

COLLOQUIUM

IS A LIVING WAGE BAD FOR THE ECONOMY?

Contributing to the Implementation of SDG 8 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda by promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Venue: University of Geneva, MS 130, Bd. Du Pont-d'Arve 40, Geneva

From train station Cornavin, take Tram 15, direction Palettes, get out at stop "Uni Mail"

Date/Time: 10th June 2017 (Saturday) from 9.00-13.00

Duration: 4 hours



Before



And Now

Rationale

The 2030 Agenda focuses on employment and decent work for all. In particular, two targets of the SDG 8 specify the following:

Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Target 8.5: *By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value*

Both targets do not refer to known labour policies such a Minium Wag or Living Wage. Not to mention that either of the two labour policies leaves a policy vacuum which could be interpreted as deliberate omission or an attempt to subsume both- MW and LW- as being part of Decent Work without though spelling out in detail how Decent Work might related to MW or LW.

Since MW and LW are not mentioned specifically there is uncertainty as to how SDG 8 and its targets 8.3 and 8.4 could or should be interpreted by policy makers, business, labour unions and civil society.

In view of the fact that MW and LW have been considered controversial labour policy options by some governments and employer associations, there is a need for clarifications as to what both terms mean and could contribute to the achievement of the two SDG 8 targets.

This colloquium offers an opportunity to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both MW and LW for countries' economic and social development. Experts from different academic backgrounds with broad and deep understanding of both themes will engage in discussions with a particular focus on LW.

The title of this colloquium is deliberately formulated with a provocative undertone because political opinions and academic theories hold at time opposing views. What is needed is a public debate on Living Wage to advise policy makers as to whether or not and if so how Living Wage could be an essential factor in accomplishing the SDG 8 targets 8.3. and 8.4 as well as employment and development in general.

The scheduled speakers and Discussants are the following:

Programme

Welcome Remarks: Professor Lucio Baccaro, University of Geneva

Introductory Remarks: Professor Raymond Saner, Director of Diplomacy Dialogue, CSEND.

Round One (9.00-10.45)

Dr Emmanuel Reynaud, Dr. Emmanuel Reynaud, sociologist, former ILO official, Geneva
"The ILO and the Living wage: a historical perspective".

Prof. Daniel Vaughan-Whitehead, Sciences Po, Paris, ILO, Geneva
'How to reach a living wage in a sustainable way?'

Dr Marc Bacchetta, *Marc Bacchetta*, Counsellor, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO
"The labour market effects of trade"

Dr Marion Jansen, Chief Economist, ITC, previously WTO and ILO.
"Inclusive growth through SME competitiveness".

Prof. Roel Nieuwenkamp, Chair, OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct
"Living Wage and the OECD RBC Guidelines" (by recorded video message)

Prof. Stuart Carr, Prof. Darrin Hodgetts, Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand
"Living Wage and Low Income Development Countries"

Discussants:

Drs Roel Gans, Director of Interantional Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, The Hague, Netherlands

Prof. Raymond Saner, University of Basel, Sciences Po, Paris and CSEND, Geneva

11.30-12.15 Audience participation Q&A.

12.15-12.30 Closure

Moderator

Professor Lucio Baccaro, University of Geneva and Dr Lichia Yiu, President, Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND)