

Impact of Trade Liberalization and Trade Agreements In Decent Work creation and sustainable development.

Key points for the structure of the report: Brief

1.- GLOBAL PICTURE: Since the nineties, bilateral / multilateral free trade and investments agreements were one of the tools used by States to remove barriers to the international trade and investment. **Brief summary of different approaches to explain this process:**

Proponents of this type of instrument postulated that such obstacles were responsible for the weak growth in the developing countries, which would benefit from a process of trade growth globally. By contrast, critics pointed out that deepening strategies based on free-market principles would lead to more competition between countries that pursue attract investment and higher quotas in world trade would provide capital increasingly favourable conditions and, therefore harmful for the job.

In recent years, academic research and international organizations, including the ILO, have highlighted the negative impact on Decent Work creation and Sustainable Development, with loss of labour rights, as a result of reduced space of regulatory policy related to these processes of trade/investment liberalization

The ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008) provides clear guidelines on the ILO role to make analysis and reflection on this process, putting the focus on sustainable development and in particular on decent work and labour rights.

The work would focus on Europe, Asia Pacific and Americas, including their relations with other regions (intra/inter-regional/bilateral level), including the WTO Negotiations and the sub regional integration process.

2.- The main outcomes of this paper could be:

First Result: Description of trade/ investments in force and under negotiation (map of agreements):

- multilateral trade negotiations (WTO, World Trade Organization, TISA, Services Treaty) with regard to the three regions(UE, Asia Pacific, Americas).
- Intra-regional agreements under negotiation: (some examples) TPP Trans-Pacific Partnership, agreements between USA and Europe (TTIP, CETA), USA and Vietnam, Argentina and China, Brazil and Mexico, etc .

- multilateral financial organizations with presence at regional/interregional level (ADB, Asian Development Bank, led by the US and Japan; AIIB, ADB Infrastructure Investment, led by China, NDB, New Development Bank of BRICS, European Investment Bank).

Second result: impact of these agreements on the creation of decent work and sustainable development (liberalization provisions included in the trade/ service/ investment chapters of the agreements and labour provisions included in the social chapter).

- Analysis of the trade, investment and services chapters included in bilateral / regional/ intra-regional and multilateral agreements: main tendencies by region, references to the ILO Conventions, Recommendations, Resolutions on Employment(122, C102, C131, R204, Recurrent Discussion on employment), main economic sectors included, generation of global value chains, policy spaces in negotiation, provisions on employment and wages policies, etc.
- Analysis of the provisions of the labour chapters of the agreements; main tendencies by region, main references to the ILO International Labour Standards, mechanism for the participation of trade union in the implementation and monitoring of the agreements.

Third result: Integrated balance on the two previous results, within the ILO perspective of ILO on decent work, sustainable development and labour rights.

- Analysis on the trade union strategy for the three regions regarding to the Trade/Investment agreements at multilateral/ interregional/regional/ subregional / bilateral level.

Fourth result: evaluate the impact of trade and investment policies on employment and structural transformation to promote sustainable development with focus on Decent Work creation.

- Comprehensive employment policy framework to promote full, decent, productive and freely chosen employment: Trade, industrial, tax, infrastructure and sectoral policies that promote employment, enhance productivity and facilitate structural transformation processes.