



International
Labour
Organization

VISION ZERO FUND



From vision to impact: 10 years of the Vision Zero Fund

Event Highlights Report



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1. Introduction

The Vision Zero Fund's 10-year anniversary event took place on 28 April 2026 in Berlin, held in conjunction with the World Day for Safety and Health at Work. The occasion marked both a moment of reflection and a renewed call to action in advancing safer and healthier workplaces worldwide.

The Vision Zero Fund aims to eliminate severe and fatal work-related accidents, injuries, and diseases in supply chains. Established as an initiative of the G7 and subsequently endorsed by the G20, the Fund is administered by the International Labour Organization, which also oversees the implementation of its programmes. It forms an integral part of the ILO's Safety + Health for All flagship programme, underscoring its central role in promoting occupational safety and health at scale.

The event, organized by the International Labour Organization and co-organized with the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, marked an important and inspiring milestone in global efforts to improve occupational safety and health in supply chains. Hosted by Siemens, it brought together over 80 participants including policymakers, representatives of employers' and workers' organizations, and development partners in a spirit of collaboration and shared purpose.

The gathering offered a valuable opportunity to reflect on a decade of progress since the Fund's establishment. Over this period, the Vision Zero Fund has become a key instrument in preventing fatal and serious workplace accidents and diseases, while advancing safer and healthier working conditions across sectors and countries.

Beyond taking stock of achievements and lessons learned, the event also created space for open dialogue on future priorities and for strengthening collective commitment toward safer global supply chains.

This interactive report seeks to capture that spirit. It offers readers a concise summary of the key messages shared by the event's speakers, along with QR codes linking to full recordings of the interventions, enabling deeper engagement with the conversations that shaped the event.



Publication

The power of partnerships
in building safer and
healthier supply chains.



To view all videos featured in
this report, please scan the
QR code below

<https://vzf.ilo.org/gallery>

2. Welcoming remarks

Dr. Ralf Franke, Global Head of Environmental Protection, Health Management and Safety (EHS), Siemens

As the event host, Dr. Franke, speaking on behalf of Siemens, opened the event with welcoming remarks. He noted that since joining the Vision Zero Fund in 2016, Siemens has helped support the development of practical, on-the-ground projects, including initiatives in Ethiopia and Egypt. A critical factor is that the Vision Zero Fund brings together stakeholders who share a common interest in safeguarding the lives of people in supply chains—governments, companies, and trade unions alike. The strength of this model lies in its ability to combine global standards and experience with local realities and conditions.



Listen to the full speech



Listen to a short video message by Judith Wiese - Chief People and Sustainability Officer, Siemens



10 years ago, Siemens helped to launch the Vision Zero Fund. This initiative is something to be very proud of. Safety cannot be thought of in isolation. If you really want to make a difference you must look beyond your own company.

Judith Wiese - Chief People and Sustainability Officer

3. Opening remarks

H.E. Bärbel Bas, Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

In her address marking the 10th anniversary of the Vision Zero Fund, H.E. Bärbel Bas underscored the Fund's origins under Germany's G7 Presidency in 2015 and its evolution into a flagship initiative for advancing safe and healthy working conditions in global supply chains. She highlighted how the Vision Zero Fund has translated the ambition of zero accidents, injuries, and work-related diseases into concrete action through its multi-stakeholder approach and country-level programmes.

Recalling the Rana Plaza collapse, she emphasized the Vision Zero Fund's role in galvanizing a shared international responsibility to prevent workplace tragedies and promote a culture of prevention. She pointed to tangible results achieved through the Fund's interventions across sectors and countries, including strengthened occupational safety and health standards, expanded training and capacity-building, more effective labour inspection systems, and enhanced social dialogue. These efforts, she noted, reflect the added value of the Vision Zero Fund in convening governments, employers, workers, and companies around a common goal.

Looking ahead, she reaffirmed the continued relevance of the Vision Zero Fund in addressing emerging risks, particularly those linked to climate change and evolving supply chains. She called for sustained commitment and partnership to scale up the Fund's impact and ensure that safe and healthy work becomes a reality for all.



Listen to the full speech
here

Beate Andrees, Deputy Director-General, International Labour Organization

Beate Andrees highlighted both the scale of the global occupational safety and health challenge and the progress achieved over the past decade. Recalling that nearly 3 million workers die each year from work-related causes, it reaffirmed the urgency of the Vision Zero Fund's mission. Since its launch, the Vision Zero Fund has driven action at global, national, and workplace levels through knowledge generation, policy support, and practical interventions. The speech emphasized the importance of partnerships, including with multinational enterprises, and pointed to the Fund's 2024–2028 Strategy as a framework for scaling impact through collective action, social dialogue, and responses to emerging challenges such as climate change.



Listen to the
full speech
here



Listen to a short video message by Gilbert F.
Hounbo — Director-General, International
Labour Organization



As the Fund enters its second decade, the path forward is clear: safer supply chains are not only necessary but achievable. The Vision Zero Fund has shown what is possible. With the right partnerships we can go even further.

Gilbert F. Hounbo — Director-General, International Labour Organization

4. A conversation with Dr. Stephan Fasshauer

Dr. Stephan Fasshauer, Director General, German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV)

From the outset, prevention of occupational accidents and diseases has been at the core of the work of the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV). Drawing on Germany's strong national experience, grounded in robust social dialogue, the DGUV has played a key role in supporting the Vision Zero Fund from its early stages. Building on its international engagement, technical expertise, and research capacity, Dr. Stephan Fasshauer described how the collaboration with the Vision Zero Fund has enabled DGUV's insights to be translated into concrete action and meaningful improvements in occupational safety and health worldwide.



Listen to the full
conversation

5. Roundtable: overview of the Fund's evolution, achievements, and challenges

Ockert Dupper, Vision Zero Fund, ILO

Mariana Infante, former Vision Zero Fund project manager, Myanmar

Nicolas Dumas, French Ministry of Labour, Directorate for European and International Affairs

Monica Alfaro Murcia, European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Manuel Schuh, Nestlé

Arne Franke, Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA)

Carolyn Vollmann, German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)

Omar Estefan, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Mexico

The roundtable brought together a diverse set of Vision Zero Fund stakeholders to reflect on the evolution, achievements, and future direction of the Fund, moving from its origins as a G7 initiative to its current role as a successful global programme. Perspectives represented span the full spectrum of the Fund: programme leadership and early implementers sharing institutional memory and operational lessons; donor governments and private-sector partners outlining motivations, expectations, and the value of collaboration; and ILO tripartite constituents articulating how the Fund aligns with national priorities, enterprise needs, and worker protection.



Listen to the entire
roundtable discussion
here

6. Reflecting on a decade of action: lessons learned and strategic opportunities for the future

In the afternoon, participants were invited to join one of three parallel sessions, working in self-selected breakout groups to develop opportunity statements. A summary of the discussion outcomes is provided below.

Opportunity area 1: Extreme Weather Events and their Impact on OSH

Participants noted that, while heat stress had received significant attention through research and country-level initiatives, there was broad agreement on the need for a more comprehensive occupational safety and health approach—one that also addresses additional workplace hazards and mental health concerns, including climate anxiety. They emphasized that, for the Vision Zero Fund to be effective, it must avoid focusing on a single risk in isolation. The discussion highlighted two key tensions requiring careful balance: first, between taking immediate action using existing, practical solutions to protect workers in the short term and investing in longer-term, data-driven strategies for sustainable interventions; and second, between prioritizing adaptation measures for current workers and advancing mitigation efforts to safeguard future workforces. Participants also underscored the importance of developing shared, practical methodologies for data collection in resource-constrained settings and stressed the need to build a compelling business case demonstrating that inaction is more costly than action—not only in terms of health outcomes, but also productivity and broader economic impacts across stakeholders.

Opportunity area 2: Private Sector Engagement

Participants reflected that private-sector engagement in the Fund was largely driven by shared interests and common ground, such as operating within the same sectors or countries, or through high-level outreach by governments, which could provide sufficient motivation for companies to participate. It was also agreed that the Fund should move beyond a narrow focus on commodity supply chains and expand into other sectors, with construction highlighted as a promising entry point given existing experience. Participants identified a clear opportunity to scale impact by shifting from isolated interventions toward more coordinated, sector- and country-level collective action, bringing together companies, governments, and partners to strengthen systems and capacity. To advance this, the group suggested practical next steps, including leveraging global forums such as the OSH World Congress and exploring new or existing business platforms to foster broader and more integrated private-sector engagement.

Opportunity area 3: Strengthening Legal and Policy Frameworks

Participants emphasized that an enabling environment for occupational safety and health depends fundamentally on collective action and the development of a strong prevention culture, which must be genuinely owned and supported through effective governance. It was noted that this requires

leveraging the complementary roles of governments, social partners, and the private sector, alongside strengthening institutional frameworks. Discussions highlighted the need to enhance national qualification systems for OSH professionals, improve the substance and credibility of audit systems, and clarify standards for responsible business conduct. The group also stressed the importance of addressing both traditional and emerging risks including climate change, technology, and mental health while reinforcing advocacy for the ratification and effective implementation of ILO standards. A key takeaway was that collective action can drive progress across multiple fronts, from awareness-raising to institutional capacity-building, with sustained investment and implementation seen as critical to achieving meaningful impact.

7. Closing remarks

Franziska Haas, Director, ILO Berlin

Dr. Ralf Franke, Global EHS Head, Siemens AG

Dr. Carsten Stender, Director General European and International Employment and Social Policy, ESF, Digital Transformation, German Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

In closing, it was underscored that a key success factor of the Vision Zero Fund has been the ability to bring all stakeholders together around a shared objective, ensuring that efforts are aligned and mutually reinforcing. Looking ahead, there was a strong call for even greater ambition over the next decade, anchored in a common vision that no one should lose their life due to work-related risks. The event demonstrated the power of G7 initiatives to convene diverse actors globally, showcasing occupational safety and health perspectives from across regions from Europe to Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Overall, the Vision Zero Fund was highlighted as a clear G7 success story, exemplifying effective cooperation between governments, the private sector, and social partners, and serving as a model for global collaboration.



VISION ZERO FUND

Vision Zero Fund brings together governments, employers' and workers' organizations, companies, and other stakeholders to advance towards the vision of achieving zero severe and fatal work-related accidents, injuries and diseases in global supply chains.

The Fund works at global, country and workplace levels, and currently focuses on the agriculture and garment supply chains. It is an initiative of the G7, and has been endorsed by the G20. The International Labour Organization (ILO) administers the Fund and implements its projects.

International Labour Organization
Occupational Safety and Health and Working
Environment Branch (OSHE)

Route des Morillons 4
CH-1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland

ilo.org/vzf
vzf@ilo.org



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**SAFETY
+
HEALTH
FOR ALL**

Vision Zero Fund is part of Safety & Health for All, an ILO flagship programme building a culture of safe, healthy work.

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