





CHILE

A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGS

#HLPF2023

WORKERS DEMAND A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

WORKERS NEED DURABLE RESPONSES TO THE MULTIPLE CRISES

The government of Chile has adopted a series of policies to address the multiple ongoing crises. To address the cost-of-living crisis, the government has raised the minimum wage and provides monthly subsidies to households to offset rising food prices. It has also set up a network of food banks. In 2023, the government launched a National Food Sovereignty Strategy to boost food security by introducing a range of measures, such as support for smallholder and Indigenous family farming, boosting the development of farmers' markets, a program to strengthen the sustainable production of traditional crops and investment into research and development on food sovereignty and security.

To address the climate crisis, efforts are underway to adjust Chile's energy mix and minimise the use of fossil fuels. Chile plans to completely phase out coal by 2030 and to produce 65 per cent of its energy needs from renewables by 2025, rising to 80 per cent by 2030. In 2022, the government passed a Climate Change Law which makes the 2050 carbon neutrality target and the nationally determined contribution targets binding in law.

ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

Trade unions report that subsequent Chilean governments have consistently supported the implementation of Agenda 2030. In 2023, the current government of Gabriel Boric presented a new strategy for implementing the SDGs, focused on social justice, a just ecological transition, guarantees of decent jobs, and the creation of a society that places the sustainability of life, care, safety and well-being of people and communities at its centre.

All ministries must integrate SDG targets into their work and the National Council for the Implementation of Agenda 2030, made up of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economy, Environment and Social Development, monitors the streamlining of the SDGs into public policies and their implementation. However, trade unions report a clear overview of resources allocated for

the implementation of the SDGs is lacking, as these are fragmented across sectoral plans.

Trade unions report that transparency on the implementation of Agenda 2030 is set to improve with the establishment of the National Council for the Implementation of Agenda 2030, which will drive progress on reporting mechanisms. Trade unions have been consulted in the drafting process of the National Strategy for the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 for the years 2023-2030. Their input was included in both the creation of the first draft and following its initial presentation. However, as a tripartite social dialogue on SDGs has still not been put into place, social partners lack a platform to discuss and contribute on issues related to SDG implementation in a structured way.

TRANSPARENCY



Regular access to limited information

CONSULTATION



There is a structured consultation/ multi-stakeholder platform

SOCIAL DIALOGUE



No social dialogue on the SDGs



IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

The indicators for **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty)** show that Chile is a country with a high human development index (HDI) – 0.855 in 2021 – and has a ranking of 42 among the most developed countries in the world. The proportion of the population living below the international poverty line is low, standing at 0.1 per cent in 2022. However, indicators on **target 1.3 (social protection systems)** show not all the population (83 per cent) was covered by at least one social protection benefit in 2021. Notably, only 24.3 per cent of the unemployed were receiving unemployment benefits and only 80.2 per cent of workers were insured in case of a workplace injury. As for **indicator 1a.2 (spending on essential services)**, an equivalent of 14.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was spent on essential services in 2019.

Efforts remain to be made to meet **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)** as, while women already performed the greater part of caring and domestic tasks before the Covid-19 pandemic (with these tasks taking up 22 per cent of the day for women compared to 10 per cent of the day for men in 2015), their responsibilities in this area further increased: 54 per cent of women reported an increase compared to 38 per cent of men. All the while, time spent on self-care activities decreased for 38 per cent of women. On **target 5.5 (women's full and effective participation)**, the proportion of women in parliament increased from 10.8 per cent in 2000 to 22.6 per cent in 2020. The proportion of women in management posts was somewhat higher, standing at 30.4 per cent in 2021. However, both numbers are far below parity.

Regarding **SDG 8**, much remains to be done to achieve **target 8.3 (decent job creation)**, as informal employment rates in non-agricultural settings stood at 26.6 per cent in 2021. Furthermore, in 2020, 11.8 per cent of jobs were classified as precarious, with women (15.3 per cent) more likely to be working in them than men (8.9 per cent). Regarding **target 8.5 (full and productive employment)**, the unemployment rate in 2022 stood at 8.2 per cent, higher for women (8.8 per cent) than for men (7.8 per cent). The gender pay gap stood at 11.3 per cent in 2019. Underemployment stood at 16.8 per cent in 2019 and was especially high for youth aged 15-24, who had an underemployment rate of 32.6 per cent. NEET

indicators for **target 8.6 (proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 16.4 per cent in 2021, with young women (18.5 per cent) affected more than men (14.4 per cent). Data on **target 8.7 (elimination of the worst forms of child labour)** suggest that in 2020, 219,000 children were subject to child labour, the majority (187,000) in urban areas; 30 per cent were between the ages of nine and 17 years old and performed domestic chores for more than two hours per day. There is some progress on **target 8.8 (protect labour rights)**, as the proportion of fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers has been steadily dropping year on year. However, the number of trained labour inspectors per 10,000 workers has dropped significantly, from 2 in 2009, to 0.9 in 2020. In 2017, 16 violations of labour rights were recorded, nine in law and seven in practice.

Chile is making slow progress in reducing social inequalities and reach **target 10.4 (progressively achieve greater equality)**. In 2020, 10 per cent of the richest individuals controlled 35.7 per cent of the GDP, while the lowest 20 per cent controlled 5.5 per cent of the GDP. The labour share of GDP stood at 62.5 per cent in 2019, up from 54.5 per cent in 2010.

On **SDG 13** and **target 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into national policies)**, the national strategy for the implementation of the SDGs presented in 2023 includes the aim of pursuing a just ecological transition. The 2022 Climate Change Law introduces a means of cross-cutting governance in expectation of the enablement of wider public participation on this topic.

Concerns remain over the implementation of **SDG 16** and in particular, **target 16.10 (protect fundamental freedoms)** in Chile, as it continues to be classified as a country that systematically violates workers' rights. In 2021, ITUC noted brutal repressions against trade union leaders by security forces.



TRADE UNION ASKS TO LEAVE NO-ONE BEHIND

Trade unions call on the Chilean government to:

- Create a civil society council that incorporates a social perspective on the SDGs to monitor progress and involve the tripartite High Labour Council in discussions on SDG implementation.
- Encourage the creation of new decent jobs to combat the growing unemployment generated by the impact of new technologies. Provide skills acquisition training and improve upskilling qualifications for workers affected by the green and digital transitions.
- Prioritise structural reform of the social security system to ensure full coverage of vulnerable groups.
- Ensure that minimum wages increase in line with the cost of living.
- Implement care policies to address the invisible work of thousands of women, helping to strengthen an economic sphere not considered in national accounts and provide employment for a significant number of mainly women workers.
- Strengthen policies and institutions for labour prospecting and intermediation, to improve the links between workers and potential sources of employment.
- Strengthen policies and institutions that develop labour training processes and the recognition of labour competencies.



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