

EATUC: THE ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS IN CHAMPIONING THE ATTAINMENT OF THE 2030 UN AGENDA IN EAST AFRICA

East Africa Trade Union Confederation (EATUC) campaign for the 2030 Agenda in East Africa.

EATUC's focus on Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth



“In the context of the Covid-19 crisis recovery, the SDGs are more relevant than ever, showing the path towards resilient and just societies,”

— Khamati Mugalla, Executive Secretary at the East Africa Trade Union Confederation (EATUC).

MILLICENT MWOLOLO
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



Caroline Khamati Mugalla, Head of Secretariat, East African Trade Union Confederation.



Trade unions have been contributing to the implementation of the SDGs at national, regional and global level since their adoption in 2015. The East Africa Trade Union Confederation (EATUC) has been rallying the UN Secretary-General's call for a “New Social Contract” to create equal opportunities and respect the rights and freedoms of all within societies and his vision around a new model for global governance based on a reinvig-

orated and inclusive multilateralism. In the context of the Covid-19 crisis recovery, the SDGs are more relevant than ever, showing the path towards resilient and just societies, noted Khamati Mugalla, Executive Secretary at the East Africa Trade Union Confederation (EATUC). Ms Mugalla explained that for trade unions,

the New Social Contract needs to respond to five workers' demands: (i) the creation of decent climate-friendly jobs with just transition, (ii) rights for all workers, (iii) the implementation of universal social protection (iv) equality for women and for all groups that face discrimination, and (v) an inclusive development model for the realisation of the SDGs to ensure that developing countries can actually

develop their economies and guarantee tax systems that provide the income vital for governments to meet the needs of people and the planet. “SDG 8, with its targets on decent work, inclusive growth, equitable distribution of wealth, social inclusion and environmental preservation, is central to implementing these key demands for a New Social Contract,” she pointed out.

Global gaps in the attainment of Goal 8

5%

An estimated 172 million people worldwide were without work in 2018 - an unemployment rate of 5 percent.

1 MILLION

As a result of an expanding labour force, the number of unemployed is projected to increase by 1 million every year and reach 174 million by 2020.

700 MILLION

Some 700 million workers lived in extreme or moderate poverty in 2018, with less than US\$3.20 per day.

48%

Women's participation in the labour force stood at 48 per cent in 2018, compared with 75 percent for men. Around 3 in 5 of the 3.5 billion people in the labour force in 2018 were men.

2 BILLION

Overall, 2 billion workers were in informal employment in 2016, accounting for 61 per cent of the world's workforce.

85 MILLION

Many more women than men are underutilised in the labour force—85 million compared to 55 million.

Gaps in the implementation of SDG 8 in East Africa

	Kenya	Tanzania	Uganda	Rwanda	Burundi
Poverty	36 %	49.1 %	41 %	39 %	80.2 %
Working Poor	31 %	67 %	75 %	-----	69.4 %
Unemployment	12.6 %	13.7 %	2.44 %	1.35 %	6.2 %
Informal Employment	84 %	71.8 %	80 %	89.5 %	89.4 %
Vulnerable Employment	53.5 %	83.5 %	74.84 %	66.2 %	94.6 %
Women in parliament	21.8 %	37 %	35%	61.3 %	38 %
Economic Growth	4.5 %	2.1 %	4.5 %	5 %	2 %
Life Expectancy	66.7 years	65.4 years	63.7 years	69.2 years	61.5 years

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EATUC's focus on SDG's in East African countries

“As we strive to recover from the pandemic and build a better world, we need to forge a new social contract based on inclusivity and sustainability.”

— UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

MILLICENT MWOLOLO
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The 2020 Agenda for sustainable development was adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 and contains a set of shared objectives, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to which all countries have committed. The 17 SDGs cover issues highly relevant to the work of trade unions, including the promotion of decent work, the fight against poverty, inequalities and climate change. The SDGs too, recognise the need for greater equality, free quality education, public services and stronger institutions. The world's sustainability and social cohesion are at risk as the COVID-19 pandemic rages on. The challenge of limiting the damages while building forward better towards the implementation of the SDGs is greater than ever. There is an urgent need of changing the economic production and labour relations model and adopting social-minded policies to ensure a strong recovery for all.

Tanzania

The government of Tanzania has integrated the SDGs into its national planning by including them into the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and the Longterm Perspective plan (LTPP) 2011/12-2025/26. Funding for the implementation of Agenda 2030 is foreseen in the Second Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP II) 2016/17-2020/21. The Ministry of Finance and Planning, the National Bureau of Statistics, the Planning Commission, the President's Office Regional Administration and the Poverty Eradication Program oversee the implementation of the SDGs. The Tanzanian government is working on all SDGs prioritised by trade unions to a certain extent.



Trade unions are informed about the implementation of the SDGs through Progress Reports produced by the National Bureau of Statistics. The government has further organised an awareness-raising workshop on the SDGs. Trade unions report that the national budgeting process has been aligned with Agenda 2030.

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Kenya

The Kenyan government implements the 2030 Agenda through its Vision 2030 strategy, rolled out in five-year Medium-Term Plans (MTPs). The 2018-2022 MTP, together with the County Integrated Development Plans, mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Agenda 2063. The government has prioritised the Big Four Agenda (universal health coverage, affordable housing, manufacturing and food security), which also mirrors the SDG aspirations. The Ministry of Devolution and Planning coordinates the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. An inter-agency technical committee representing all ministries has been set up within it and linked with the county governments. Trade unions report that their engagement in the implementation of SDG 8 is only possible indirectly through the development and monitoring of the Decent Work Country Program.

Rwanda

Twenty-five years ago, the Genocide against the Tutsi left Rwanda far behind on all development indicators and its entire socio-economic fabric destroyed. Rwandans embarked on a rebuilding process driven by a shared **Vision 2020** based on three fundamental choices: unity, ambition, and accountability. Since 2000, Rwanda has registered inclusive growth, averaging 8 per cent annually leading to millions being lifted out of poverty and good progress in all development sectors. Rwanda has integrated the **Africa**

Agenda 2063 and the **SDGs** into its national development agenda through the draft **Vision 2050, National Strategy for Transformation** (NST1, 2017-2024) and related strategies at different levels. The extreme poor are supported through social protection programmes. Rwanda is also piloting the comprehensive refugees' response framework for their socio-economic inclusion.

Uganda

Uganda has been steadfast in its efforts to realise the aspirations of her people. The 3rd National Development Plan (2020/21-2024/25) underwent a wide consultative process and will be a vehicle for accelerating SDGs and Vision 2040. A fully-fledged national SDG Secretariat has been established to support the SDG Coordination architecture to ensure that Uganda stays on track in implementing the SDGs. The government is also building strong institutions at subnational level to accelerate the implementation of SDGs through localisation and voluntary local reviews. Uganda has developed a comprehensive Public Finance Management (PFM) Reform Strategy (2018-2023) that acknowledges several financial management challenges and presents recommendations to address them.

Burundi

The Burundi government has established a national list of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2016-2030 and integrated them into the 2018-2027 National Development Plan (NDP). Work on the SDGs is coordinated by a multisectoral and multidisciplinary national monitoring commission of experts under the supervision of the second Vice-President. Different ministries are responsible for the inclusion of SDGs into their respective policy areas. Trade unions report that they are not consulted on the planning or implementation of the SDGs and that the 2030 Agenda is not discussed through social dialogue. The national monitoring commission does not include trade union representatives, nor are they informed on the implementation progress. Ministries organise consultation sessions, but these do not involve social partners. Trade unions have made submissions on relevant sectoral policies which contribute to SDG implementation, although they are not directly integrated into the NDP.

Trade unions ask governments in East Africa to 'leave no one behind'

Kenya

The government of Kenya needs to put in place policies and measures in order to tackle the economic and social shocks brought by the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, the Central Organisation of Trade Unions (COTU) calls on the government of Kenya to ensure urgent action to cope with the pandemic crisis in line with the SDGs, through the following measures:

- Give priority in the budget to critical sectors like health and labour.
- Prioritise tax-funded social services over external debt-financed capital infrastructure.
- Set up a multi-stakeholder SDG monitoring forum which would include trade unions to allow for the monitoring of labour-specific SDGs.
- Institutionalise employment insurance as an integral part of the social protection system.
- Institutionalise a pandemic and emergency fund.
- Review labour laws to recognise emerging work arrangements, such as telework, and provide for responses to pandemic situations.

Burundi

Trade unions call on the government of Burundi to ensure urgent action to cope with the pandemic crisis in line with the SDGs, through the following measures:

- Involve social partners in responses to the Covid-19 crisis as well as in shaping national development policies and implementing the SDGs.
- Adopt and ensure the implementation of all targets related to SDG 8.
- Develop a strategy to mobilise funds to address the flaws in the health system and the economic shocks resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.
- Protect the supply of food and essential services and ensure that appropriate pricing is maintained.
- Formulate policy to support public and private companies and informal sector activities likely to suffer the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis.
- Devise strategies to counter rumours and political manipulation of the crisis.

Tanzania

The Trade Union Congress of Tanzania calls on the Tanzanian government to:

- Establish a national platform for consultations with civil society and ensure that stakeholders such as trade unions, NGOs, CBOs, local communities and indigenous people have a say in policy formulation, implementation of the SDGs.
- Identify national-level policies with a direct link to the implementation of the SDGs and ensure their integration through awareness raising and communication to all levels of government, with consideration of time-frame, feasibility, and sustainability of implementation.
- Ensure that all sectors, ministries and local authorities include SDG targets into their strategic plans.

Rwanda

Significant external resources are needed to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and to scale up successful interventions. There is need to support the national statistical capacity both technically and financially to cover all applicable SDG indicators.

