The decent work agenda is consistent with traditional trade union objectives and demands for "more and better jobs", "jobs with justice", "the right to a decent job". From a trade union perspective, the decent job agenda comprises full and freely chosen employment, workers' rights and favourable conditions at work, equality of treatment and opportunity, social protection and public services for workers and their families, social dialogue and democratic governance, and an international system that supports the realisation of those objectives.

Decent work objectives move upwards with economic and social progress. While there is no ceiling, there is a floor, set by the fundamental principles and rights at work spelled out in the ILO Declaration of 1998 (core labour standards), and by the need for people to have opportunities for decently paid work and security of income.

At the global level:
- press for a more democratic system of global governance, in line with the recommendations made by the ILO World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation;
- urge the principal actors of the multilateral system to endorse and promote the decent work agenda;
- press for multinational companies to respect all the dimensions of decent work;
- insist that all relevant international organisations, including IMF, World Bank and the WTO, respect and promote core labour standards in all their policies and measures;
- include the elimination of child labour and HIV/Aids in its discussions with employers on corporate social responsibility and global framework agreements;
- put the elimination of child labour on the agenda of UNI events;
- work with NGOs sharing the same policy goals including the reduction of child labour and to promote sustainable, social and ecological development.

At the sectoral level:
- review UNI programmes in the light of the decent work agenda, especially with a view to relating economic restructuring to the creation of decent jobs and employment growth to reduce poverty and inequality;
- advocate decent work strategies in their existing dialogue with companies and employer groups, and seek to extend relations to other groups seeking to promote decent work and sustainable development;
- highlight the women-specific consequences of globalisation;
- put emphasis on equality of opportunities and treatment between women and men as one of the fundamental dimensions of decent work in all sectors;
- pay special attention in negotiations with companies and employers' organisations to achieving decent working conditions for workers involved primarily in "modern" information and knowledge-based activities where special factors contributing to humanising the working environment have to be taken into consideration, e.g. in terms of working hours;
- take a critical but constructive approach when assessing companies' innovation policy to ensure that greater weight is given to job-creating, social and decent work innovations rather than job-destroying rationalisation measures;
- promote exchange of experiences regarding successful projects and practices carried out by UNI affiliates to promote decent work.

At the regional level:
- call on governments to establish decent work programmes that, within a framework of national and local stakeholder dialogue and action, identify major decent work deficits; define priorities and targets, in particular targets for the reduction of unemployment and underemployment; and measure progress;
- urge governments to include trade unions in labour inspection services;
- especially in developing countries, demand that all socio-economic policies are consistent with the goal of employment growth to reduce poverty and inequality;
- ensure that decent work objectives and policies are integrated into World Bank-sponsored Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and national Millennium Development Goals reports;
- promote the assessment at regional and national levels of the social implications of government economic, financial and trade policies, with the participation of national stakeholders and multilateral agencies (IMF, World Bank, WTO, UNDP, ILO, etc.);
- urge governments to request the ILO to assist them with programmes to promote core labour standards in connection with bilateral and regional agreements on trade and investment;
- work with civil society groups, including NGOs and community-based organisations, to enhance capacity and resources to progressively eliminate child labour and to promote sustainable, social and ecological development.

To meet these commitments, UNI will:
- urge governments to request the ILO to assist them with programmes to promote core labour standards in connection with bilateral and regional agreements on trade and investment;
- promote exchange of experiences regarding successful projects and practices carried out by UNI affiliates to promote decent work.

UNI's Action Plan for Decent Work

To have a decent job is a basic need of people in all countries. The ILO's decent work agenda encompasses four strategic objectives: employment promotion, rights at work, social protection, and social dialogue. The decent work agenda is based on the realisation that those objectives are best pursued together, as progress towards each of them reinforces and complements action towards the others. As a framework for social development, the decent work agenda requires policy coherence and favours sustainable development based on the three pillars of economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

The right to decent conditions of work and life is a widely accepted international principle. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (United Nations), 1966, recognises the right of all workers to remuneration that provides them with, among other things, "a decent living for themselves and their families". In 1976, the ILO's World Employment Conference called for "the achievement of full productive employment in decent working conditions".

In 1999, the ILO's World Employment Programme set the goal of establishing a solid basis for a comprehensive agenda on employment, decent work and social dialogue, and of promoting effective application of core labour standards and reform of the international financial and trade institutions.
The ILO is a UN agency that promotes social justice, decent work, and human rights. It aims to promote the right to work, and to bring about a better balance between the needs of enterprises for flexibility and that of workers for security. It advocates for the elimination of forced labour, child labour, and the abolition of the death penalty. It seeks to achieve social justice in the workplace and to promote social dialogue between employers, workers, and the state. The ILO is committed to promoting the decent work agenda everywhere in the world by campaigning, together with the other Global Unions.

UNI is committed to promoting the decent work agenda everywhere in the world by campaigning, together with the other Global Unions.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the UN's goals and targets for eliminating extreme poverty and hunger. They are the core of the world's fight against poverty.