



SPC2: Special Conference on Labor in the 21st Century

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Issue: Curtailing worker poverty in South America

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Committee: Special Conference on Labor in the 21st Century (SPC2)
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I. Introduction

In today's rapidly evolving world, ensuring access to basic human rights is more important than ever. These rights are the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work, and the right to education as stated by the United Nations. The right to work under humane conditions must be accessible for all, instead of having to work under conditions that could be considered modern slavery. The term 'worker poverty' refers to people who live below the poverty line despite being employed. While poverty is often associated with unemployment, an active contributor to the workforce living in poverty is unacceptable. One of the regions that requires urgent action with respect to this matter is South America. While 70% of working-age people are employed, based on the latest data by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) the quality of working conditions is only 41.2 out of 100, for 17 countries in the region. Additionally, nearly 55% of workers in Latin America and the Caribbean have informal jobs without contracts or social security coverage, and 3 out of 10 do not earn enough to live above the poverty threshold. The issue is not about being employed, but rather about being employed under humanitarian conditions. Different factors aggravate working conditions in South America. For instance, the working conditions of women and men differ by 16 points in the context of the quality of working conditions, which creates another gap to be bridged.

II. Involved Countries and Organizations

Brazil

Brazil currently has the largest economy among South American States. The low level of education and the country's economic and social inequality are the two main reasons which are attributed to worker poverty. The country has accelerated its efforts to decrease worker poverty in recent years. Recent government initiatives include conditional cash transfer programs like Bolsa Família, which aims to reduce poverty by providing financial assistance, the right of education and healthcare services to low-income families. (Alves, 1)



Argentina

Recording a sharp rise in the poverty of Argentina, new figures indicate that 46% of people are now living in poverty. High inflation and economic instability caused Argentina's inflation rate to be among the highest in the world as well as creating cycles of devaluation which made the minimum wage closer to the poverty line. The socioeconomic situation and pre-existing inequalities were eventually exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The high levels of informal employment are also another key factor for worker poverty. Workers in the informal sector lack benefits and employment security, where they frequently earn less than the minimum wage. Informal workers are excluded from Argentina's social safeguards, such as pensions and health care, making them more vulnerable. Despite Argentina's cash-transfer programme called 'Asignación Universal por Hijo (AUH)', gaps remain in covering informal workers and meeting basic needs in times of economic crises. (ILO Argentina,1)

Colombia

Higher informality in employment and income inequality due to regional disparities are two main factors accelerating the rate of worker poverty in Colombia. Even though Colombia has a national minimum wage, it often isn't enough to pay living expenses, especially in cities. Many workers are compelled by this disparity to work numerous jobs or turn to unofficial sources of income in order to make ends meet. Low-income families can receive conditional cash transfers through social protection programs like Familias in Acción and Jóvenes en Acción, although coverage is restricted and informal workers are frequently left unprotected. In Colombia, armed conflicts are one of the particular reasons for worker poverty due to the displacements of citizens.

Chile

About 30% of Chile's workforce works in informal jobs, mostly in domestic services, construction, and agriculture. Informal workers are more likely to experience poverty because they frequently lack health insurance, retirement benefits, and social safeguards. Although incomes are often greater in metropolitan locations, particularly Santiago, the cost of living is also higher in these places. Regional poverty differences result from rural regions' often lower earnings and fewer economic possibilities. Additionally, social protection programmes in Chile are generally targeted at formal workers, leaving 30 percent of the population aside. (World Bank Group,1)



Peru

About 70% of Peru's workforce are in informal jobs with no health coverage, retirement savings, or job security. In industries where many people endure low wages and unfavourable working conditions, such as domestic work, mining, and agriculture, informal employment is particularly common. Indigenous populations face additional difficulties: including language barriers, which frequently restrict their access to social services and equitable employment. Peru's export-reliable economic policy creates an environment where economic downturns disproportionately impact low-income and informal workers, leading to job losses and reduced income security. (World Bank Blogs, 1)

Ecuador

Approximately 50% of Ecuador's workforce is employed in the informal sector, where workers often lack social protections and tend to have lower incomes as well as unstable work environments. Ecuador's minimum wage can be considered relatively low compared to other Latin American nations, which is insufficient for many workers to meet basic needs. Even though the government periodically increases the minimum wage, it does not always keep up with the increase in inflation. Social protection programmes are once again targeted to formal workers which leaves half of its workforce out of help. Furthermore, Ecuador is highly dependent on oil exports, which makes its economy vulnerable to fluctuations in global oil prices. Events such as the 2015 oil crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have destabilized the economy exacerbated poverty levels, particularly for low-income and informal workers. (Ecuador: Poverty Assessment, 1)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

By encouraging ethical labour practices, respectable working conditions, and social security for all employees, the International Labour Organization (ILO) plays a critical role in combating worker poverty on a global basis. The ILO, a specialized organization of the UN with a focus on labour issues, was founded in 1919 and is tasked with promoting social justice and fair labour standards. The ILO can promote social protection, optimized labour standards, formalization of informal work, technical assistance and global advocacy. (International Labour Organizations, 1)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

A key player in tackling economic and social problems in Latin America and the Caribbean, such as worker poverty, is the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), a regional branch of the UN. ECLAC employs research, analysis, and policy suggestions to advance social equality and sustainable development.



Inter-American Development Bank (IDB):

One important global financial organization devoted to advancing social and economic advancement in Latin America and the Caribbean is the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The IDB was founded in 1959 and offers its member nations financial and technical assistance to lower poverty, boost economic growth, and raise living standards. Through several projects, programs, and research efforts, the IDB contributes significantly to the region's efforts to combat worker poverty.

CIPPEC (Center for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth)

A well-known think tank in Argentina dedicated to advancing public policies that promote growth and equity is called CIPPEC (Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento). CIPPEC was established in 2003 to enhance the efficacy and efficiency of institutions and policies in Argentina and throughout Latin America. The group addresses a range of social and economic issues, particularly worker poverty, via lobbying, technical aid, and research.

Solidaridad Network

Solidaridad Network is committed to advancing social justice and sustainable development, with a particular emphasis on raising the standard of living for communities and labourers engaged in mining, agriculture, and other industries. Solidaridad was founded in 1965 and collaborates with a range of stakeholders, such as governments, corporations, and civil society groups, to advance sustainable practices, fair trade, and worker rights.

Fundación Capital

Founded in 2011, Fundación Capital works to empower low-income populations by providing them with the tools, resources, and knowledge needed to improve their economic circumstances

III. Focused Overview of the Issue

1. History of Worker Poverty

Economic exploitation, colonialism, inequality, and evolving political ideologies have all had an impact on South American worker poverty. This topic has spanned several centuries, beginning with the colonial period and extending into the present age. Between the 16th and 19th centuries, when slavery and economic exploitation by colonizers was still rampant, many countries in this region of South America were negatively affected. Especially in the mining and agriculture sectors, the Spanish and Portuguese colonial systems depended largely on forced labour to exploit the region's vast natural riches. This system was



known as 'encomienda' which granted land and indigenous labour to colonizers, leading to widespread exploitation and poor wages. After the Spanish Independence War led to a post-independence era in South America, the economies remained dependent on the exportation of raw materials to Europe and the U.S. The reliance on exports hindered the development of local industries and created cycles of boom and bust, which affected workers' livelihoods. (Schwartz, 1978) Economic power was concentrated in the hands of a small elite class, especially rich landowners and merchants. Most workers had limited access to land, leaving them with minimal negotiating leverage and low pay. In the late 19th and early 20th century, after the Industrial Revolution, the number of companies and factories rose. This led to a growth in urban working-class populations. Labour unions grew in response to terrible working conditions, long hours, and low pay. Workers began organizing strikes and protests to seek higher salaries and better working conditions. Governments and business owners frequently used force to suppress these movements. Additionally, many South American countries developed a policy called Import Substitution Industrialization (ISI) after the Great Depression of America. The strategies were adopted to lessen the reliance on imported commodities by promoting domestic businesses. Argentina, Brazil, and Chile's governments fostered industrial expansion, which led to an increase in urban jobs. However, these benefits were often limited to urban workers, leaving rural labourers, who made up a significant part of the population, in poverty. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, numerous South American countries came under military dictatorships, often sponsored by the United States. These governments attacked labour unions and worker activists, seeing them as dangers to political stability. Moreover, the shift to free-market policies resulted in decreased job security and social protections, disproportionately affecting low-income workers and increasing the informal economy. Many South American workers continue to live below the poverty line, as a result of high inflation, restricted employment options, and heavy reliance on exports. Economic instability and corruption have further hampered attempts to alleviate poverty.

2. Informal Employment

A considerable share of the South American workforce works informally, such as in street vending, domestic work, and day labour. Informal workers have limited access to benefits such as healthcare, social security, and job security. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), up to 70% of workers in some countries, like Bolivia and Peru, work informally. Informal employment impacts around 130 million workers in Latin America and the Caribbean, including at least 27 million young people, and accounts for roughly half of non-agricultural employment. Its prevalence varies by country (30.7% in Costa Rica to 73.6% in Guatemala), sector, and demographic segment. Fighting informal work has become a recognized goal in the region. Some Latin American countries have taken significant strides to minimize informality, using a variety of specialized laws and initiatives with generally beneficial outcomes; nonetheless, further efforts are required. Furthermore, the current crisis puts this progress under threat. International agencies such as the



International Labour Organization (ILO) and the European Union are also advocating steps to help the region transition to a formal economy, with the European Parliament taking a particular interest in the matter. However, formalisation in Latin America remains a significant problem, and economic growth alone will not suffice: the ILO advocates for an integrated and comprehensive strategy that combines official policies with efforts by social actors to establish broad-based consensus. Experts believe that the emphasis should be on workers' social and occupational inclusion. This briefing covers the techniques used by five major Latin American economies—Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru. (Latin America's informal economy, 1)

3. The Latin American Debt Crisis

During the 1980s many Latin American countries became unable to service their foreign debt. This period is often known as the lost decade. These nations' economies were growing rapidly at the time, thus creditors were eager to provide loans. Initially, developing nations often obtained loans through intergovernmental institutions such as the World bank (IMF). After 1973, private banks saw an influx of money from oil-rich countries, which saw government debt as a secure investment. Mexico borrowed against future oil profits with debt denominated in US dollars, thus as oil prices fell, so did the Mexican economy. During the crisis, many states experienced severe economic instability as they tried to repay large debts, prompting the spread of austerity measures. These policies resulted in lower public spending, privatization, and diminished social safety nets, disproportionately affecting low-income workers. Cuts to education, healthcare, and assistance worsened poverty, and the labour market shifted to informal, low-wage occupations with no job security or benefits. The effects of this are felt today, with a significant amount of the workforce remaining in unregulated, low-wage jobs, restricting social mobility and access to stable income. Furthermore, significant levels of income inequality that occurred during this time period continue to contribute to poverty today, since economic policies frequently emphasize capital investment over fair income distribution. (Ocampo, 1970)

4. The Crisis of Venezuelan Migration

Venezuela's economic crisis prompted a major exodus of Venezuelans to neighbouring nations such as Colombia, Brazil, and other regions of South America in pursuit of employment and better living circumstances. Migrants frequently wind themselves in informal, low-wage occupations with no legal protection. Because they lack formal job contracts and are typically unregistered, they are susceptible to exploitation and abuse. The enormous number of migrants has put a strain on receiving nations' public services and social safety nets, leaving both migrants and low-income local workers without appropriate access to healthcare, education, or social support. The migration crisis has also caused political instability and social tensions, with some local communities in host nations expressing animosity towards migrants, worsening inequality and posing impediments to their incorporation into the official labour. (UN Refugees, 1)



5. Poverty Rates of Countries and Insurance Coverage of Workers

Despite years of economic progress in the early 2000s, South America is still one of the most unequal regions in the world, in the context of economic equality. Inflation and shifting economic growth rates have contributed to increased inequality. Even in nations with social programs, wealth is extremely concentrated, restricting chances for low-income workers. Poverty is especially prevalent in rural regions, where economic progress lags behind that of cities. Rural labourers frequently have limited access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure, making it more difficult for them to rise out of poverty. Bolivia, now the poorest country in Latin America, has made substantial improvement in recent years, with severe poverty rates falling from 38.2% in 2006 to 15.2% in 2019. Many of South America's poorest nations rely significantly on one or a few important commodities, leaving their economy exposed to global price changes. Bolivia, for example, has minerals, whereas Venezuela has oil. Suriname, Venezuela, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Ecuador are among the countries with the greatest income disparities. The UN International Labour Organization's (ILO) Working in the Rural Area in the XXI Century report (in Spanish), released in Colombia today, emphasizes that, while productivity has increased in the countryside, significant disparities in employment exist between urban and rural workers. In simple terms, around 56% of workers are in vulnerable employment in rural regions, compared to 27% in metropolitan areas. "The rural area today is not what it was 20 or 30 years ago. We see great transformations: urbanization, less young people and older adults, a reduction in agricultural employment and an increase in nonfarm occupations," stated the Regional Director of the International Labour Organization for Latin America and the Caribbean, Jose Manuel Salazar. According to the ILO, one of the reasons for the disparity between rural and urban regions is that the countryside receives less public and private investment, which translates into productive and social infrastructure. In Latin America and the Caribbean, several variables impact poverty elimination. Among these are flaws in social safety systems and insufficient provision of fundamental services like health and education. As a result, one-third of Latin American and Caribbean residents are not impoverished, but they are one shock away from falling back into poverty. It might be the loss of a job, a catastrophic disease affecting anybody in the family, a natural calamity, or a macroeconomic crisis.

While unemployment in rural regions (3.1%) is less than half that of urban areas (6.9%), the study explains this scenario to the "need to work" in rural areas (due to high rates of poverty) and limited access to education. The report, which contains statistics by nation, is based on statistical data obtained from household surveys in 14 countries. It also records a sequence of improvements in working conditions in rural regions between 2005 and 2014. One such area is medical insurance coverage. However, just 37% of the rural population has it, compared to 62% in metropolitan regions. In addition, while there is a reported rise in pension coverage, just 26% of rural individuals are insured, compared to 56% in cities. Similarly, in terms of labour income, the research adds that, although growing faster than urban regions, average



earnings in rural areas (as of 2014) were 68% of metropolitan areas' averages. Surprisingly, the rural poverty rate of 46.2%, which affects 60 million rural people, is significantly greater than the urban poverty rate of 23.8%. (United Nations,1)

6. Weak Labour Protections

In Latin American labour markets, about 50% of households rely only on informal work, making it a long-standing structural concern. Social protection systems often fail to adequately cover informal workers due to qualifying requirements. Formal sector employment. The COVID-19 epidemic has highlighted the importance of reforming social protection systems in Latin America to ensure their effectiveness and economic sustainability. (World Bank Blogs) This study proposes providing basic social security benefits to all workers, regardless of formal or informal sector, with the potential to increase tax revenue. Social protection systems across Latin America and the Caribbean region are complex, spanning multiple objectives and are generally fragmented into two parallel systems: contributory benefits, and non-contributory benefits. Many countries add to this labour market regulations such as mandatory severance payments to laid-off workers and minimum wage rules, which are typically binding only for formal-sector workers (Machinea and Uthoff, 2007[40]). Shifting the primary source of financing for basic social protection to general tax revenues, rather than social security contributions, will boost incentives for formal employment development and reduce costs. Reforming social protection systems in Latin America can lead to better and more inclusive growth, notwithstanding the challenges involved. Shifting the primary source of financing for basic social protection to general tax revenues, rather than social security contributions, will boost incentives for formal employment development and reduce costs. Reforming social protection systems in Latin America can lead to better and more inclusive growth, notwithstanding the challenges involved. Moreover, union membership is dropping as the informal sector expands, and governments occasionally stifle labour movements, particularly when they advocate for greater salaries or better working conditions, which may damage investment. (OECD, 2024)

7. Environmental Challenges and Post-Pandemic Work Poverty

The poorest households live hand to mouth, therefore their spending is determined by their income. Their income is dependent on work, which is typically informal and irregular, and therefore is vulnerable to employment shocks. Their assets, which include their homes, livelihoods, and communities, are not in the bank. They are more fragile, making them more likely to be damaged, destroyed, or liquidated following a catastrophe. Climate change's welfare repercussions are nothing new, and they remain dependent on household income sources and spending habits as they always have. Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced an unprecedented crisis in their labour markets as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The sharp loss of employment, hours worked, and income reflects the significant effects that the reduction



in the level of economic activity has had on labour dynamics. The picture is even more worrying as these impacts have been uneven and the recovery path, which is slowly emerging in the region, could be accompanied by a widening of labour and income gaps between different population groups. This crisis would therefore be exacerbating the high levels of inequality that existed before the pandemic struck, even though countries have made significant efforts to rapidly implement a set of policies to support employment and income levels. The early adoption of strategies that continue to mitigate these impacts and underpin recovery will be key to strengthening labour institutions, particularly with regard to active labour market policies. In addition, occupational safety and health have become a relevant element of safe and healthy employment recovery strategies. South America's post-pandemic work poverty is the result of a mix of structural issues exacerbated by economic shocks and an increase in insecure employment. Addressing it will need collaborative efforts across several policy sectors, including labour rights, social protection, and economic stability. International institutions such as the United Nations and the International Labour Organization collaborate with states to create initiatives that promote long-term and fair employment possibilities. However, development is frequently hampered by political and economic instability, making the route to recovery complicated and unequal across the area.

8. Social Safety Nets

In South America, social safety nets are critical for providing financial and social assistance to vulnerable groups such as low-income workers, the jobless, and those afflicted by economic insecurity. Cash transfers, food aid, pensions, healthcare, and other welfare programs are all examples of social safety nets. These initiatives have played critical roles in decreasing poverty and inequality, but they confront obstacles such as underfunding, political instability, and difficulty reaching informal workers. Cash transfer programmes, Unemployment insurance and income support, and pension and food assistance programmes are generally used but they have one important limitation. A lot of these couldn't reach the informal workers and are generally used by formal workers. (Person, 2012)

IV. Key Vocabulary

Informal Economy: As stated by the ILO, the informal economy refers to all economic activities by workers and economic units that are – in law or in practice – not covered or insufficiently covered by formal arrangements. It thrives mostly in a context of high unemployment, underemployment, poverty, gender inequality and precarious work. (Informal economy 2024)

Social Safety Nets: The social safety net (SSN) is a system of non-contributory aid designed to enhance the lives of disadvantaged families and people facing poverty and hardship. SSNs include previously contributed



social pensions, in-kind and food transfers, conditional and unconditional cash transfers, fee exemptions, public works projects, and school feeding programs.

Insurance: Insurance is a contractual agreement between an individual or organization and an insurance provider to offer financial protection and lessen the risks connected with specific scenarios or events. There are many types of insurance such as healthcare, life and legal.

Living Wage: Enough income for a worker to meet basic needs and maintain a reasonable standard of living.

Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs): Conditional cash transfer (CCT) programs aim to reduce poverty by making welfare programs conditional upon the receivers' actions. The government (or a charity) only transfers the money to persons who meet certain criteria. (Evaluating the Impact of Conditional Cash Transfer Programs Lessons from Latin America)

Progressive Taxation:

A progressive tax involves a tax rate that increases (or progresses) proportionally as the income of an individual increases. It imposes a lower tax rate on low-income individuals.

V. Important Events & Chronology

Date (Day/Month/Year)	Event
1960s-80s	Military dictatorships suppress labour rights.
1982	Latin American Debt Crisis, a change in economical policies
2000s	Cash transfer programs launched and started to reduce worker poverty
2002	The Mercosur Social-Labor Declaration
2019	Mass protests in Chile demand reforms on inequality.
2020	The COVID-19 Pandemic, global economic crises
2021-2023	The inflation rate challenges the recovery in the post-pandemic era and a more focus on informal workers

VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

- [The Mercosur Social-Labor Declaration](#): Known as the Southern Common Market consisting of 4 countries when the declaration was made, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, the framework and MERCOSUR aimed to adopt minimum standards for humanitarian labour rights as well as



decent working conditions. They also emphasised fair wages, social protection and equality in the job market which has direct effects on eradicating worker poverty.

- [ILO Convention No. 189 on Domestic Workers](#): This convention aims to improve labour frameworks for domestic labour, which is a group of working women in South America whose employment rights are often still not formal. Countries like Brazil ratified the convention, leading to better protections for domestic workers through legislation, minimum wages, and access to social security. This treaty has had a meaningful impact on reducing poverty for one of the most vulnerable worker groups.
- [Inter-American Convention on Social Security](#): This agreement prompted South American governments to aim toward increasing social security coverage, particularly for low-income and informal workers. While implementation varies, it has contributed to an improvement in workers' quality of life.
- [CELAC Social Development Plan](#): This plan advises policies to eradicate poverty and inequality, focusing on vulnerable groups, informal workers, and those at risk of falling below the poverty line. It encourages member states to invest in social protection systems and quality employment opportunities, directly addressing worker poverty.
- [American Convention on Human Rights](#): By providing a worker protection framework as primary human rights, this treaty indirectly supports anti-poverty initiatives. The treaty has been referenced in national courts for cases involving violations of labour rights, helping to develop worker protections.

VII. Failed Solution Attempts

There were Neoliberal Structural Adjustment Programs to combat the issue. In reaction to the 1980s Latin American debt crisis, the IMF and World Bank imposed Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) on several South American governments. These plans advocated austerity, privatization, deregulation, and market liberalization as answers to the debt problem. However, SAPs resulted in broad cuts to social expenditure (healthcare, education, and welfare), which increased poverty and exacerbated income inequality. Many nations saw increases in unemployment and informality in the job market, aggravating worker poverty. Furthermore, the demand for labour market flexibility resulted in employment instability and a decrease in union power. Labor security measures were undermined, and salaries stagnated, making workers susceptible to abuse and limiting their access to basic rights.

Another failed solution programme was the privatization of state-owned enterprises. As part of neoliberal reforms, South American governments privatized a large number of state-owned firms (SOEs), hoping that private ownership would enhance efficiency and spur growth. Privatization frequently resulted in the closure of inefficient state firms and large layoffs, particularly among people who had long been employed in these industries. Many of these people struggled to find new jobs in the increasing informal



sector. Many privatized industries, particularly in the energy and telecommunications sectors, saw prices soar as private corporations prioritized profit over the public good, limiting low-income workers' access to inexpensive services. Labour safeguards were frequently undercut in newly privatized enterprises, and workers' rights were diminished, making it more difficult for employees to obtain improved working conditions or compensation.

Although cash transfer programs like Bolsa Família in Brazil have successfully reduced poverty, early cash transfer systems in the 2000s had little influence on work poverty. Some early initiatives were criticized for using ineffective targeting tactics, which resulted in aid regularly failing to reach the most disadvantaged or informal workers, excluding many from support. Critics contended that cash transfers might lead to dependency without addressing the root causes of poverty, such as unemployment or underemployment. While the payments provided some immediate relief, they did not provide adequate opportunities for long-term economic growth for workers.

VIII. Possible Solutions

Addressing worker poverty in South America requires a multifaceted strategy that addresses structural difficulties in labour markets, economic inequality, and social safeguards. Promoting formal employment is critical; governments could incentivize small and medium-sized businesses to transition from informal to formal work by providing tax breaks, simplified registration, and easier credit access, granting workers legal protections, stable wages, and therefore, social security benefits. Strengthening labour rights is also critical, since minimum wage regulations and workplace safety may all assist in promoting equitable salaries and working conditions. Furthermore, investing in education and vocational training would prepare people for higher-paying employment in developing industries, therefore closing the skills gap and increasing economic mobility. Expanding social safety nets, such as unemployment insurance and healthcare, would lessen low-income workers' vulnerability, with programs like conditional cash transfers assisting families in breaking the cycle of poverty. Addressing inequality through fair taxation might help support public programs that directly assist low-income households, whilst policies fostering diverse economic growth in sectors such as renewable energy and technology can provide secure, well-paying jobs. Finally, improving regional economic integration through trade agreements and partnerships might lessen reliance on external markets while also creating new business and job possibilities, resulting in more inclusive economic growth across the area.



IX. Useful Links

[ILC87 - Report of the Director-General: Decent work](#): The ILO collaborated with various South American nations to establish regulations to enhance working conditions, especially in the informal sector. The agenda has influenced national programs aimed at promoting decent work and alleviating poverty through fair labor regulations, job development, and social safety nets.

[The Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\) \(2000-2015\)](#): Even though many South African nations agreed to these goals which primarily aimed to eradicate poverty and give access to education and healthcare to everyone, the conditions in the South African region is the opposite of what has been agreed here.

[CELAC Social Development Plan \(2020-2025\)](#): This plan advocates strategies to combat poverty and inequality, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations, informal workers, and those at danger of sliding into poverty. It encourages member states to invest in social security programs and decent job prospects, therefore directly addressing worker poverty.



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