

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

THE FACTS: Roughly half the world's population still live on the equivalent of about US\$2 a day. And in too many places, having a job doesn't guarantee the ability to escape from poverty. This slow and uneven progress requires us to rethink and retool our economic and social policies aimed at eradicating poverty. A continued lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient investments and under-consumption lead to an erosion of the basic social contract underlying democratic societies: that all must share in progress.

Sustainable economic growth will require societies to create the conditions that allow people to have quality jobs that stimulate the economy while not harming the environment. Job opportunities and decent working conditions are also required for the whole working age population.

THE FIGURES:

- Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
- 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
- By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

According to reports, the creation of quality jobs will remain a major challenge for almost all economies well beyond 2015. Furthermore, as the landscape of West Africa continues to be dotted by wars and conflicts, so have the population of child soldiers on the rise. WANEP joins the global call for governments to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of

the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers by 2025. In view of the devastating effects of wars and conflicts, WANEP believes that there is need to Invest in conflict early warning, prevention and comprehensive and robust post- conflict reconstruction and development that delivers on human security and economic growth.