability.²

The SDG in practice session will:

- Raise awareness on high impact initiatives aimed at demonstrating that transformative progress is possible despite challenging global circumstances and with a focus on the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions which aims to fast-track progress on SDG 8 by fostering integrated policy and financing solutions that improve job quality and promote just transitions
- Discuss policy solutions, financing strategies, and tools and technical assistance offered through the Global Accelerator's Technical Support Facility (TSF) to address challenges posed by climate change, informality, demographic shifts and digitalization at the national level

¹ See: 2025 Report of the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals; 2025 ILO World Economic and Social Outlook

² See: 2025 Summary of the Expert Group Meeting on SDG 8.



- Convene relevant stakeholders to exchange experiences, lessons learned and best practices for accelerated SDG implementation through the promotion of jobs and social protection.

Solutions

In the context of the 2023 SDG Summit, the **Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions** was selected as one of 12 high impact initiatives aimed at demonstrating that transformative progress is possible despite challenging circumstances, and to mobilize further leadership and investment to bring such progress to scale in the second half of the SDGs. It is also a vehicle which supports the UN Secretary-General's six transitions to achieve the SDGs, reinforcing the need for integrated national strategies that promote decent work and resilience through inclusive systems.

The Global Accelerator addresses current challenges such as poverty, inequality and informality, while supporting transitions in response to climate change, digitalization, demographic change and structural changes to the economy. It provides evidence of the importance of social investments for sustained economic growth and helps countries in bringing together policymakers and financiers to contribute to national road maps accelerating decent jobs, universal social protection and just transitions. To date, 18 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America have committed to the Global Accelerator as pathfinder countries, and 5 donor governments –Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Korea, Spain- have been financially supporting it.

Format and audience

The session will be held virtually for a duration of 90 minutes and will bring together key stakeholders engaging in and around 2025 HLPF with a particular focus on the thematic review of SDG 8, high impact initiatives to bring SDG progress to scale and the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions. The session will feature technical presentations showcasing success stories, tools, along with interactive discussions that enable participants to share experiences and co-develop context-specific solutions.

Resources

- [High Impact Initiatives - Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions | UN Global Accelerator](#)

Additional information

- For more information, please visit the website here: <https://sdgs.un.org/2025/SDGsInPractice>
- Links to the Zoom: Session 8 - Accelerating SDG 8: Investing in Decent Jobs and Just Transitions Through the Global Accelerator (ILO, FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84196368168>
- For any additional questions, please contact Mr. Dino Corell (corell@ilo.org) and Ms. Pelin Turkalp (turkalp@ilo.org).

Programme

Accelerating SDG 8: Investing in Decent Jobs, and Just Transitions Through the Global Accelerator

Moderator: *Mr. Omar Benammour, FAO, Member of the Technical Support Facility of the GA*

Setting the Scene: The challenge and the Solution

13:05 – 13:20

Mr. Sangheon Lee, Director, Employment Policy, Job Creation and Livelihoods Department, ILO

The quest for productive and decent jobs:

- **Linking jobs and social protection for stronger multipliers under SDG 8: A VNR perspective**

13:20 – 13:50

Mr. Maliki, Deputy Minister for Community Empowerment, Population and Employment, Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), Indonesia

Ms. Carmela I. Torres, Undersecretary, Employment and Human Resource Development Cluster, Department of Labor and Employment, Philippines (video presentation)

- **Multilateral collaboration for SDG 8: Key takeaways from the Global Accelerator**

Ms. Hopolang Phororo, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Namibia

Interactive presentation: Technical Support Offer in Achieving the Goal of Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection

Zooming in on Global Accelerator's Technical Support Facility tools and methodologies

13:50 – 14:20

Ms. Celine Peyron Bista, Social Protection and Employment Policy Specialist, ILO
Mr. Mauricio Dierckxsens, Senior Administrator, ILO

Q&A

Closing Remarks

14:20 – 14:30

Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, Director, New York Office, ILO