

PART FIVE

The Outlook for Workers in the Twenty-First Century

THE PAST CENTURY has witnessed more divergence than convergence in the fortunes of workers in different parts of the world. Can the twenty-first century be different? Will it bring in an era of inclusion, in which economic integration continues and spreads, raising the incomes of workers in all regions—and especially the poorest? Chapter 18 relates the themes articulated in the preceding chapters to the outlook for workers in the principal regions of the world. It develops both a pessimistic scenario for the future, in which workers' living standards in the various regions drift further apart, and an optimistic one, in which countries seize the opportunities that global integration presents to better the lives of their working populations.