

Update on trade union engagement on SDGs at global and regional level

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Our SDGs advocacy: highlights 2023



Delegation to 10th APFSD (UN-ESCAP, Bangkok, march 2023)

TUDCN-AP Regional Meeting
(Bangkok, march 2023)



SDG country reports for AP in 2023



WORKERS NEED DURABLE RESPONSES TO MULTIPLE CRISES

The Bangladeshi government has introduced specific measures to tackle the multiple crises, giving priority to food security, climate change and mitigating the impact of COVID-19. On food security, in 2020, a National Food and Nutrition Security Policy Plan of Action for 2021-2030 was introduced. The plan introduced incentives, legislation and regulation to encourage welfare, food safety, healthy diets and nutritional improvement in the population.

To address the public health implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the government formulated Health Guidelines on Covid-19 and a National Preparedness and Response Plan. To combat its economic consequences, initiatives such as subsidising the cost of purchasing rice for vulnerable citizens were introduced.

Bangladesh is one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries. At the 2022 COP26 summit, it displayed international solidarity by pledging to cut its carbon emissions by 22% by 2030. To reach the target, 96% of Bangladeshi emissions cuts will come from sectors such as energy production, transport, industry, households, commercial and agriculture, brick kilns and fugitive emissions. The rest will be cut from agriculture and livestock, forestry, and municipal solid waste and wastewater.

ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Bangladesh has integrated the SDGs into its eighth Five-Year Plan (2020-2025). The Ministry of Planning coordinates SDG integration and implementation, alongside the SDG coordinator in the office of the Prime Minister. The government has developed national-level SDG trackers and publishes progress reports on the implementation of Agenda 2030, based on information provided by line ministries and government agencies to the Ministry of Planning. A financing plan for the implementation of Agenda 2030 has been developed drawing on budgetary resources, donor and private sector funding.

Information on the process of SDG implementation is published in the form of the SDG Progress Report and is accessible to all. However, trade unions state that the reporting lacks detailed data on progress on individual targets for specific goals.

Trade unions and civil society are partially consulted on the design and implementation of national SDG plans. However, a strong and functional multi-stakeholder platform on the SDGs is missing. Civil society and trade unions have formed the Citizen Platform for SDGs, which provides a broad platform for discussions, including, occasionally, government representatives.

There have been instances where social partners have been engaged in discussions on SDG implementation within the framework of the tripartite dialogue. However, trade unions report that the government prioritises the input of employers and that trade unions and workers' representatives have not been visibly and effectively involved in the overall implementation of the SDGs.

TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

CONSULTATION



Information sessions but a lack of interaction

SOCIAL DIALOGUE



Individual contributions from social partners to the national government



Jatio Sramik League (JSL)
Bangladesh Labour Federation (BLF)
Bangladesh Jatiyatbadi Sramik Dal (BJSD)

Bangladesh Mukto Sramik Federation (BMSF)
Bangladesh Sanjuktta Sramik Federation (BSSF)
Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress (BFTUC)



WORKERS NEED SUSTAINABLE RESPONSES TO MULTIPLE CRISES

In the wake of the crisis provoked by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Maldives government, with the support from International Financial Institutions (IFIs), has been working on introducing reforms to create and implement an active and integrated labour market policy. IFI grant and loan schemes are also being used to plan projects supporting the transition to sustainable renewable energy, to better address the challenges of the energy crisis. However, trade unions point out that in the absence of a tripartite social dialogue, these discussions are not well coordinated with social partners and lack a meaningful consultative process.

Trade unions welcome the fact that the Maldives government has increased climate budgeting over the past decade, making it an integral part of public finances and the annual budget. This addresses the climate crisis as it includes budgeting for disaster reduction, risk management, building a resilient public health system adapted to climate change as well as enhancements to water security and coastal protection. However, a more inclusive approach to the fight against climate change is needed through just transition plans negotiated with social partners, including trade unions, in all phases of policy implementation.

ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) objectives are integrated into the Maldives' National Strategic Action Plan 2019-2023. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is coordinated by the Ministry of Planning, which contains an SDG monitoring unit. A National Coordination Committee comprising the Ministries of Environment and Energy, Youth and Sports, Education, Fisheries and Agriculture, Gender and Family, and Foreign Affairs monitors the progress of implementation.

Trade unions report that in 2022, the government allocated USD 14 million from different funds and grants to SDG implementation. However, the lack of transparency with regards to how these funds are being used, or with regards to how implementation is progressing overall in the Maldives, means that trade unions are unable to assess if this financing is adequate.

Trade unions regret that there is a lack of transparency and adequate data sharing of materials such as implementation progress reports. They report that the government conducted a consultation with civil society, including trade unions, as part of the country's 2023 voluntary national review (VNR), which was the first instance of trade unions being consulted on this topic. However, it is not clear if their contributions have been taken on board. Furthermore, since the Covid-19 pandemic, broader dialogue on the SDGs between civil society and the government has been lacking. Previously, annual civil society fora had been held, but these have not yet been resumed.

Since 2019, tripartite dialogue has been conducted in the context of the Minimum Wage Advisory Board, but discussions are restricted to the minimum wage, with no consultation related to SDG 8 or other SDGs.

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Our SDGs advocacy: highlights 2023

UN High Level Political Forum on Sust. Dev. July, New York



Promote

"Despite the fact that right to [#CollectiveBargaining](#) & to [#FreedomOfAssociation](#) are a pre-requisite to achieve the [#SDGs](#) & [#SocialJustice](#), the limitations to these rights persist in the [#Maldives](#)"
👉 response of [@Fathimathzimna](#) to her Gov's [#VNR](#)
[#timefor8](#) [#HLPF2023](#) [@mtucMV](#)



Timefor8 campaign 2023



Workers are the backbone of global efforts to save the planet. They stand ready to engage in constructive social dialogue and reinforce global governance. Midway to 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals are more relevant than ever to deliver a New Social Contract. The time to act is now.

Akiko Gono,
ITUC President.



#Timefor8
timefor8.org



Trade unions around the world are participating in adapting cities to a carbon-free world. In Norway and many other countries, social dialogue enables workers to participate in just transition plans of their cities that are good for people and the environment.

Peggy Hessen Falsvik,
LO President, Norway.



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timefor8.org



The world has historically relied on oil, gas, and coal for energy. The shift toward renewable energy must take place through a clear and inclusive just transition. Like in South Africa, workers around the world are putting on the table clear proposals to make this shift happen while respecting workers' rights.

Zingiswa Lesi,
COSATU President, South Africa.



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Sustainable industrial policies with clean energy transition will not only meet the challenges of the climate crisis but also create good, union jobs that will benefit local communities for generations to come. In order for all working people to feel a part of this transition, workers need to be at the table to lead innovation that serves social progress and the environment.

Liz Shuter,
AFL-CIO President, USA.

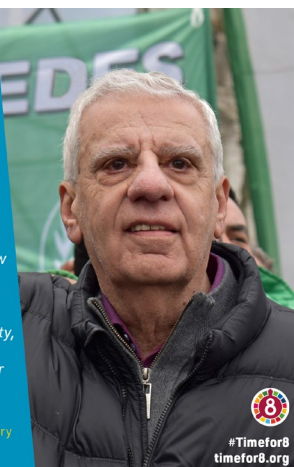


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Our vision as sanitation workers is based on the consideration of access to clean water and sanitation as an essential human right. In Argentina, it is the workers with militancy and persistence who allow us to face greater challenges through state policies to guarantee accessibility, sustainability, and sanitation of water for all.

José Luis Lingerí,
SGBAT OS-CGT RA Secretary General, Argentina.



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Our SDGs advocacy: highlights 2023

SDG Summit, **Sept, New York**



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❖ **SDGs Roadmap for 2024-5**

SDGs Roadmap for 2024



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

8-17 July, New York



Global and regional Advocacy

**ITUC-AP Delegation to 11th Asia
Pacific Forum on Sustainable
Development (UN-ESCAP, Bangkok,
20-23 feb)**



**Summit of the Future
sept, New York**



High Level Political Forum 2024

- **Schedule:** 8-17 July , UN, New York ([official website](#))
- **Objectives:** review of selected SDGs and presentations of voluntary national reviews by [41 countries](#) (e.g. Nepal and Samoa)
- **Expected outcome:** HLPF Ministerial Declaration
- **SDGs under review in 2024 :**





Summit of the Future 2024

Schedule: 22-23 September, New York ([website](#))

Objectives: Address gaps in global governance hindering the achievement of the SDGs.

Expected outcome: “Pact for the Future” on:

- 1) sustainable development & financing for development;
- 2) international peace & security;
- 3) science, technology, digitalization;
- 4) youth and future generations;
- 5) global governance.

Process: a zero draft, released in January, will be negotiated among governments - limited space for civil society participation.



Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

Objectives:

- 1) 400 ml decent jobs created by 2030 (green, care and digital economy);
- 2) 4 bl people covered by social protection floors;
- 3) Just digital and climate transitions for all.

Process:

- The ILO leads around 20 other UN agencies.
- [implementation strategy](#) and [priority countries](#) were identified in 2022.
- 1st implementation phase between 2023-26.



Global Accelerator: priority countries In A-P

A) Initial Engagement with the Government

- Philippines
- Pakistan
- Nepal
- Viet Nam

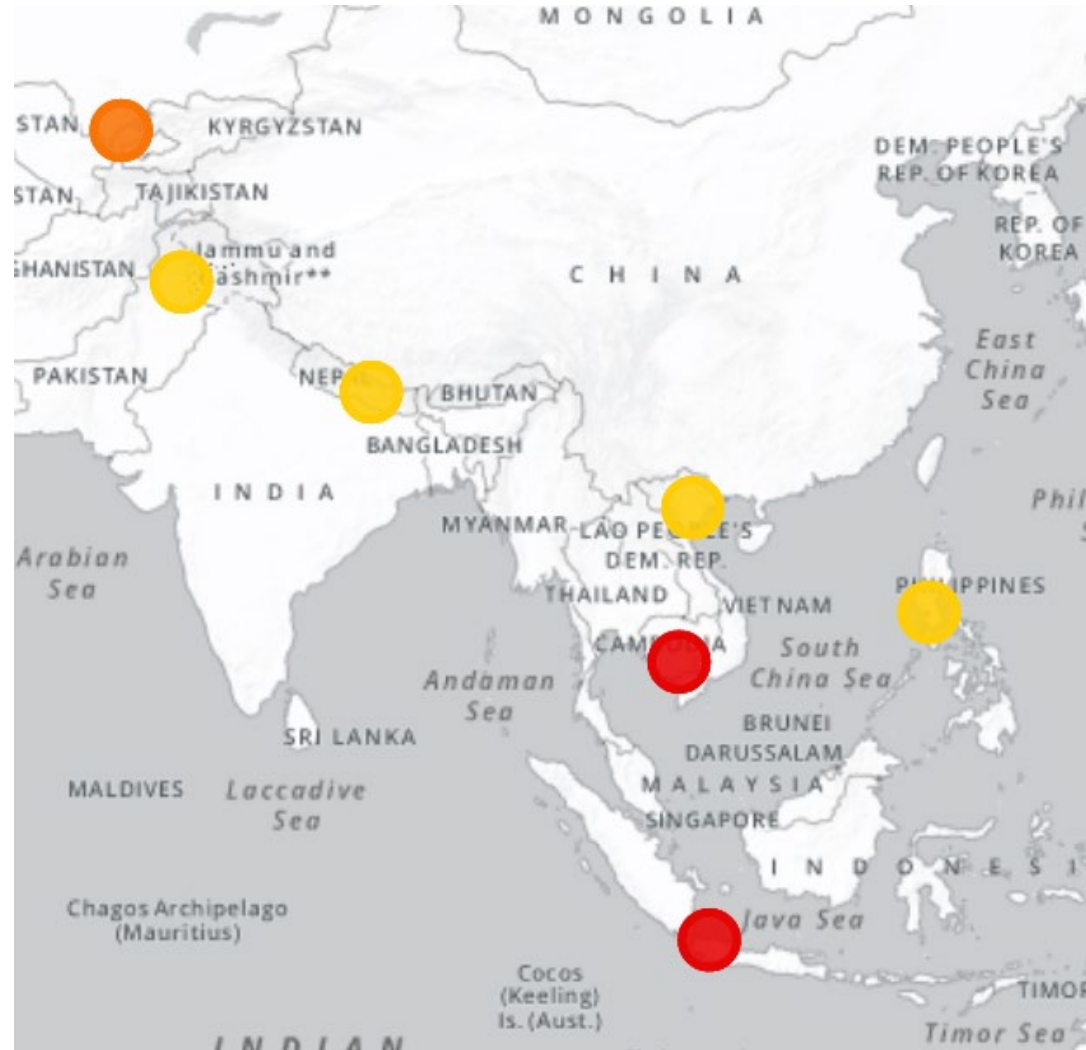
B) High-Level Political Commitment Confirmed

- Uzbekistan

C) Roadmap Development in Progress:

- Cambodia
- Indonesia

→ More info [here](#)





World Social Summit 2025

Schedule: TBC - Probably in Sept 2025.

Objectives: 1) Strengthen UN's framework for social development; and 2) pave the way to the post-2030 Agenda.

Strategic Value: ITUC will push for:

- 1) The centrality of labour within the global social agenda – role of the ILO Global Coalition for Social Justice.
- 2) Putting equality and inclusion at the centre of the "beyond 2030 agenda" debate.
- 3) Include the topic of financing social development as a priority that goes together with social policies



Thank you!

(more info on the [TUDCN webpage](#))