



ADVOCACY SEMINAR

Post-2015 framework on Sustainable Development Goals, Financing for Development and Means of Implementation

New York, 11-13 May 2015

Presentation of key messages

On SDGs

- We first welcome the engagement with the Major Groups structures to develop the Sustainable Development goals and believe this should set a precedent for processes going forward. Trade Unions are a unique constituency as representatives of workers with added value as development actors and as social partners, which include specific mechanisms for social dialogue on socio-economic policies at the national and international level.
- We also believe that the SDGs are undeniably a step forward compared to MDGs both in terms of the process to develop them and in their universality, scope and ambition, and in particular the focus on tackling major omissions of the MDGs like inequality and environmental sustainability
- Goals and targets should be rights-based, should not be biased, and should be measured both from a perspective of right-holders and duty-bearers. We highlight in particular that on the issue of Labour migration there is a need for greater emphasis on the human rights-based approach.
- The Decent Work Agenda, with its 4 pillars (workers' rights, social protection, employment and social dialogue), is a tool to fight both poverty and inequality; in the development of indicators, specific indicators on decent work (specifically on collective bargaining, wages and social dialogue) have to be integrated.
- We would add also that there needs to be a stronger focus on wages as a specific target and also in terms of means of implementation – poverty and inequality should be combatted in the first place by ensuring decent wages and raising minimum wages.
- We propose that the ILO supervisory mechanisms model is integrated into the implementation and monitoring processes of the Sustainable Development Agenda, especially at the High Level Political Forum. This also speaks to the importance of the ILO as a whole in delivering key goals for the labour movement in this agenda, and needs to be supported with appropriate resources.
- The declaration must have a clear reference to the Decent Work Agenda and international labour standards, which include fundamental principles and rights at work, social dialogue and collective bargaining. We also want to see references to the right to education, the right to water and the responsibility of the state to provide public services. We would welcome references to the Declaration on Social Justice, tax justice, and the issue of conditionality of development. The right to development, systemic issues related to IFIs, debt renegotiation should all be acknowledged.

- The accountability mechanisms of the Sustainable Development Agenda must be based on clear principles, such as mutual accountability, democratic ownership and social dialogue. Global accountability is key to effect change at national level. In this light we need commitments that go beyond voluntary in nature, and should be based on existing agreements as a minimum, for example the ILO Labour Standards.
- Civil society participation at national level to define national indicators must be ensured.
- Finally, the high-level political forum should have sufficient resources – both human and financial – to fulfil its role.

On Financing for Development (FfD)

- **We start by emphasizing the importance of the HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH.** For the labour movement this means delivering on the Decent Work Agenda in all its dimensions. Decent work is also a driver of economic and social development. We therefore see the value of a standalone paragraph referring to Decent Work as a means and an end in financing for development.
- There is broad support for social protection floors, but they need to be adequately financed and supported. We therefore call for the re-inclusion of reference to ILO Recommendation 202 and importantly ask for an agreement on the establishment of Global Fund for Social Protection to kick start universal implementation.
- We would also like the Addis Accord to explicitly recognize the role of the social partners and the social dialogue as both a means and an end when it comes to implementation.
- **It is also critical to emphasize the DEVELOPMENTAL ROLE OF THE STATE.** The State has the ultimate responsibility in delivering on development commitments, which include compliance by all actors, notably the private sector, with commitments and standards already agreed by the international community (including ILO core labour standards). The state is also responsible for ensuring fair redistribution and social inclusion. We would emphasize that the private sector is not a viable alternative to the state to provide quality public services. This agenda should not be a vehicle for privatization.
- **Further to this we suggest that Addis Outcome maintain that there be clear conditions for the private sector when speaking of development financing.**
 - The FfD document needs to include references to internationally recognized environmental, labour, and social safeguards-and their associated compliance mechanisms for all public and private international investments; including those adopted by the multilateral development banks.
 - There should be stronger and specific references to MNE compliance with International Standards, including through recognition of the ILO MNE Declaration.
 - With respect to PPPs there is little evidence which suggests that PPPs contribute to sustainable development. We insist on a more balanced approach in terms of the provision of public services that are managed publicly.
 - We also raise concerns around different clauses within Trade Agreements, which instead of promoting the development of countries can undermine state sovereignty and violate labor rights.
 - Finally, Domestic Resource Mobilization is a powerful tool to redistribute wealth and promote equality. This has to be done through: progressive fiscal policies and tax justice, including effective taxation of MNE activities, and fighting tax evasion/havens and avoidance. Equally important are universal social protection, freedom of association, collective bargaining, and decent wages. We would also highlight our support for a Financial Transactions Tax.
