

Cross-cutting activities

175. Consistent with the ILO commitment to learn from its experience with strategic budgeting and to align activities with operational priorities, and with the Governing Body discussion of the Strategic Policy Framework, a number of institutions, departments and activities are now seen as having cross-cutting importance for the achievement of the decent work agenda.

176. In particular, there are now three types of cross-cutting activity in plans for 2002-03:

- shaping the ILO agenda;
- expanding knowledge; and
- improving awareness of ILO perspectives.

While the first two were identified as cross-cutting activities for 2000-01, the third has been added for 2002-03 because of its strategic importance to achievement of the decent work agenda.

Shaping the ILO agenda

Decent Work: Inter-sectoral Operational Support

177. The Strategic Policy Framework described how decent work would be approached at four levels simultaneously: conceptually in the programme of the Institute, in collaborative activities across the four technical sectors, as a component of the ILO's work on the global economy and in practical action at the country level. These components of decent work need to be coherent with each other. It is important, for example, that the results of conceptual and research work be inserted into action taken at the country level. Innovative integrated approaches to decent work must be developed which are convincing to donors and to recipient countries. ILO capacities for technical cooperation and policy advice need to be expanded and aligned with the decent work agenda.

178. More specifically, the programme will lead joint action taken between headquarters and the regions for work at the country level, technically and operationally. It will provide support to the decent work teams in the regions. It will promote decent work as an integral part of UN system-wide priority setting, such as the poverty reduction and human development strategies developed by the World Bank and UNDP. It will stimulate and undertake innovative work on technical cooperation as a follow-up to decent work missions and support the implementation of cross-sectoral programmes. Finally, it will be responsible for assessing the overall capacity of the ILO in achieving effective integration of the four strategic objectives in policy and operational terms.

Gender equality

179. Progress toward gender equality is uneven internationally and women usually still fare worse than men in the economy and society. The ILO approach to gender equality is based on an integrated approach that reflects principles of equal rights and partnerships between men and women. Gender issues are understood as central to the decent work agenda at the national and international levels.

180. The Strategic Policy Framework sets out a comprehensive set of initiatives designed to address key gender equality priorities in the ILO context. Those initiatives are integrated into the workplans under each of the four ILO strategic objectives that are described in the following pages. That mainstreaming of gender issues will extend to support for the research and capacity-building that is needed for gender issues to get the attention they deserve.

Expanding knowledge

Statistics

181. Sound, extensive and relevant statistics are fundamental to ILO activities, both for external audiences and internal policy and programme uses. Accordingly, the Director-General has established an Office-wide policy that will build statistical capacity over a five-year period. This will lead

to well-coordinated statistics work across the Office, enabling ILO to measure, assess and monitor decent work. That work will be coordinated by the Bureau of Statistics with the full collaboration of the sectors and field structure as described in the Strategic Policy Framework.

International Institute for Labour Studies

182. Research will be a central contribution to defining and elaborating the decent work agenda. That will make the work of the International Institute for Labour Studies essential to ILO initiatives during the biennium. As indicated in the Strategic Policy Framework, the core of the work of the Institute during 2002-03 will centre on conceptual and methodological research. That research should deepen the analytical and empirical foundations of the concept of decent work, including its relation to existing international labour standards and to specific concerns such as job quality, security and representation.

International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin

183. The Turin Centre will continue to play an important role in ILO work across all strategic objectives as a primary vehicle for training constituents. The Centre will be well into its Third Five-year Development Plan during 2002-03. That plan will have three axes. The first will be to strengthen the Centre's alignment with ILO priorities, building on the work to date to organize training around the four strategic objectives and better links to ILO sectors. The second will be to increase the number of beneficiaries of Turin Centre activities, including the raising of the percentage of women participating to 40 per cent by 2005 and by expanding training approaches such as distance learning. The third will be to improve participant satisfaction, drawing on evaluations, participant follow-up and improved infrastructure.

Improving awareness of ILO perspectives

External relations and partnerships

184. The Bureau for External Relations and Partnerships coordinates and develops an Office-wide strategy to strengthen the ILO's linkages with the international community around the decent work agenda. It includes an International Policy Group that develops analytical approaches and policy positions and works with the guidance of a cross-sectoral Advisory Committee on International Policy issues. The goal is to influence policy positions that are crucial in making decent work viable and operational at the national level. It also serves as the secretariat to the Working Party on the Social Dimensions of Globalization.

185. To pursue this goal during 2002-03, the ILO will work more closely with other international organizations and groups to advocate the integration of decent work agenda priorities into their social and economic development strategies. It will bring ILO knowledge and values to bear on decisions within those organizations. As part of this, sectors and regions will actively search out opportunities to bring ILO perspectives and knowledge to organizations and groups that may not have been traditionally engaged in dialogue with the ILO.

Communications

186. The ILO will develop and implement a longer-range communications strategy to promote the decent work agenda beginning in 2001, with much of the work taking place in 2002-03. The first element of the strategy will be a clear decent work message with consistent use through all communications tools. That message will be made a feature of all ILO communications initiatives, and ILO officials at all levels will be supported to articulate it accurately and convincingly.

187. A second element will be to target information and advocacy to specific audiences. The ILO's most fundamental channel of communication is with its constituents, and this will be reinforced. Strategies for reaching others in the global multilateral community — parliamentarians, donors, public interest organizations, and the public at large — will also be developed.

188. The third element will be proactive communications. The ILO will ensure that it conveys its information in a timely, attractive and persuasive manner and that it uses modern information technologies effectively.

189. Underpinning all these efforts will be stronger support for a “communications culture” encompassing all ILO staff. For example, there will be staff training on public presentations and relations. Communications will be built into all major activities at the design stage. This will be supported by a new central support service that will focus on media relations and other forms of messaging, technological support and training.