

Second Committee Special Event

Panel discussion on “Alternative Development Strategies for Job Creation”

**Tuesday, 11 October 2011
3:00 – 6:00 pm
New York**

Concept Note

Background

The global economic downturn of 2008-2009 severely disrupted economic growth worldwide and caused significant setbacks in the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Since then, the world economy has been recovering unevenly, driven mainly by developing and emerging economies, but the rebound has been slow.

The greatest current challenge in the aftermath of the global financial and economic crisis is coping with the unemployment situation. The economic crisis has morphed into a global jobs crisis involving widespread job losses and increased unemployment in developed countries, and underemployment, a growing informal economy, increased vulnerable employment and working poverty in developing countries. Given this global jobs crisis, promoting job-rich growth is important in both the short term, during the recovery, and in the long term, in order to make economic growth more inclusive and equitable.

The global jobs crisis has compelled policy makers and development actors to examine best practices for growth and job creation. Alternative development strategies should contribute to create employment and minimize the negative effects on employment from global economic and financial volatility and fluctuations.

Objective

The objective of this special event is to bring together development and employment experts to explore alternative development strategies for employment creation and economic growth. The panel will focus on the challenges and opportunities for generating inclusive, job-rich growth and recommend concrete steps and actions to accelerate progress both immediately and in the longer term.

To this end, the panel will engage experts and development actors to present their views on alternative development strategies and approaches for job creation, especially in view of the current fragile global economic situation. Panellists will give their perspectives and identify key issues that need to be addressed and actions to be taken to achieve better growth and employment outcomes.

Participants

The special event will be chaired by *Mr. Bitrus Vandy Yohanna (Nigeria), Vice-Chair of the Second Committee*, and moderated by *Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)*.

The panel will be comprised of a cross-section of stakeholders from the UN system, academia, trade unions and the private sector:

- *Mr. Peter Bakvis, Director, Washington Office of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the associated Global Union Federations*
- *Mr. Adam B. Greene, Vice President, Labour Affairs and Corporate Responsibility, United States Council for International Business*
- *Mr. Massimiliano La Marca, Economic Policy Specialist, International Labour Organization*
- *Professor Akbar Noman, Senior Fellow, Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University*

Questions to be addressed by the panel

Panellists will be asked to address the following questions:

- *The global economic and financial crisis has led to a global job crisis, with high unemployment and underemployment. Given this situation, what are the most effective policies available to policymakers to promote the creation of jobs and decent work, including for women and youth, in both developed and developing countries?*
Lead discussant: Massimiliano La Marca
- *In an increasingly globalized world, how can countries best protect themselves -- and their workers -- from global economic and financial downturns and crises? Are there viable alternative strategies for job creation and development that provide less risk and exposure to global market fluctuations and financial volatility?*
Lead discussant: Akbar Noman
- *How can the labour movement build synergies with public and private partners in creating a better enabling environment for decent work and job growth? Are there relevant examples of best practices in this area?*
Lead discussant: Peter Bakvis
- *With rapid globalization and increased competition for export-led growth, employment in the private sector appears to be less and less secure. Are there alternative approaches that the private sector can take to provide employment that is more secure? What, in your view, is the overall role and responsibility of the private sector in promoting job creation and decent work?*
Lead discussant: Adam Greene

- Additional question for consideration by the panel:

Job creation can be key to helping countries meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly the Goal on poverty reduction. Yet many of the LDCs will not be able to meet the MDGs by 2015. Given the current global economic context, are there alternative approaches to job creation and economic growth that the LDCs should be considering? In this regard, should developing countries reassess the export-led development model?

Format

The chair will call the meeting to order. The session will consist of a discussion, with no formal statements or presentations, led by the moderator, who will address questions to the panellists to initiate and guide the discussion.

A lead discussant has been identified from among the panellists for each question. The moderator will present the first question and request the lead discussant to respond for 4-5 minutes, giving her/his perspectives on the issue. The remaining panellists will then be given 2-3 minutes to give additional perspectives. The moderator will give a brief (one-minute) summary, and then proceed to the next questions.

After all the questions have been addressed by the panellists, the audience will then be invited to pose questions to the panellists. The moderator will be responsible for channelling questions and managing the interactive process. The moderator concludes the discussion by presenting a brief summary. The Chair will then close the meeting.