



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2014/SOM1/HRDWG/LSPN/014

Agenda item: 12

G20 Employment Agenda

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Australia



**Human Resources Development Working Group
Labour and Social Protection Network Meeting
Ningbo, China
19-20 February 2014**



THE G20 EMPLOYMENT AGENDA

AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION
APEC LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION NETWORK MEETING
20 FEBRUARY 2014



APEC Labour and Social Protection Network meeting, February 2014 | 2

Key G20 Employment stream meetings

Dates	Meeting	Location
5–6 February	1 st TFE meeting	Sydney
8–9 April	Youth & apprenticeships conferences	Brussels & Paris
10–11 April	2 nd TFE meeting	Paris
23 June	<i>Joint Sherpas & Finance Deputies meeting</i>	<i>Melbourne</i>
22–24 July	3 rd TFE meeting	Bangkok (tbc)
Early September	G20 Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting	Melbourne
15–16 November	<i>Leaders Summit</i>	<i>Brisbane</i>



APEC Labour and Social Protection Network meeting, February 2014 | 3

Focal areas for our meetings


Meeting	Employment plans	Working themes
TFE 1	Draft framework and template agreed	Boosting jobs and participation, including local job creation
TFE 2	Draft plans and input to growth strategies discussed	Preventing structural unemployment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth and apprenticeships • Long-term unemployment • Public employment services • Skills mismatch
TFE 3	Final plans discussed	Better quality jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underemployment • Informality • Safer workplaces
Labour & Employment Ministers	Plans considered in aggregate and endorsed	Preventing structural unemployment, creating better jobs and boosting participation



SESSION 1: OVERVIEW OF THE 2014 AGENDA AND WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

TASKFORCE ON EMPLOYMENT MEETING, FEBRUARY 2014


4



Australia 2014

APEC Labour and Social Protection Network meeting, February 2014 | 5

Some quotes from the Saint Petersburg Declaration



Australia 2014

APEC Labour and Social Protection Network meeting, February 2014 | 6

Leaders' overall priorities

“Our most urgent need is to increase the momentum of the global recovery, **generate higher growth and better jobs, while strengthening the foundations for long-term growth** and avoiding policies that could cause the recovery to falter or promote growth at other countries' expense.”





Leaders' employment priorities

"We are committed to working cooperatively to address key global economic challenges:

- **Unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people. We are united in the resolve to achieve better quality and more productive jobs.** Coordinated and integrated public policies (macroeconomic, financial, fiscal, education, skills development, innovation, **employment and social protection**) are key to reach this goal. We today committed to **continue our efforts to support inclusive labour markets, with the exchange of country-specific plans or sets of actions**, developed as appropriate according to our different constitutional circumstances."



Overall areas of focus for the TFE

"We ask the G20 Task Force on Employment to continue exploring the issues related to economic and labour and employment policies, and to **focus on strategies to address structural unemployment, especially among youth and the long-term unemployed, and on national social protection systems.** This will build on the terms proposed by our Labour and Employment Ministers including for **sharing of best practices and reviewing progress on the key elements identified on quality apprenticeships.**"





Request for country-specific plans

“We ask the Task Force to coordinate the exchange of country-specific plans or sets of actions on employment, developed as appropriate according to our different constitutional circumstances, working with the ILO, OECD and the World Bank Group. **These reports should include information on the mix of policies and programs that will be used by participating G20 members to address their respective employment challenges.**”



Labour force participation

“We are also committed to **strengthening the foundations for long-term growth** through implementing ambitious and targeted reforms designed to ensure fiscal sustainability, boost investment, increase productivity and **labor force participation**, and address internal and external imbalances.”





Role for activation policies

“We commit to ... Foster targeted investments to **ensure that labour market infrastructure and effective labour activation policies are in place** to help jobseekers find work and bring under-represented and vulnerable groups into the labour market and reduce informality”



Job creation and skill matching

“Policy reforms to **support higher employment and facilitate job creation and better matching of skills with job opportunities** are central in our growth strategies”





Youth and apprenticeships

“Promoting youth employment is a global priority. **We are committed to quality apprenticeship and vocational training** programmes, finding innovative ways to encourage firms to hire youth for example by, where appropriate, reducing non-wage labour costs, moving towards early intervention measures and effective job-search assistance for different groups of youth, and motivating youth entrepreneurship and business start-ups. Tailored strategies **including youth guarantee approaches**, developing school and university curricula that support entrepreneurship, and facilitating exchange of best practices among the G20 countries and the social partners are crucial in this respect.”



Role for public employment services

“We commit to increase our efforts to support inclusive labour markets, **better labour market information and effective employment services**, which will contribute to higher employment levels along with a sustained decline in unemployment, underemployment and informal employment.”



Need for skill matching and mobility

“We commit to ... Invest in our people’s skills, quality education and life-long learning programs to give them **skill portability and better prospects, to facilitate mobility and enhance employability.**”



Underemployment and informality

“We endorse the recommendations of our Labour and Employment and Finance Ministers to mobilize, coordinate and integrate, our national policies (macroeconomic, financial, fiscal, education, skills development, innovation, employment, social protection) to **promote the creation of quality jobs**, while increasing productivity with full respect for Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, **to ensure higher employment levels and a sustained decline in unemployment, underemployment and informal employment.**”





Australia 2014

APEC Labour and Social Protection Network meeting, February 2014 | 17

Underemployment a key challenge

“We are committed to working cooperatively to address key global economic challenges ... Unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people”



Australia 2014

APEC Labour and Social Protection Network meeting, February 2014 | 18

Better quality jobs

“We are united in the resolve to achieve better quality and more productive jobs. Coordinated and integrated public policies (macroeconomic, financial, fiscal, education, skills development, innovation, employment and social protection) are key to reach this goal.”





Request for work on safer workplaces

“In addition, given the recurring loss to human life and assets across the world on account of unsafe working places, **we direct the Task Force to partner with ILO in consultation with countries, and to consider how the G20 might contribute to safer workplaces.**”



Request for continued monitoring

“We commit to continue to work and to broaden this approach including the scope of the database, to develop country owned and country specific monitoring methodologies, where necessary, and use the database when building upon our country owned and country specific policies.”





Request for employment-finance collaboration

“We call upon our **Ministers of Labour and Employment and Ministers of Finance to work together to exchange best practices and to deliver on implementation of this commitment** with the support of the ILO, the OECD and the World Bank Group in identifying good practices and effective measures for more inclusive labour markets.”



Social protection policy goals

“We commit to increase our efforts to **support inclusive labour markets, better labour market information and effective employment services**, which will contribute to higher employment levels along with a sustained decline in unemployment, underemployment and informal employment. We agree that **appropriate labour market and social policies can ensure better social cohesion, economic stabilization, support aggregate demand and medium to longer-term growth. Sound national social protection floors are needed, which are affordable, effective, efficient, and socially adequate. Our social protection policies should encourage employment and job-search, providing help if necessary.** We commit to encourage the private sector, including small and medium sized enterprises as one of our most important partners, in fostering inclusive economic growth including for job creation and labour absorption. We encourage the IMF as well as other relevant international organizations to continue their research in the area of **growth, employment and income distribution.**”



The role of the international organisations

- “We encourage relevant international organisations including the ILO, the OECD and the World Bank Group to analyse the recent experiences of the G20 countries and **identify best practices that have been most successful in creating more and better jobs, promoting labour formalisation, reducing inequality, ensuring effective social protection and labour market adaptability**, as inputs to future deliberations of the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers.
- We encourage the IMF as well as other relevant international organisations to **continue their research in the area of growth, employment and income distribution.**”



Some quotes from the 2013 Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration





More action is needed on activation

“Further steps are required to improve job creation and labour activation. We will continue to review the progress on these urgent issues”



Priorities for activation policies

“We commit to develop policies which will **boost labour activation and inclusion, to improve the supply of labour** through a suitable mix of incentives, support and obligations for job seekers and potential members of the workforce ... **priority groups include the low skilled, long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, women, youth and seniors/older persons.**”





Social protection and activation policies

“Social protection policies for vulnerable groups should be combined with targeted labour activation measures to help and encourage those who are able to work to get access to the labour market”



Apprenticeships and youth guarantees

“We acknowledge the work of the Task Force on Employment in association with social partners on quality apprenticeships. **We note with interest the development of youth guarantee approaches** which aim to provide all young unemployed and those leaving education with further education, training, apprenticeships or jobs”

