

Living Wage and Sustainable Development Goal # 8

Raymond Saner, Ph.D.
University of Basel

Lichia Yiu, Ed.D.
President, CSEND, Geneva

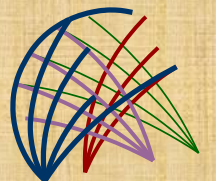
6th Conference of the Regulating for Decent Work Network:
Work and Well-being in the 21st Century

ILO Geneva

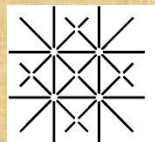
10 July 2019



International
Labour
Organization



Diplomacy
Dialogue



UNIVERSITÄT BASEL

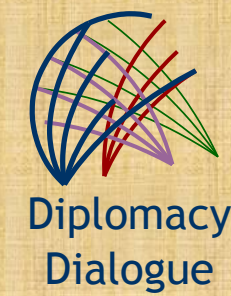
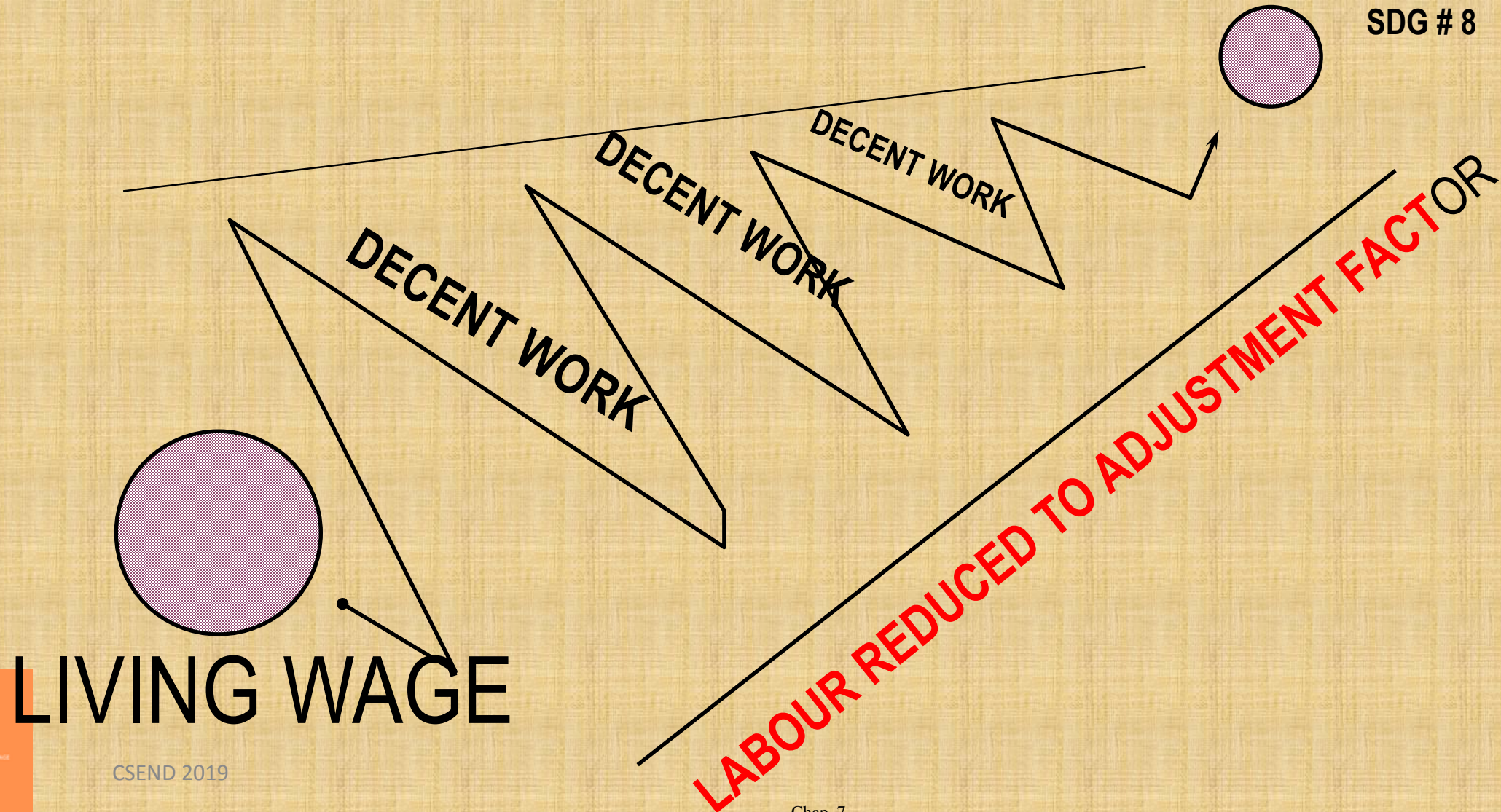


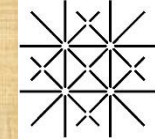


Advancing social justice, promoting decent work

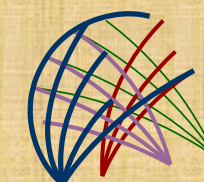
(Source: <https://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm>)

Narrowing of factor of labour for SDG # 8





UNIVERSITÄT BASEL

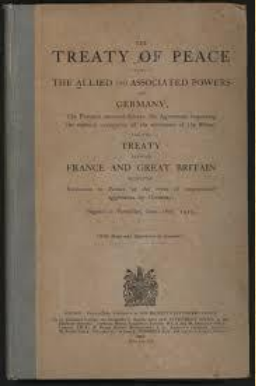


Diplomacy
Dialogue

PROJECT
GLOW

GLOBAL LIVING ORGANIZATIONAL WAGE





In the Treaty of Versailles (1919), the living wage is mentioned twice

Preamble: *"an improvement of (the conditions of labour) is urgently required: as, for example, by the provision of an adequate **living wage...**"*

General principles: *"Third. The payment to the employed of a wage **adequate to maintain a reasonable standard of life as this is understood in their time and country**".*

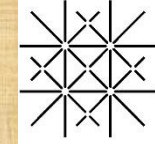


The notion of a living wage is closely linked to the very reason for establishing the International Labour Organization after WWI. Two fundamental rationales behind this move:

to avoid social unrest by improving labour conditions in a context of economic competition and free trade;

to respond to the 1919 context when post-WWI ushered in labour unrest and the negative experience of pre-war “first globalization”.

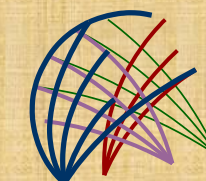




Low wage is often coupled with poor working conditions related to the physical environment and mental demands.



Don't forget Rana Plaza....



Living Wage is NOT EQUAL to Decent Wage

Colloquium 2017 on “Is A Living Wage Bad for The Economy?”

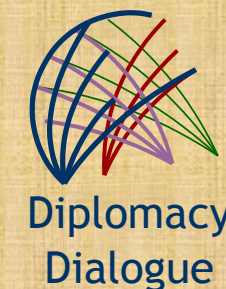
A contribution to the implementation of SDG #8 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

<http://www.csend.org/conferences-and-forum/labour/467-a-colloquium-on-is-a-living-wage-bad-for-the-economy?highlight=WyJsaXZpbmciLCJ3YWdlIiwibGl2aW5nIHdhZ2UiXQ==>



The Framework on the Measurement of Decent Work covers **ten** substantive elements

1. employment opportunities;
2. **adequate earnings** and productive work;
3. decent working time;
4. combining work, family and personal life;
5. work that should be abolished;
6. stability and security of work;
7. equal opportunity and treatment in employment;
8. safe work environment;
9. social security; and
10. **social dialogue, employers' and workers' representation**

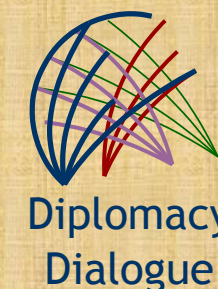


One of the Decent Work Component – Wage & Adequate Earnings

“In order to be consistent with the concept of decent work, work has to be productive and provide workers with adequate earnings. One of the objectives of the ILO, as set down in the **Declaration of Philadelphia**, is to ensure **“a just share of the fruits of progress to all, and a minimum living wage to all employed and in need of such protection”**.”

Equally, promoting adequate earnings and productive work is a central element of the Decent Work Agenda. (ILO, 2013, p.65)

(Source: DECENT WORK INDICATORS-Guidelines for Producers and Users of Statistical and Legal Framework Indicators, ILO, 2013)



One of the Decent Work Component – Wage & Adequate Earnings (2)

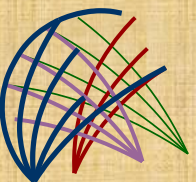
“Ten per cent of workers receive 48.9 per cent of total global pay, while the lowest-paid 50 per cent of workers receive just 6.4 per cent. What’s more, the **lowest 20 per cent of income earners – around 650 million workers – earn less than 1 per cent of global labour income**, a figure that has hardly changed in 13 years. ” (04 July 2019)



(Source: [The Labour Income Share and Distribution dataset, https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_712234/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_712234/lang-en/index.htm))

Sustainable Development Goal #8

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Diplomacy
Dialogue

Get it done! Start with adequate & Liveable wage!!



The 2030 Agenda lists 10 Targets (page 21) which are suggested to help countries achieve the SDG Goal #8 by the year 2030- However!!!.

None of the 10 SDG 8 Targets mentions “Living Wage” even though Living Wage is presented in several of ILO’s documents ever since the start of the ILO in 1919 and despite the fact that the ILO is the custodian of SDG 8.



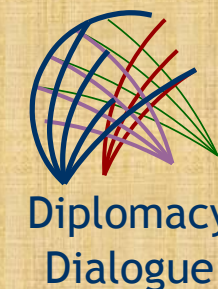
Instead, the concept of “Decent Work” (DW) has been included and mentioned **six times**, namely in the introduction (2x), in the section on the New Agenda (1x), the presentation of the 17 Goals (1x), the presentation of Goal 8 (in heading and as Target 8.5)

ONLY TWO of the 10 targets of SDG 8 use a term related to DW, i.e., the term “decent job” and “decent work”

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 (italic added)



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 (italic added)



Measuring achievement of SDGs by indicators:

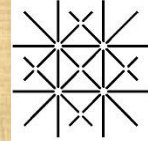
Tier 1: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.

Tier 2: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, **but data are not regularly produced by countries.**

Tier 3: No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

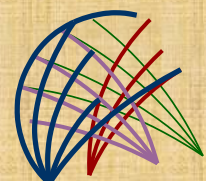


Improve SDG Indicator 8.5.1 !!! ILO is Custodian!!!!



UNIVERSITÄT BASEL

SDG 8, Target 8.5.	Indicator 8.5.1	Indicator 8.5.2	Custodian ILO
<p>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</p>	<p>8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities</p> <p>Tier II</p>	<p>8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</p> <p>Tier I</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>



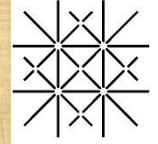
Diplomacy Dialogue

Remedial Action urgently needed!

1) Add living wage to Target 8.5!!!!



**2) Integrate ILO's DW indicators,
"Earn1-6" with the SDG 8, Target
8.5 and Indicator 8.5.1**

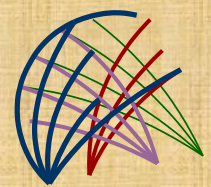


Questions?

Email:

raymond.saner@unibas.ch

yi@csend.org



Diplomacy
Dialogue