Annex 4

G20 Approaches on Safety and Health at Work

Safe and healthy working conditions are fundamental to decent work. Given the devastating loss of life and livelihood of workers and their families resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, having safe and healthy working conditions is a fundamental right for all workers during a pandemic. It is important to continue to support the discussions at the ILO on a procedural road map developed for the consideration of including safe and healthy working conditions in the ILO’s framework of fundamental principles and rights at work. Preventing workplace exposures also protects the well-being of workers’ families and communities and is necessary for a recovery from the crisis.

All employers, including mine operators, and their representative organizations have to place workers’ safety, health and well-being at the center of all operation plans, and to prioritize the implementation of adequate occupational safety and health protection programs as each country attempts to recover from the pandemic. Based on scientific and holistic assessments of workplace transmission risk, employers should emphasize the implementation of environmental and administrative controls, deploy other relevant measures, and provide and require the use of personal protective equipment when necessary to ensure that workers are safe from workplace exposure to hazards.

Workers and trade unions must have a strong voice in safeguarding workers’ safety and health in the workplace, including in the development of workplace occupational safety and health protection programs. At the same time, effective consultation between workers and employers has to be encouraged and promoted to help achieve a safer and healthier working environment. Because social dialogue improves and strengthens a culture of prevention, workers and their representatives must be provided the opportunity to express their views and contribute to the decision-making process; those who raise concerns about workplace hazards must be protected.

Governments should use all available regulatory and non-regulatory means to contain and prevent the workplace spread of infections, including the timely issuance of emergency standards when appropriate, and the swift adoption of guidance and other protective measures based on scientific evidence. The effective enforcement of such emergency standards and all other applicable regulations should be of the highest priority during a pandemic across all workplaces. Addressing the unprecedented challenges in the workplace during a pandemic, innovative approaches taken by regulators and inspectors to employer compliance are welcomed, including providing education and support to enhance worker protection.
Finally, national and international collaboration and coordination on occupational safety and health has to be strongly supported. Continued inter-agency collaboration within each country and consultation among key labor, employment, and public-health stakeholders is important. International cooperation is also key in fighting a pandemic. Active participation by members and international organizations in the G20 OSH Expert Network has benefited the global coordination of OSH policies and programs. The collaboration and exchange of mitigating measures and programs among Network members in early 2020 and the 2020-2021 Network Campaign have contributed to furthering the understanding of the challenges and solutions to address the pandemic. Continuing the work of the Network with vigor will help achieve even greater global coordination, enhance the safety and health of workers, and respond more effectively to ongoing and future challenges.
Annex 5

Reports prepared by International Organisations


ILO and OECD Report: Youth at Work in G20 countries: Progress and Policy Action towards the Antalya G20 Youth Goal

ILO, ISSA and OECD Report: Linking income support measures to active labour market policies

ILO, ISSA and OECD Report: Beyond COVID-19: Towards more inclusive and resilient social protection systems

ILO Report: Teleworking arrangements during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond

ILO Report: Digital platforms and the world of work in G20 countries: Status and Policy Action

ILO and OECD Report: Proposed indicators of gender gaps in job quality