

UNECE 2017 RFSD roundtable 3: Data and monitoring

Intervention by Joan Lanfranco, ITUC, Workers and Trade Unions Major Group

My name is Joan Lanfranco, I work at the International Trade Union Confederation and I'm speaking on behalf of the Workers and Trade Unions Major Group.

CSO participation

Trade unions and civil society participation must be ensured at national level to define national indicators, through multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships.

We must continue to insist and ensure that at the national level the review process is genuinely participatory.

Trade unions and civil society can play a crucial role in providing and verifying official data, particularly in terms of disaggregation.

To achieve sustainable and inclusive growth, governments should be ambitious in particular in the follow up and review.

Accountability is crucial to ensure fairer and more equitable governance in development, which ensures better policy coherence for development.

Role of trade unions

SDGs indicators should monitor the achievement of SDGs related to decent work, namely on collective bargaining, wages and social dialogue, freedom of association and freedom of assembly.

These should be included in the monitoring framework of the 2030 Agenda, and the UNECE region should be at the forefront of these indicators.

Some countries report figures that unions can contrast, challenge, and complement notably on the informal economy.

National statistical bodies tend to be more conservative on this issue. That is why CSOs and trade unions should be involved in national efforts regarding data gathering methodology.

Regarding the UNECE region more specifically, it is also very important to monitor the development of minimum wage in relation to living (fair) wage, wage share in GDP etc., as well as emigration for economic reasons.

Trade unions will complement the official monitoring, with specific indicators that are not sufficiently developed in the official set of indicators, to give a full picture of how the SDGs help realising the decent work agenda.

They will be measured and reported at global and regional level starting this year, in collaboration with UN regional commissions' statistical departments, and the ILO.

The ILO framework can serve as a 'living' example on how accountability mechanisms can work at global level through to the national level but more importantly can be integrated into the overall assessments on progress.

Likewise the ILO supervisory machinery should be utilized in efforts to achieve relevant goals and targets.

Role of private sector

Social dialogue, which brings together employers' and workers' organizations, is an excellent example of how to ensure ownership of policy processes at the national level and should be utilized and promoted wherever and whenever possible.

In this sense, it is of utmost importance that the follow up and review integrate instruments to hold business accountable at all levels.

Over the course of defining the indicators, trade unions voiced their concerns that the biggest interest of involving business in development relates to investment in infrastructure, the delivery of aid through private partners and a wholesale promotion of PPPs.

Against this background, unconditional criteria is needed to ensure that private sector intervention is in line with the public interest, especially where public resources and ODA are used to support the private sector.

Therefore, the follow up and review mechanism must also assess private sectors contribution to sustainable development objectives, including through adherence to international labour and environmental standards.

Ladies and gentlemen, a thorough indicators framework is crucial for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Remember: "What is measured gets done". Let's get down to work.

Thank you.