

International Trade Union Confederation Asia-Pacific

“SDGs for Recovery and Resilience: Trade Unions Priorities (25 February 2021)”



A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE



UN 10 Priorities for 2021 (UNGA, 28 January 2021)

1. Respond to COVID-19
2. Start an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery
3. Make peace with nature
4. Tackle poverty and inequality
5. Reverse the assault on human rights
6. Gender equality, the greatest human rights challenge
7. Heal geopolitical rifts
8. Reverse the erosion of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime
9. Seize the opportunities of digital technologies while protecting against their growing dangers
10. Launch a reset for the 21st century

ITUC 5 demands for recovery and resilience

1. Creation of climate-friendly jobs with just transition
2. Rights for all workers
3. Universal social protection
4. Equality
5. Inclusion



ITUC 5 demands for recovery and resilience:

1. Creation of climate-friendly jobs with just transition

- More investment in quality public services (health, education, etc.)
- Relying on demand from GSCs → Boosting domestic demands
- Strengthened labour market institutions to increase labour income share
- Export-led/debt-driven growth → income-led growth based on high income and pro-labour distributional policies



ITUC 5 demands for recovery and resilience:

2. Rights for all workers

Labour protection floor for all

(ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, 2019)

1. Respect for fundamental rights at work, most importantly freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining
2. Adequate minimum living wage
3. Maximum limits on working hours
4. Safety and health at work



ITUC 5 demands for recovery and resilience:

3. Universal social protection

- Prerequisite to eradicating poverty and equality and ensuring decent work.
- Asia Pacific – high deficits in social protection: 60% without access to it.
- Fiscal policy based on fair taxation.
- A Global Social Protection Fund



ITUC 5 demands for recovery and resilience:

4. Equality

- COVID-19 disruption by class, gender and wealth.
- Not a COVID-19 crisis, but a systematic crisis.
- End all discrimination: all people can share in prosperity.



ITUC 5 demands for recovery and resilience:

5. Inclusion

- Inclusive growth and development
- Developing countries can develop their economies and guarantee tax systems.
- An inclusive approach to COVID-19: testing, treatment and vaccines.



Social dialogue - A key to recovery and resilience

- Bilateral interaction between Gov. and TU only in 7 out of 17 countries
- To promote TU engagement in SDGs processes and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.
- Dialogue between TU and UN Resident Coordinators in cooperation with ILO.