



Trade Union Priorities for Development

General Council Resolution, São Paulo, Brazil, 9-10 October
2015



ITUC CSI IGB International Trade Union Confederation

International Development Agenda

1. During the period of 2013-2015, the ITUC/ Trade Union Development Network – TUDCN – co-ordinated union inputs into the United Nations processes on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Financing for Development (FfD), at national, regional and global levels. These processes culminated with the adoption of the new SDGs framework at the September UN General Assembly and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) in July 2015.
2. The new SDGs framework includes a set of 17 goals including key priorities for trade unions. Among others: Goal 8: “Inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all” is enshrined in the framework as a specific goal. Goal 1 includes the implementation of “nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors” by 2030 in relation to poverty eradication and reducing inequality within and among countries would be a significant achievement. We are pleased to see specific goals for education, gender and commitments to food, energy and climate action. The AAAA identifies Decent Work and Social Protection among the seven crosscutting areas relevant to the financing for development agenda.¹

¹ Agreed outcomes of the AAAA FfD 13-16 July: http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf and the unions reaction to the FFD: https://csoforffd.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/trade_unions_reaction_to_ffd3_action_agenda_final.pdf

Recommendations:

1. The TUDCN, bringing together in its Post 2015 Working Group, the ITUC affiliates, GUFs, TUSSOs, ETUC, TUAC and ACTRAV, will be pushing for high-level standards on the “indicators” that will further determine the implementation of the SDGs goals. To implement this universal agenda, the ITUC GC encourages members of the Network, all its affiliates globally in the North and in the South, to advocate with governments and development bodies to ensure that commitments made in the SDGs and FfD frameworks are funded and implemented at global, regional and national levels and include the role of trade unions. The implementation of the SDGs requires coherence across union actions, including economic, social, environmental and industry policies and activities, that involves the whole trade union and needs to be integrated across all union departments.
2. Alliances will be built with likeminded civil society organizations (CSOs) and governments to ensure effective monitoring and implementation of decent work, social dialogue and collective bargaining, in conjunction with the ILO. This should form a part of international union actions to generating a transformational agenda to achieve social, economic and environmental justice. The ITUC endorses the priorities enshrined in the proposal by the Prime Minister of Sweden for a ‘Global Deal for decent work and inclusive growth’ and will promote them. This is a framework for ensuring implementation of the 2030 Agenda with action on employment, decent work, social dialogue and social protection. The “Global Deal” frames the ITUC Frontlines for taming corporate power in supply chains, formalizing informal work and eliminating slavery. It facilitates the dialogue necessary to ensure that globalization works for everyone including women, young people, refugees and other migrant workers with work based on rights, fair wages and the principles of decent work. The global deal, enhancing the role of social dialogue as a means of implementation of the SDGs, will enable the follow up of the 2030 Agenda and a climate agreement to ensure development that delivers zero carbon-zero poverty.
3. The promotion of the developmental role of social dialogue, and fighting the privatisation of the development agenda, will be the key trade union pillars for advocacy at national, regional and global level.

Trade Union International Solidarity

3. The TUDCN has prioritised the need for greater coherence and coordination among trade union partners in international solidarity. These have been promoted through the creation of spaces for exchanges on policy and practice and information sharing. The development of the Trade Union Development Effectiveness Principles (endorsed by the ITUC CG in 2011) has contributed to reinforce trade union solidarity initiatives, allowing for greater ownership of development processes and more equitable partnerships.

Recommendation:

1. Trade Unions further support the implementation of those Principles, and the TUDCN will provide the necessary backing in terms of coordination and capacity building.
2. The trade union development cooperation partnerships, crucial for reinforcing solidarity, building organising capacity and supporting the efforts of the trade union movement to promote representative, democratic and effective organisations and realise rights, will be supported.
3. The ITUC will work to improve shared approaches and supporting common objectives based on our trade union development effectiveness principles as a priority of the Network.
4. The Network will focus on developing the institutional and representational capacities of trade union organisations, enhancing shared international solidarity initiatives, and benefiting from the ITUC Organising Academy program.
5. Multilateral trade union solidarity initiatives will be encouraged, as well as support to trade union south-south cooperation initiatives

Regional Trade Union Development Networks

4. The collective voice of trade unions from the regions with their counterpart regional development institutions has been the focus for the regional networks. The TUDCN has encouraged the creation of regional development networks in Latin America, Africa and the Asia-Pacific to ensure that union voices are heard and taken up in development debates.

Recommendation :

1. The Network will continue strengthening the capacity of the regional development networks in order to support their advocacy at regional and national level, giving prominence to the role of unions, union organising and union policies relevant to national and international development agendas with a specific focus on the SDGs' union south-south cooperation initiatives

Among the 17 SDGs and associated 169 targets,
the most important for unions are²:

Goal 1.

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

- 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.
- 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.
- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.
- 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including micro finance.
- 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
- 1.a Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least-developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

Goal 2.

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, in particular:

- 2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

Goal 3.

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

2 For the full list of the 17 goals and associated 169 targets. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Goal 4.

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, in particular:

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

Goal 5.

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, particularly:

5.4 Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

Goal 7.

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, in particular:

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least-developed countries, small-island developing States, and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support.

Goal 8.

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

- 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least seven per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.
- 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.
- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.
- 8.7 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, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.
- 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.
- 8.b By 2020, develop and operationalise a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

Goal 9.

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation, in particular:

- 9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.

Goal 10.

Reduce inequality within and among countries:

- 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.
- 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.
- 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.
- 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.
- 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Goal 13.

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, in particular:

- 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.
 - 13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least-developed countries and small-island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalised communities.
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Goal 16.

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, in particular:

- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
 - 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.
 - 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.
 - 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.
 - 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.
 - 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.
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