



Permanent Mission  
of Kyrgyzstan



**United  
Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



**International  
Labour  
Organization**

## **Annual Commemorative Event on the Occasion of the World Day of Social Justice**

**“Global Coalition for Social Justice: Bridging Gaps, Building Alliances”**

**20 February 2024**

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Conference Room 5, UNHQ

The Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) are pleased to convene the annual commemorative event of the World Day of Social Justice.

Building on the theme of this year’s 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on Social Development to foster social development and social justice through social policies and in support of the Global Coalition for Social Justice, a ground-breaking initiative aimed at intensifying collective efforts to urgently address social justice deficits and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Decent Work Agenda, the 2024 annual commemorative event will highlight the crucial role of international collaboration and solidarity in addressing social justice within the framework of multilateralism. Moreover, it will be a timely opportunity to emphasize the prioritization of social justice at key intergovernmental milestones of the United Nations this year. This includes the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, the Summit of the Future, as well as preparations for the World Social Summit.

### **Background and Global Challenges**

As we face persistent global challenges – geopolitical instability, economic uncertainties, and the climate crisis – it's imperative to address longstanding challenges in our systems. These challenges exacerbate structural inequalities, pushing millions further behind. In 2023, labour markets showed surprising resilience despite economic downturns. Yet, recovery remains uneven, with new vulnerabilities eroding prospects for social justice. The need to bridge gaps and build alliances is therefore increasingly crucial.

Moreover, labour market outlook and global unemployment will both worsen with an extra two million workers expected to be looking for jobs in 2024, raising the global unemployment rate from 5.1 per cent in 2023 to 5.2 per cent. As the ILO points out in its latest World Employment and Social Outlook report, as of 2023:

- 241 million workers lived in extreme poverty.

- 423 million workers lived in moderate poverty.

These alarming numbers underscore the urgent need for concerted efforts to address the root causes of working poverty and boost economic opportunities globally.

Around the world, as structural issues impair the creation of decent jobs:

- Governments must strengthen domestic economies through initiatives to raise productivity growth and living standards.
- Utilize international cooperation instruments to foster regional productivity initiatives.
- Make better use of multilateral development funds and expedite support to the most fragile economies.

This includes a whole-of-society approach to education and learning thus unlocking their transformational potential as a source for personal dignity and empowerment and a driving force for the advancement of social, economic, political, and cultural development. Additionally, it will be imperative to ensure responses from multiple policy levers spanning economic, social and environmental dimensions, particularly in tackling key transitions of jobs and social protection. As Member States negotiate key considerations for SIDS4, LLDC3, the Summit of the Future and World Social Summit, it is vital that we live up to the pledge of the Copenhagen Declaration to making the eradication of poverty, the goal of full employment and social justice overriding objectives of development.

The 2024 World Day of Social Justice provides an opportunity to foster dialogue on actions needed to achieve social justice by strengthening the social contract that has been fractured by rising inequalities, conflicts and weakened institutions that are meant to uphold and protect the rights of workers. As we have passed the half-way milestone towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, we must redouble our efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all by focusing on the four interrelated and interdependent dimensions of social justice: universal human rights and capabilities include, which include among others, access to an adequate standard of living, education, healthcare and social security; equal access to opportunities for employment and productive activity that enable people to pursue their material well-being in conditions of economic security; fair distribution outcomes including a just share of the benefits of economic growth, with attention to the most disadvantaged or vulnerable in society; and just transitions on the significant transformations affect people's well-being over time, which include transformations associated with globalization, technological, demographic, environmental and other transformations, and compounding crises.

By focusing on bridging gaps and building alliances in support of the Global Coalition for Social Justice, we can ensure the promise of enabling our societies and economies to function more cohesively and effectively; unlock the productive potential of countries and people; pave the way for sustained reductions in poverty and inequality – prerequisites for inclusive growth; and contribute to peace, stability and intergenerational solidarity.

### **Key Questions for Discussion:**

1. In the context of SIDS4, LLDC3, and the Summit of the Future, what specific actions and policy initiatives can be proposed or enhanced to tackle structural inequalities that impede the achievement of the SDGs, including the decent work issues facing the people who are expected to deliver them?

2. How can social dialogue between governments, employers, and workers be central to recovery efforts and future economic policies, ensuring decent work and social justice remain priorities?
3. In the face of worsening global unemployment and increasing numbers of workers in poverty, what strategies and collaborative approaches should be taken to bridge gaps and create economic opportunities (that uplift workers globally)?
4. How can Member States strengthen their commitment to the Copenhagen Declaration's pledge during negotiations for SIDS4, LLDC3, the Summit of the Future, and the World Social Summit?
5. How can we reinforce the role international cooperation instruments, regional productivity initiatives, and multilateral development funds play in addressing structural issues that hinder the creation of decent and secure jobs globally, especially in the most fragile economies?

<b>PROGRAMME</b> Conference Room 5, UNHQ	
<b>1:15 – 1:35 p.m.</b>	<p><b>CHAIR</b></p> <p><b>H.E. Mrs. Aida Kasymalieva</b>, Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN</p> <p><b>OPENNING MESSAGE</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Gilbert F. Hougbo</b>, Director-General, ILO</p> <p><b>H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis</b>, President of the General Assembly, UN</p> <p><b>H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez</b>, President of ECOSOC, UN</p>
<b>1:35 – 1:45 p.m.</b>	<p><b>WELLCOME REMARKS</b></p> <p><b>H.E. Mr. Philippe Kridelka</b>, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN (Co-Chair of the Group of Friends for Decent Work)</p> <p><b>H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale</b>, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN (Co-Chair of the Group of Friends for Decent Work)</p>

<p><b>1:45 – 2:25 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon,</b> Special Representative and Director, ILO Office for the UN</p> <p><b>Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano,</b> Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN</p> <p><b>Ms. Shea Gopaul,</b> Permanent Representative to the UN, International Organization of Employers</p> <p><b>Mr. Alex Campbell,</b> Director, International Trade Union Confederation Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Other speakers requesting the floor.</p>
<p><b>2:25 – 2:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSING REMARKS</b></p> <p><b>H.E. Mrs. Aida Kasymalieva,</b> Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN</p>