



## “RESCUING THE SDGs: TRADE UNIONS’ ASKS AND SOLUTIONS FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC”

WEBINAR: 12-13 FEBRUARY 2024 3 – 5 PM BANGKOK TIME

### 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 Asia and the Pacific 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 Asia-Pacific 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 Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) to show the centrality of decent work in accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda.

In preparation for the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the [APFSD 2024](#) (APFSD) (Bangkok, 20/23 February 2024), the trade union centres involved in the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) of the International Trade Union Confederation for Asia-Pacific (ITUC-AP) 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 ESCAP, 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-AP delegation participating to the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2024 (Bangkok, 20/23 February 2024);
- Share trade union priorities and success stories to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs – including the ones under review at the APFSD (namely SDG 1, 2,13,16,17) - with key stakeholders for the Agenda2030 in AP, such as the UN ESCAP, 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 Asia-Pacific (ITUC-AP);
- ITUC and ITUC-AP leadership;
- Representatives from ILO Regional Office for Asia-Pacific and ACTRAV/ILO;
- Representatives from UN Development Coordination Office for Asia-Pacific;
- Representatives from UN ESCAP.

## AGENDA

### DAY 1: STATE OF PLAY OF SDGS IN ASIA-PACIFIC

3:00-3:10 pm	Welcome and opening	Shoya Yoshida, GS ITUC-AP Paola Simonetti, Director Equality Department ITUC
3:10-3:40	Setting the scene on the global and regional processes on the SDGs Comments and Q&A	Giulia Massobrio, ITUC ACTRAV representative (to be indicated by ACTRAV)
3:40-4:15	State of play of SDGs in AP with specific focus on the SDGs under review at the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (SDG 1, 2, 13,16, 17) Q&A	Oliver Paddison, Chief, Section on Sustainable Development and Countries in Special Situations, UN-ESCAP
4:15-4:50	Developing trade union key messages the SDGs under review at the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (SDG 1, 2, 13,16, 17) and workers stories	Joy Hernandez, ITUC-AP Discussions in groups among TUDCN-AP members + plenary
4:50-5:00	Conclusions of day 1	Paola Simonetti, Director Equality Department ITUC Shoya Yoshida, GS ITUC-AP



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

3:00-3:10 pm	Welcome and opening	Shoya Yoshida, GS ITUC-AP Paola Simonetti, Director Equality Department ITUC
3:10-4:00	UN priorities on the SDGs under review at the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (SDG 1, 2, 13,16, 17)  Debate in plenary	Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, UN ESCAP  Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa, ILO Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific  David McLachlan-Karr, Director, Development Coordination Office, UN-ESCAP  Moderated by Shoya Yoshida, GS ITUC-AP
4:00-4:35	Trade unions' take on the SDGs under review at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development: key messages and successful stories	Selected trade union leaders
4:35- 5:00	Main takeaways of the dialogue  Conclusions	Quick feedback from:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, UN ESCAP</li> <li>- Chihoko Asada-Miyakawa, ILO Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific</li> <li>- David McLachlan-Karr, Director, Development Coordination Office, UN-ESCAP</li> </ul> Conclusions by: Paola Simonetti, Director Equality Department ITUC Shoya Yoshida, GS ITUC-AP



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