
Social Security and the Right to Work

Perspectives linking protection and employment

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Employment and social security: a historical link

- At the core of the post-WWII Welfare State
- Socio-economic security through combination of full employment and social security
- Beveridge's two reports
- Philadelphia Declaration, May 1944: a comprehensive package



Today's renewed challenges

- New needs in post-industrial economies
- Gender equality
- Poverty and social exclusion (even in rich countries)
- Lack of social security coverage
- Massive informal economy in developing world



Emergence of a new Welfare State

- From income protection to employment promotion and social inclusion
- An enabling Welfare State or welfare system: protecting *and* strengthening capabilities
- Designing pathways for integrating the poor
- Developing countries at the forefront of these innovations



A new generation of social assistance programmes

- Employment guarantee schemes, conditional cash transfers, unconditional transfers, inclusive targeted programmes...
- Ex: India, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, South Africa, China, Chile, Bangladesh...
- Large-scale programmes: combine social transfers and integration measures
- Breaking intergenerational transmission



Strengthening contribution to the Decent Work Agenda

- Different dimensions of the Decent Work Agenda involved, but a series of questions
- Opposing or combining rights
- Articulation with social protection system and employment and labour market policies
- ILO project on strengthening inclusive impact of programmes



Global and integrated strategies for Decent Work

- ILC 2001: extension of social security in context of Decent Work Agenda
- Possible Declaration in ILC 2008
- Integrated pursuit of four core objectives: interdependent and mutually supportive
- A social floor: a way out of poverty and a pathway for better jobs and a better life

