



People-centred Development - Creating an enabling environment for productive investment and decent jobs

Side Event to ECOSOC BWI Dialogue at United Nations NLB, Conference Room B
Date: Tuesday 13 March, 2012 from 1:15 pm – 2:45 pm

The recent economic and financial crises have exposed the weaknesses in and failures of international financial and economic policies and regulation. Major-economies are trying to rescue their financial systems but have failed so far to solve long-term problems of financial and economic insecurity and vulnerability in employment. Out of fear of frightening away financial investors, policy makers in several countries are promoting economic austerity policies that are undermining social policies geared to meeting the needs of the majority of the population and reducing public spending in social sectors such as health and education. Efforts to improve productivity and attract investment in many countries are pursued at the cost of improving workers' rights, working conditions, wages, social security and social protection. Growing protest movements as well as the rash of worker and farmer suicides in recent years have been indicators of how unacceptable the working and living conditions are for many people.

Solutions to these problems are less technical than political, but both need to be urgently debated and addressed. What strategies will reduce growing insecurity and vulnerability in employment, and generate decent jobs, in particular to absorb the world's unemployed youth? What regulatory measures will promote sustainable employment-centred investment? How can countries individually and in cooperation better counter tax evasion and avoidance and corruption? These are some essential questions for ensuring that we shift our focus from merely financial or economic-driven investment, to investment in people-centred development.

Moderator: Eva-Maria Hanfstaengl, Social Justice in Global Development

Panelists:

Simon Koppers, Head of Division United Nations, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany: Enabling environment for productive investment and decent jobs

Nouhoum Sangare, Human Rights Officer at OHCHR: Financing people-centred, rights-based development to uphold the internationally agreed human rights standards

Roberto de León de Len Huerta, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations: Productive Investment – Pathways to job-creating development

Gemma Adaba/ SocDevJustice, former ITUC Representative to the United Nations: Mobilizing resources for decent work – Tax cooperation matters