

“RESCUING THE SDGS: TRADE UNIONS’ ASKS AND SOLUTIONS FOR AFRICA”

WEBINAR: 11-12 APRIL 2024 9 – 11 AM LOME’ TIME

(INTERPRETATION TO ENGLISH AND FRENCH)

[WEB PAGE OF THE EVENT](#)

Background

In the framework of the [Trade Union Development Cooperation Network \(TUDCN\)](#) - an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) that aims at bringing the trade union perspective in development policy processes, trade union centres from Africa have been actively engaged in advocacy on the SDGs.

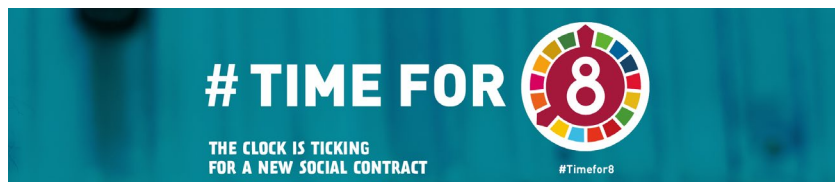
Since 2019, the ITUC [Time for 8 Campaign](#) has been putting forward the importance of SDG 8 in the recovery from the current multiple crises. ITUC affiliates’ engagement in this campaign translated into an [outstanding mobilisation of trade union leaders and workers](#) to emphasize the role of the trade unions as development actors and the importance of SDG 8 to leverage the overall Agenda 2030. The Campaign has also been a space to voice the trade union support to key UN processes, such as the UN Secretary-General’s call for a “renewed social contract” in his report “Our Common Agenda”, and the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transitions.

An important part of our actions in the framework of the Time for 8 Campaign in Africa has been to promote the role of SDG 8 in the national dialogue with governments and the United Nations Resident Coordinators. Moreover, trade union leaders in the region have been engaging in the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) to show the centrality of decent work in accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda.

In preparation for the 2024 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD, Cairo, 23-25 April), the trade union centres involved in the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) of the International Trade Union Confederation for Africa (ITUC-Africa) will meet virtually to discuss their key messages and strategy for the Forum and to dialogue with relevant organizations involved in the implementation of the SDGs, such as the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), the ILO and the UN Development Coordination Office.

Objectives

- Discuss strategies to strengthen the national dialogue between trade unions, governments and UN Resident Coordinators, in order to enhance the role of SDG 8 in the governments development policies and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks;
- Define key messages and advocacy strategy for the ITUC-Africa delegation participating to the 2024 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD, Cairo, 23-25 April);
- Share trade union priorities and success stories to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs – including the ones under review at the RFSD (namely SDG 1, 2,13,16,17) - with key stakeholders for the Agenda2030 in Africa, such as the UN ECA, the ILO, and the UN Development Coordination Office.



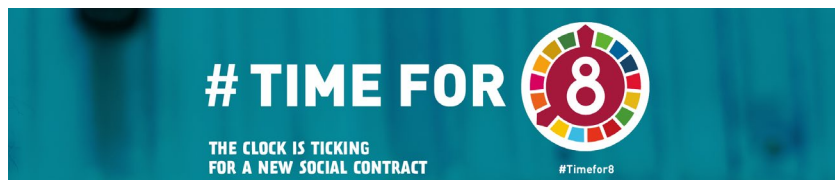
Participants:

- Trade union leaders that participate in the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) of the International Trade Union Confederation for Africa (ITUC-Africa);
- ITUC and ITUC-Africa leadership;
- Representatives from ILO Regional Office for Africa and ACTRAV/ILO, the UN Development Coordination Office for Africa and UN ECA.

AGENDA

DAY 1: STATE OF PLAY OF SDGs IN AFRICA

9:00-9:10 am	Welcome and opening	Joel Odigie, General Secretary, ITUC-Africa Paola Simonetti, Director Equality Department ITUC
9:10-10:00	Setting the scene: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - global and regional UN processes on the SDGs - State of play of SDGs in Africa with specific focus on the SDGs under review at the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (SDG 1, 2, 13,16, 17) Comments and Q&A	Giulia Massobrio, TUDCN Coordinator, ITUC Hilma Mote, Desk Officer for Africa, ACTRAV/ILO Geneva
10:00-10:50	Developing trade union key messages the SDGs under review at the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (SDG 1, 2, 13,16) and workers stories	Hod Anyigba, Executive Director, Africa Labour Research and Education Institute (ALREI), ITUC- Africa Discussions in groups among members + plenary
10:50-11:00	Conclusions of day 1	Paola Simonetti, Director Equality Department ITUC Joel Odigie, General Secretary, ITUC-Africa



DAY 2: POLICY DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS VIS-À-VIS THE AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

9:00-9:10 am	Welcome and opening	Joel Odigie, General Secretary, ITUC-Africa Paola Simonetti, Director Equality Department ITUC
9:10-10:00	Trade unions' take on the SDGs under review at the Africa Forum on Sustainable Development: key messages and successful stories	Selected trade union leaders from the Network (presenting key messages discussed the day before and concrete trade union stories on how trade unions contribute to the SDGs under review in 2024 (SDG 1, 2, 13,16): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDG 1 and 2: Anne Cecile Coly, Chair of the Women's Committee, UNSAS Senegal - SDG 13: Boitumelo Molete, Social Development Policy Coordinator, COSATU South Africa - SDG 16: Omar Faruk, Secretary General, FESTU Somalia - SDG 17: Mahongora Kavihuha, Secretary General, TUCNA Namibia
10:00-10:50	UN priorities on the SDGs under review at the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (SDG 1, 2, 13,16, 17) Debate in plenary	High Level Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saurabh Sinha, Section chief for social policy, Gender, Poverty, and Social Policy Division, UNECA - Coffi Agossou, Deputy Regional Director, ILO Regional Office for Africa - Joel Odigie, General Secretary, ITUC-Africa Moderated by Paola Simonetti, Director, Equality Department, ITUC
10:50-11:00	Main takeaways of the dialogue Conclusions	Conclusions by: Paola Simonetti, Director Equality Department ITUC Joel Odigie, General Secretary, ITUC-Africa



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