Social Security and the Right to Work
Perspectives linking protection and employment

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Employment and social security: a historical link

• At the core of the post-WWII Welfare State
• Socio-economic security through combination of full employment and social security
• Beveridge’s two reports
• Philadelphia Declaration, May 1944: a comprehensive package
Today’s renewed challenges

- New needs in post-industrial economies
- Gender equality
- Poverty and social exclusion (even in rich countries)
- Lack of social security coverage
- Massive informal economy in developing world
Emergence of a new Welfare State

• From income protection to employment promotion and social inclusion
• An enabling Welfare State or welfare system: protecting and strengthening capabilities
• Designing pathways for integrating the poor
• Developing countries at the forefront of these innovations
A new generation of social assistance programmes

- Employment guarantee schemes, conditional cash transfers, unconditional transfers, inclusive targeted programmes...
- Ex: India, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, South Africa, China, Chile, Bangladesh...
- Large-scale programmes: combine social transfers and integration measures
- Breaking intergenerational transmission
Strengthening contribution to the Decent Work Agenda

- Different dimensions of the Decent Work Agenda involved, but a series of questions
- Opposing or combining rights
- Articulation with social protection system and employment and labour market policies
- ILO project on strengthening inclusive impact of programmes
Global and integrated strategies for Decent Work

• ILC 2001: extension of social security in context of Decent Work Agenda
• Possible Declaration in ILC 2008
• Integrated pursuit of four core objectives: interdependent and mutually supportive
• A social floor: a way out of poverty and a pathway for better jobs and a better life