



**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION
OFFICE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS**

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Thematic Session #2 on Addressing Drivers of Migration, *including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crises, through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution*

PANEL 1: Sustainable development and poverty eradication

**New York, 22-23 May 2017
United Nations Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber**

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Thank you for giving ILO the opportunity to intervene during this Panel.

Two major labour market forces drive labour migration: (i) people of working age are unable to find decent work to support themselves and their families in their own countries, and (ii) existence of labour market gaps in various sectors and at all skill levels in other countries.

Factors such as climate change could increase vulnerability in labour-intensive sectors such as agriculture with the alternative to successful adaptation leaving acute food insecurity, forced migration and social fragility.

Indeed, most international migration today is directly or indirectly linked to the world of work. Latest ILO estimates indicate that about 73% of all international migrants of working age are migrant workers, and over 44% of these workers are women, accounting for some 4.4% of all workers worldwide.

Given projected demographic trends, the first driver of labour migration will continue. According to the 2017 ILO World Employment Social Outlook Trends report, from 2017-2030, the world's working-age population will grow by nearly 1 billion. Around 520 million people, mostly young women and men, are expected to join the global labour force. Importantly, nearly

75% of these new workers will be in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa where decent work deficits propel young people away from home in search of employment and income opportunities.

These areas will be central to next month's general discussion on labour migration governance at the ILO's International Labour Conference, which will provide an opportunity for ILO's tripartite constituents of workers, employers and governments from 187 member States to inform consultations on the Global Compact.

Promoting productive employment and decent work for all is essential to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication, as recognized in the 2030 Agenda.

Realizing the SDGs, including SDG 8 on decent work and SDG 1 on ending poverty, can help to ensure that migration becomes an informed choice and not a necessity.

This requires in particular actions to tackle informal low quality employment and implementing social protection floors.

In this regard, the ILO Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204) provides strategies and practical guidance to States on how to promote an inclusive transition process. Likewise, the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) provides a roadmap for the realization of social protection rights and achievement of many sustainable development targets.

Thank you!