

CHILE



A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2019



ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The implementation of Agenda 2030 in Chile is done through the National Council for Sustainable Development, chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and including the Ministry of the Economy, Development and Tourism, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Environment. The role of the Council is to advise the President on the implementation of Agenda 2030, coordinate its implementation at national and regional levels and consult with governmental entities, international organisations, the private sector and civil society. The Council works through three commissions focused on economic, social and environmental aspects of the SDGs. However, trade unions report that since a new government came into power in March 2018, no activities relevant to the implementation of the SDGs have taken place.

While the government has taken steps to prepare for its 2019 VNR, trade

unions have not been systematically informed of or consulted in this process. Social partners have not been invited to discuss or provide input towards the implementation of the SDGs in the framework of the Superior Labour Council, a tripartite space created to foster social dialogue. While the government has organised workshops on some SDGs in the framework of the VNR, trade unions were only invited to the one on SDG 8 (decent work), organised by the Ministry of Labour.

Trade unions are concerned that some of the legislative initiatives proposed by the new government go against the objectives of the SDGs, such as the proposed new legislation on nurseries, the juvenile labour code, the labour adaptability act, and the pension and fiscal reforms, which in the view of trade unions would end up being a tax reduction for the richest sectors of the country.

TRANSPARENCY



Regular access to limited information

CONSULTATION



There is no consultation process at all

SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is a structured consultation/
multi-stakeholder platform.



IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

Chilean trade unions warn that despite some progress, the government's lack of efforts to implement Agenda 2030 and some of its planned reforms may cause the country difficulty in reaching the SDGs.

Indicators for **target 1.1 (eradicating extreme poverty)** have been steadily improving over the past years, although in 2017, 1.8 per cent of the population was living on under US\$3.20 per day. While some social protection benefits covered nearly the entire sections targeted (children, the disabled and people living in poverty) in 2016, only 37.9 per cent of the unemployed received social security, suggesting that **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems)** was not fully reached. Government spending on essential services, including health, education and social protection, has been stagnant at around 12-13 per cent between 2009-2015.

Efforts to reach **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies)** continue to be necessary, as 2015 data shows that women spend more than twice the amount of their time (22 per cent) on unpaid labour compared to men (10.1 per cent). In addition, women are more likely than men to be employed in the informal sector (29.8 per cent compared to 27.7 per cent). However, performance on **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)** has improved thanks to the introduction of an election list quota requiring 40 per cent of candidates to be women, which has resulted in a rise of the number of women present in both houses of parliament – from 18.4 per cent to 23.3 per cent in the upper house and from 15.8 per cent to 22.6 per cent in the lower house. Furthermore, between 1992 and 2017, the average number of years of schooling for women increased from 8.1 per cent to 11 per cent.

Nonetheless, **target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation)** is still off being reached, as 28.7

per cent of workers are in the informal economy, with women more likely to be informally employed (31 per cent) than men (26.3 per cent). In addition, 11.9 per cent of jobs are low paid, with women more than twice as likely to hold these (17.7 per cent) than men (8.3 per cent). In 2017, 23.9 per cent of jobs were classified as precarious, a proportion that has remained steady, with a tendency towards increasing, since 2010. In 2018, the overall unemployment rate stood at 7.2 per cent, with young women (15-24) being most likely to be unemployed (20.2 per cent), suggesting that **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** requires attention. In addition, in 2017, the gender pay gap stood at 29.3 per cent. At 8.7 per cent underemployment remains a problem, especially for young women (affecting 16.5 per cent of women aged 15-24 as compared to 10.6 per cent of men in the same age group), although they are more likely to be underemployed in all age groups. Indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stand at 15.9 per cent, 13.3 per cent for men and 18.9 per cent of women. With regard to **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)**, the number of labour inspectors per 10,000 workers has been steadily going down, and has halved from the already low number of two in 2009, to one in 2017. Collective bargaining coverage has also decreased from a high of 26.6 per cent in 2009 to 17.9 per cent in 2016.

Significant progress remains to be made for Chile to reduce social inequalities and reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as the share of the top 10 per cent of income earners accounted for 37.9 per cent of overall GDP, while the bottom 20 per cent of income earners accounted for a miniscule 5.2 per cent of GDP in 2017.

With regard to meeting **target 16.10 (protect fundamental freedoms)**, judicial and governmental pressure, as well as attempts to intimidate trade union and indigenous leaders in the context of land and labour conflicts, are of significant concern.

WHERE TO NEXT? TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT) calls on the government to involve civil society into discussions and consultations on Agenda 2030 by:

- Creating a civil society council to include a social perspective into the SDG planning process, follow up on the progress made and contribute to an assessment of the state of the implementation of the SDGs.
- Including discussions on the implementation of the SDGs into the agenda of the Superior Labour Council.



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