

Agenda Item 2. Strategies for building a healthy, protected, and productive workforce in Asia and the Pacific

Decent employment opportunities lead to inclusive growth by reducing poverty and inequality, as these jobs provide social protection. Half of the population in the South Asian region is excluded from social protection as the majority of the workforce is compelled to accept informal jobs and even in the informal employment market persons with disabilities are almost invisible. In recent decade most of the countries in Asia and the Pacific and all the countries in South Asia have enacted legislation to promote livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities but universal coverage of social protection including the cost of disability management has not been ensured.

Digital transformation is also bringing a significant shift into the work environment globally which can increase decent work opportunities for men and women with disabilities if we focus on their skill development in ICT. At the same time, existing social protection schemes need to be disability-inclusive for the inclusive development and attainment of envisaged goals of the global development agenda.