



# A TRADE UNION TAKE ON THE SDGs



2019



**“**The key role of trade unions in convincing the government to include social actors in SDG policy and planning work has earned them the trust and support of civil society to chair the SDG 16 thematic group of the national platform for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. Anselme Amoussou, Secretary General of CSA-Bénin.

**“**We started an SDG implementation indicator group in 2015 and it is still going on. We are working on upgrading indicators for quality of life and of decreasing inequality. However, our biggest focus has been on education indicators. After two years of discussions we ended up with a very important indicator on employer provided paid trainings to workers. In the beginning we had problems with the Ministry of Education to get that indicator in, mainly because of the political context at the time, but thanks to the support of civil society and some political changes in the country, now it is there. Pia Björkbacka, International Adviser at the Central Organisation for Finnish Trade Unions (SAK).

**“**The SDGs reflect the agenda of trade unions and are fully intertwined in our priorities, such as poverty, discrimination, equality, decent work, democracy or a sustainable development model for Argentina. Unfortunately, the government is not open minded enough to include external voices in its work towards achieving the SDGs. The result is that the country is doing poorly. Andrés Larisgoitea, Director of the Department of International Relations, CTA de los Trabajadores, Argentina.

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# INTRODUCTION

Trade unions are instrumental to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through their relentless defence of all workers' rights and promotion of a labour protection guarantee<sup>1</sup> that would set the floor for a New Social Contract, which is placed at the core of SDG 8.

**“ Trade unions are key to the 2030 Agenda. They are central actors in the world of the productive sphere of society and their work relates not only to SDG 8 – which covers economic growth and decent work – but also to other issues such as gender equality, equality in general, ending poverty, education and others. They have accumulated experience of more than a century of negotiations and social agreements, in all countries of the world, and this is a great wealth to contribute to advancing the 2030 agenda. Lais Abramo, Director of UN ECLAC Unit on Social Development.**

With the objective of contributing their skills and knowledge to the creation of a developmental model that is true to the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, trade unions have undertaken to build an independent worker's perspective on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This work involves an in-depth monitoring process at national level, focusing on how well governments make use of transparency, consultation and social dialogue mechanisms to involve trade unions in the drafting and implementation of the national sustainable development plans. In order to provide a complete picture of the situation, the monitoring also looks at how the country is doing to reach specific key targets within the SDGs in the context of existing structural political and economic challenges.

The highlights of this work are gathered in the two-page Trade Union SDG Country Profiles enclosed in this document. These Country Profile have been providing an important, globally recognised and praised independent assessment of how governments are doing in this process.

Through this work, trade unions bring the discussion of sustainability and the objectives of the 2030 Agenda into the realm of labour and demonstrate that labour really is at the centre of any sustainable societal project. Because labour is much more than what happens within the walls of workplaces, labour influences all aspects of everyone's everyday life. Labour not only provides us with a means of sustenance to escape poverty, meet material needs and build decent lives, but it also is central to our sense of identity and belonging that are essential to build sustainable social cohesion.



**“ This work of trade unions is strategic work for the European Commission. It is important to have trade unions, with their connections at grassroots level, in the global conversation on the 2030 Agenda. Félix Fernández Shaw, Director A for International Cooperation and Development Policy, DG DEVCO, European Commission.**

**“ We are aligning the scope of our programme with our strategic SDGs. On Labour Day, most of our signs and demands were about issues that even if they are already known by the government, we bring them up from a different angle, because we look at decent work and other labour-related topics from within the frame of the SDGs. Cosmas Mukuka, General Secretary of Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU).**

<sup>1</sup> This guarantee includes i) the respect for workers' fundamental rights (freedom of association and of collective bargaining); ii) an adequate minimum wage, statutory or negotiated; iii) maximum limits on working time; and iv) safety and health at work. As described in the ILO Centenary Declaration: <https://bit.ly/2YK2t4U>

# ASSESSING IMPLEMENTATION

## TRANSPARENCY



## CONSULTATION



## SOCIAL DIALOGUE



### TRANSPARENCY

Trade unions assessed the transparency of the SDG implementation process within their country. Transparency was assessed based on two indicators: 1) ability to access information on process and outcomes; decision-making procedures; consultation meetings; policy documents; and persons or institutions in charge and 2) awareness of reasoning behind decision-making: clear explanations of how and why implementation decisions are made.

The input provided by trade unions has exposed clear limitations on transparency, with most trade unions having access to limited or no information on the SDG implementation process. Limitations to access to information took various forms, most notably relating to how the information was made available, who was allowed to access it and with what regularity. Coupled with a lack of clear contact points, this constituted a major barrier to transparency. The best practice examples were of dedicated bodies being set up responsible for relaying information to stakeholders, while the worst were of cases where no updates on implementation were made available at all.

### CONSULTATION

Multi-stakeholder consultations are vital to ensure a truly participative implementation process, as described in the 2030 Agenda. If the interests and perspectives of those impacted are not integrated into the policy-making process, resulting policies and their implementation will simply not work for wider society or ensure that no one is left behind. Trade unions and civil society organisations have a key role to play in designing policies that meet these demands.

Trade unions assessed consultation modalities available in their countries, with special attention given to the functioning of multi-stakeholder consultation

platforms. Only a few countries were shown to have adequate consultation processes in place. Numerous trade unions flag the existence of a disingenuous

consultation process: while branded as consultations, meetings are de facto information sessions, where stakeholders' contributions and recommendations are not taken on board. In some countries, consultations lack structure and are organised on an ad hoc basis, rather than systematically and according to a clear work plan. In others, stakeholder participation is restricted depending on their (lack of) affiliation to the government. Finally, and most worryingly, certain countries still lack any formal consultation process at all.

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Social dialogue is a fundamental means of implementing 2030 Agenda—the use of tripartite or bipartite social dialogue to establish common positions between employers and employees has been shown to have a positive effect on achieving 2030 Agenda targets<sup>1</sup>. It builds consensus among social partners, facilitates policy implementation and results in more inclusive policies. Shaping the world of work to meet the demands of 2030 Agenda is crosscutting and fundamental to achieving each of the 17 SDGs. Trade unions' analysis has highlighted vastly insufficient integration of social dialogue into the implementation process of the SDGs. Cases in which workers and employers are consulted together are rare and tend to be confined to SDG 8 (decent work) rather than the 2030 Agenda implementation as a whole. Where social partners are consulted, a siloed approach persists, in which little effort to bridge their perspectives or encourage joint submissions on the SDG implementation process is made. No trade union reported the existence of a tripartite entity to implement and monitor the SDGs, which would involve both social partners and decision makers.

<sup>1</sup> As detailed in 'Social dialogue for sustainable development in Uruguay, Ghana and Indonesia': <https://www.ituc-csi.org/social-dialogue-development>; and 'Social dialogue as a driver and governance instrument for sustainable development': <https://www.ituc-csi.org/issue-paper-social-dialogue-development>

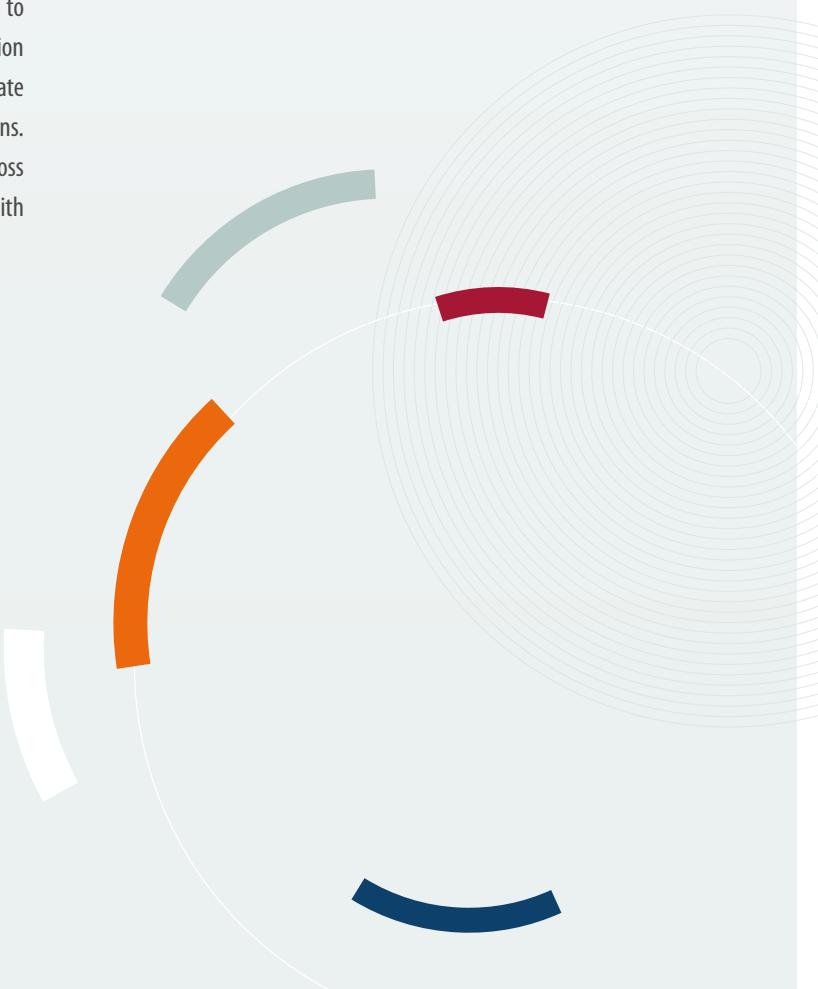
# RECOMMENDATIONS

The trade union country reports identify issues with current 2030 Agenda implementation approaches at national level. Trade unions have outlined recommendations to their governments, tailored to their national contexts. While these recommendations are specific to the contexts and implementation approaches of individual countries, common threads can be observed. The two main areas with regard to which recommendations were made are the following: the greater involvement of stakeholders in the SDG implementation and monitoring process and the better integration of 2030 Agenda into national policies. In addition, several recommendations focused specifically on improving domestic provisions relevant to employment and social policy, at times seen as directly contravening the SDGs, as well as ensuring better data collection and monitoring. Reinforcing transparency, democratic ownership and mutual accountability of actors, inclusivity and the focus on tangible results were crosscutting to the recommendations.

To ensure better involvement of all stakeholders in the SDG implementation and monitoring processes, trade unions call for a rights-based approach to the design and implementation of public policies. Integrating social dialogue as a governance mechanism for the implementation process was repeatedly put forward as a way to achieve this. Trade unions further expressed their commitment to a multi-stakeholder approach and called on governments to integrate comprehensive consultation provisions in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies. Among recommendations on how to better integrate 2030 Agenda into national policies, trade unions made several suggestions. A recurring recommendation was for the SDGs to be mainstreamed across government policies. Where it did not exist, the need for a national plan with

a clear allocation of responsibilities was highlighted. Where such plans were in place, certain recommendations highlighted the need for further internal coordination among the ministries in charge as well as between the national, regional and local levels of governance. In addition, some countries do not have specific or sufficient budgetary allocations for the SDG implementation process, which was seen as a major obstacle to the integration of 2030 Agenda at national level. Finally, trade unions suggested specific indicators and targets that they believe should be integrated into their countries' Agenda 2030 assessment to ensure a more representative picture of their progress.

Outside of those categories, trade unions suggested ways of strengthening monitoring and accountability provisions as well as of building capacity of key actors, including governments, in areas such as collecting better and more reliable data. Regarding monitoring, the analysis stressed the watchdog role of civil society organisations, including trade unions.





# 2019 COUNTRY PROFILES

**“As a trade union, KSBSI has developed a lot since it started to integrate the 2030 Agenda and the SDG in its structural work. We created specific regulations within the organisation, invested in specific SDG-related capacity building for trade union leaders and engaged in monitoring the government’s development policies.** Maria Emeninta, General Coordinator at KSBSI (Indonesia).

**“In 2018, we rolled out a pilot project concerning the SUSTATOOL and we introduced this instrument (which was developed by the University of Antwerp in cooperation with the Flemish government) to our trade union representatives at company level. SUSTATOOL allows us to place the SDGs on the agenda of company councils through social dialogue. It is an important step for us to strengthen the SDGs on the work floor.** Maresa Le Roux, Coordinator for International Cooperation at CGSLB-ACLVB (Belgium).

**“In Mongolia the SDGs have been translated into the national Sustainable Development Vision (SDVs) until 2030. As trade unions, we are always pushing and reminding the government to implement this programme. We only have 11 years to reach our goal but still there is a lot to be done. This year, the Mongolian government presented a voluntary review of the SDGs. There were a lot of nice things in the report but in the real life the progress is very slow. We need to accelerate the government action plan. The trade unions are holding the government to account.** Amarsanaa Enebish, Head of International Relations at the Confederation of Mongolian Trade Unions (CMTU).



# ARGENTINA

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs



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Photo: José Manuel Fernández / Télam

## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Argentinian government has established eight governmental objectives, directly or indirectly linked to the SDGs, and outlined priority initiatives for ministries and administrative bodies.

The body in charge of coordinating the adaptation of the SDGs to national needs and priorities is the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policy (CNCPS).

There has been no social dialogue or consultations regarding the 2030 Agenda, and the only communication channels opened by the Argentinian government at the request of the ILO and UNDP have been informative and/or informal. The government-initiated consultative multi-stakeholder platform on the SDGs, coordinated by the Argentinian Network for International Cooperation (RACI), does not include trade unions. Furthermore, the information available on the progress made in implementing the SDGs is limited, with trade unions reporting that they have not been informed about the mechanisms for civil society to take part in, to

monitor or to contribute to the process in a comprehensive and timely manner.

Trade unions have denounced the fact that, despite the cross-cutting nature of the 2030 Agenda, the government has only seen fit to involve them in discussions on the implementation of SDG 8 (decent work), coordinated by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security. The situation further deteriorated in 2018 with the dissolution of this ministry and its absorption into the Ministry of Production, where the post of Labour Secretary remains vacant.

The national social dialogue structure does not, moreover, include a discussion on the SDGs, and only employers and business representatives are consulted on the matter. The government has still not allocated a budget to the SDG implementation process, and the country's current external debt burden – which reached 100 per cent of GDP last year – will also impact negatively on the national development plans.

### TRANSPARENCY



No access to information at all

### CONSULTATION



There is no consultation process at all

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation



CONFEDERACIÓN SINDICAL DE TRABAJADORES/AS DE LAS AMÉRICAS

## IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

Worryingly, due to the economic crisis underway in Argentina, there has been a significant reversal in the progress towards meeting the targets set by the SDGs.

With regard to SDG 1, after improvements in past years, indicators for **target 1.1 (eradicating extreme poverty)** have worsened as a result of the adjustment policies being pursued by the government to tackle the large-scale national crisis, with poverty increasing by 19 per cent in 2018 as compared to 2017. Argentinian workers not only risk falling into poverty as a result of losing their jobs but also due to the loss in the purchasing power of their salaries, with inflation set to reach 50 per cent by the end of 2019. The 63.3 per cent of the 2019 budget earmarked for social protection spending, to meet **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)**, is insufficient, and large swathes of society have been left poor and hungry.

As regards **SDG 5 (gender equality)**, the government's gender policies are centred on the action priorities set by the National Women's Institute to prevent violence against women and assist its victims. However, cuts have been made to the funding allocated for this purpose from the national budget, and it is now too low to ensure its effective implementation. Women in Argentina remain overrepresented in informal employment – 37 per cent of women were working in the informal sector in 2018, compared to 31.6 per cent of men, suggesting challenges for reaching **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**. With regard to **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation in political, economic and public life)**, in 2018 women faced higher (10.5 per cent) unemployment levels than men (7.8 per cent), despite women's higher overall levels of education – 89 per cent of women compared to 86 per cent of men have attained a secondary education level.

With regard to **SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)**, progress on reaching **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** has been stalled, as unemployment levels grew to 9.6 per cent in 2018, with youth unemployment standing at a staggering 25.7 per cent. In addition, 34 per

cent of workers are in the informal sector. While underemployment stands at 11.2 per cent, affecting more women (14.4 per cent) than men (8.7 per cent), the number of workers with excessive workloads is increasing. The fall in real wages over the last year has reached 10 to 15 per cent, depending on the sector. As regards the indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)**, 19.3 per cent of young people aged under 29 are not in employment, education or training. Worryingly, despite legislative advances, there has been a regression with regard to **target 8.7 (eradicate the worst forms of child labour)**, as 10 per cent of children aged 5-15 and 31.9 per cent of children aged 16-17 engage in labour. **Target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** is not sufficiently met, as only 51.8 per cent of workers are covered by collective bargaining agreements.

Urgent action is needed in Argentina to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, in view of the extremely high rates of inflation, which mean that the minimum wage has lost half of its value as compared to 2015. Inflation, coupled with increases in the price of rents, public services, transportation, electricity, gas and water, has prevented many workers from accessing decent housing, adequate sustenance, healthcare and education and from covering their basic needs. In 2018, the labour share of GDP dropped for the fourth consecutive year, standing at 45.2 per cent. Reflecting the rising social inequalities in the country, Argentina's Gini coefficient rose sharply between 2017 (0.465) and 2018 (0.51).

With regard to **SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)**, trade unions report limitations on the freedom of expression in the media in Argentina and a lack of independence of the judiciary, in particular concerning the guarantees of trade union representatives against dismissal. There are further concerns over the government's interference with trade unions' freedom of association.

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

Trade unions call on the Argentinian government to:

- Involve a wide range of trade union associations, movements and civil society organisations in the drafting and implementation of the national SDG plan. Ensure their effective participation in the diagnosis of needs and the process of adapting, implementing and evaluating SDGs at national level.
- Ensure a cross-cutting, rather than fragmented, implementation of the 2030 Agenda, by involving a diverse range of actors in the consultation and implementation processes at all levels.
- Recognise the Argentinian Platform for Monitoring the 2030 Agenda (PAMPA 2030), which brings together trade unions and civil society organisations advocating the design of regulatory frameworks in line with the SDGs, as a dialogue partner.



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# BRAZIL



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

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Photo: Lula's Institute

## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

Obstacles in the way of effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Brazil have only increased in the past year. In 2016, the Brazilian government announced a plan to achieve the SDGs by appointing a National Commission for their implementation, composed of relevant ministries (foreign affairs, social development planning, development and management and the environment) as well as the Government Secretariat. However, trade unions fear that under the newly established government, the previously existing, although insufficient, efforts of the Commission to ensure transparency and lead a dialogue with civil society will be discontinued.

Currently, no consultations in the implementation of the SDGs are being organised, and social partners have not been invited to provide input towards

ongoing policy reforms, which are being designed and implemented without regard for the 2030 Agenda or democratic and participatory standards.

Trade unions continue being highly critical of the Brazilian government and are increasingly concerned about the policies and proposed reforms of President Bolsonaro. The new government has upheld the previously introduced spending cuts in areas crucial to the fulfilment of the SDGs, such as health, employment and the fight against gender-based violence; in addition, labour and retirement reforms proposed by the government threaten to roll back workers' hard-fought-for rights and reverse Brazil's progress towards fulfilling the 2030 Agenda. There are serious concerns about the safety of industrial sites in the country following the collapse of a dam in the district of Brumadinho, which killed over 190 people.

### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There is no consultation process at all

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation



CONFEDERACIÓN SINDICAL DE TRABAJADORES/AS DE LAS AMÉRICAS

## IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

Brazilian trade unions alert that in view of the ongoing and planned reforms, the country is facing significant challenges in achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth).

Indicators for target 1.1 (eradicating extreme poverty), which until recently had been showing steady improvements, have declined for two years in a row. The percentage of the population living on less than US\$3.20 per day has reached 4 per cent in 2017, up from its historic low of 2.9 per cent in 2015. While 59.8 per cent of the population was covered by at least one social protection benefit in 2016, and 14.4 per cent of the GDP was spent on social protection in 2015 – in line with target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems) – trade unions warn that the government has frozen its spending in this area and is planning to reform the social protection law and the pension system, decreasing pensions and increasing the retirement age.

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 2012 indicators showed women performing nearly four times as much unpaid labour than men per day (2.7h for women versus 0.7h for men). 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 only slightly improved since the last reporting period, with only 61 per cent of women attaining some form of secondary education.

The number of workers in precarious employment has risen for two consecutive years, standing at 27.9 per cent in 2017 and posing a significant obstacle to reaching target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation). While, until recently, indicators for target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all) had been steadily improving, with unemployment rates dropping from 12.9 per cent in 2003 to 4.3 per cent in 2014, the current situation in Brazil is

highly concerning, with unemployment standing at 12.6 per cent in 2018. Underemployment remains a problem, especially for young women (affecting 10.6 per cent of women 15-24 as compared to 8.3 per cent of men in the same age group), although they are more likely than men to be underemployed in all age groups. NEET indicators for target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training) stand at a worrying 24.2 per cent: 19.5 per cent for men and 29 per cent of women. Some very concerning developments have taken place in relation to target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers), as trade unions alert that the employment law reform has worsened labour conditions, lowered occupational health and safety standards, increased working hours, lowered salaries and allowed for collective bargaining negotiations to reach agreements below the legal minimal standards. The new government has additionally disbanded the Ministry for Work and Employment. The recent collapse of a dam in the district of Brumadinho, Brazil's largest-ever industrial disaster, demonstrates the insecure and exploitative labour conditions in the country, which have only been aggravated by recent reforms and the weaknesses of the labour and environmental control systems.

Significant progress remains to be made for Brazil 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 40.5 per cent of overall GDP in 2015, while the bottom 20 per cent of income earners accounted for a minuscule 3.2 per cent of GDP in 2017.

Trade unions warn that significant concerns remain with regards to Brazil's fulfilment of SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) in view of the continued weakening of the country's democratic institutions and legitimate political processes. The public statements made by President Bolsonaro supporting violence against his political opponents, as well as against trade unionists and minority groups, are particularly worrying in this regard.

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

Brazilian trade unions are prioritising their struggle for decent work, social security and access to civil and political rights, such as the right to a fair trial and the fight against impunity.

They call on the government to:

- Reverse the labour law reform and withdraw from plans to introduce a reform of the pension system.
- Reinstate spaces for social and democratic dialogue to allow civil society to contribute to a debate on public policies.



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# BURKINA FASO

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs



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Photo: C.B.S.

### ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Burkina Faso has integrated the SDGs into its National Programme for Economic and Social Development (PNDES) for 2016-2020. The PNDES focuses on three main areas: reforming institutions and modernising administration; developing human capital; and investing in growth-oriented industries to boost the economy and job creation.

The Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Development oversees the implementation of the SDGs and their mainstreaming into national policies. The Burkinabe government works on all the SDGs except SDG 14. Therefore, all of the SDGs prioritised by trade unions (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, and 16) are considered.

The government of Burkina Faso carries out consultations on the SDGs through the Sectoral Framework Dialogues and the yearly reviews. Trade unions are invited to discuss SDG implementation through the sectoral framework dialogue

on work, employment and social protection, whose competence includes "identifying annual measures and actions as part of the implementation of the reforms contained in the PNDES, produce the annual sectoral report and organise the annual sectoral review". In addition to their participation in this framework, trade unions also participate in the validation of the national general report.

SDG implementation is, however, not discussed in the framework of social dialogue as such. The input provided by the trade unions has been informally accepted, although not officially integrated into the PNDES. Trade unions have also been invited to validate Burkina Faso's Voluntary National Review set to be presented at the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Trade unions report that the budgetary means at the disposal of the government are not sufficient to implement the PNDES.

#### TRANSPARENCY



Regular access to limited information

#### CONSULTATION



There is informal or ad hoc consultation

#### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government.



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Serious challenges towards reaching the SDGs remain to be tackled in Burkina Faso.

In 2014, 40.1 per cent of the Burkinabe population was living in poverty, of which 92 per cent in rural areas, indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** was far from being reached. The fact that poverty levels are particularly high in zones which benefit from reasonable amounts of rainfall and specialise in the growth of cotton is concerning, as is the fact that in 2018, 37.7 per cent of workers were living under the international poverty threshold of US\$1.9 per day. This suggests that fluctuations in global cotton prices, regional instabilities and climatic unpredictability increase the vulnerability of the population.

This vulnerability is further compacted by extremely low levels of social protection coverage, challenging the achievement of **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)**, as only 2.3 per cent of the population is covered by any form of social protection.

With regard to **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)**, in 2014, only 6 per cent of women above 25 had attended secondary education. This is due to social-cultural factors, such as the expectation for women and girls to perform unpaid domestic labour or the practice of early marriage.

There are serious concerns about Burkina Faso being able to meet the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. Target **8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)** is particularly worrying, with 80 per cent of the population employed in agriculture and over 70 per cent being employed in the informal economy. Poverty rates are especially high among young agricultural workers, half of whom are poor, compared to 33.5 per cent of young workers in informal non-

farm work in rural zones, 23.2 per cent of young workers in the informal economy in urban settings and 13.9 per cent young workers in modern sectors. Two-thirds of Burkina Faso's poor are vulnerable (at risk of becoming poorer) and one-third of the non-poor population is at risk of becoming poor. Achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** is still far off, as 6.6 per cent of the labour force aged 15 and over are unemployed. The situation of young women in the labour market is particularly worrying, as unemployment among women between 15 and 24 stands at 30 per cent. Overall, underemployment stands at 26.7 per cent. Burkinabe youth face a large skills deficit, with about 58 per cent of 16- to 24-year-olds and 71 per cent of 25- to 35-year-olds not being educated or literate. Furthermore, indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** show that 41.1 per cent of children were engaged in child labour in 2014. **Target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** is far off being met, as over the period of 2014-16, 6,361 incidents of workplace accidents and work-related illnesses were recorded. At the same time, at the end of 2018, the country counted only 72 workplace inspectors; aside from their low numbers, trade unions alert that the inspectors are not equipped to perform their functions adequately. In 2016, ten violations of labour rights were counted in Burkina Faso.

Wide disparities in wealth distribution are a challenge to reaching **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**. As in 2014, the share of the top 10 per cent of income earners in Burkina Faso accounted for 29.6 per cent of overall GDP, while the bottom 20 per cent of income earners accounted for 8.3 per cent of GDP.

Trade unionists face killings and kidnappings by terrorists and armed groups, which the government is unable to prevent. This situation constitutes a failure to meet **target 16.10 (ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements)**.

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

The Confédération Syndicale Burkinabé calls on the Burkinabe government to:

- Focus on implementing SDGs 1 and 8 to create decent jobs and improve rates of youth employment.
- As the current PNDES is coming to an end in 2020, involve trade unions in all stages of design and drafting of the new plan and ensure the mainstreaming of SDGs.



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# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGS

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Photo: Eskinder Debebe / UN Photo

### ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The SDGs have been incorporated into the Recovery and Peace Consolidation Plan for Central Africa (RCPA) for 2017-2021, although the government of CAR has only done so retrospectively in February 2019. In addition, a National Coordination Mechanism for monitoring the implementation of Agenda 2030 was established in 2018.

The Ministry of the Economy, Planning and International Cooperation oversees the implementation of the SDGs. However, as Agenda 2030 cuts across multiple policy areas, nearly all ministries are involved in its implementation. Work on the SDGs is organised in four clusters: people (SDGs 1-6), prosperity (SDGs 7-11), planet (SDGs 12-15) and peace (SDG 16).

The planning of the implementation of the SDGs is decided unilaterally by the government. While civil society is occasionally invited to information and consultation sessions to provide input towards these efforts, there is no transparency in how organisations invited to these sessions are chosen.

There is currently a deficit in social dialogue within CAR. While the ILO secretariat had organised a workshop and issued a recommendations on setting one up in 2016, these have not been followed up by the government.

Trade unions report that the resources allocated by the government of CAR towards the implementation of the SDGs are insufficient.

#### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

#### CONSULTATION



There are information sessions but no interaction

#### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Given its placement as the country with the lowest human development index in the world (HDI of 0.367 in 2018, 188th place), enormous challenges are in the way of CAR reaching the SDGs.

In 2018, 75 per cent of the population was living in poverty in CAR, with the situation especially dire in rural areas – indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** was dramatically far from being reached. CAR is fifth on the list of least wealth-producing countries globally, with a GDP of US\$440 per person per year.

The expenses allocated by the government of CAR towards social protection, excluding health, constituted 6.9 per cent of government spending in 2010. However, the ILO estimated that only 1 per cent of children in CAR were covered by social protection services in 2017, suggesting that reaching **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** is far off the mark.

While exact data on women's employment is not available, around a third of women in CAR are engaged in remunerated work, primarily in agriculture and commerce. At the same time, they are expected to take on a large part of unpaid and reproductive labour, such as fetching the water from the well during the dry season. There is, therefore, a need for significant improvement to achieve **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**. With regard to **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)**, between 2010 and 2017 only 13.2 per cent of women above 25 years of age had achieved secondary education. The situation is particularly concerning in rural areas, where 80 per cent of women between the ages of 15 to 49 had never accessed any education.

There are serious concerns about CAR meeting the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**, as despite having approved

a new national employment policy in 2017, the government has not allocated budgetary resources to its implementation. Performance on **target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)** is worrying, with only 63.6 per cent of the population classified as employed and 19 per cent as underemployed, while the unemployment rate is 6 per cent. In addition, of the employed population, 74 per cent were self-employed and 16 per cent were family workers; 62.7 per cent of all workers were categorised as vulnerable in 2017. Achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** is still far off, as youth underemployment remains a problem: 23 per cent of young women and 21 per cent of young men are underemployed. These issues are more pronounced in the impoverished rural or peri-urban areas. Instances of modern slavery still affect indigenous and autochthonous peoples, with an estimated 2.23 per cent of the population working in slave conditions – undermining **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)**. With 12 violations of labour rights noted in 2016, including restrictions on the freedom of association and the right to strike, **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** requires additional efforts to be met. Trade union density has dropped to 28 per cent in the private sector and 32 per cent in the public sector as a result of reoccurring politico-military crises which have led to the flight of business.

Progress remains to be made for CAR to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**. As in 2008, the share of the top 10 per cent of income earners accounted for 46.2 per cent of GDP, while the bottom 20 per cent of income earners accounted for 3.3 per cent of GDP.

Trade unions face attacks from armed groups, which the government is unable to prevent, a failure to meet **target 16.10 (ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements)**.

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

The Confédération Syndicale des Travailleurs de Centrafrique (CSTC) calls on the CAR government to:

- Include the three most representative trade unions (USTC, CSTC and CNTC) into the consultations on the planning on and implementation of Agenda 2030.
- Establish a representative body to monitor the progress in reaching the SDG targets and the impact of the associated policies.
- Strengthen data collection and management to support effective and informed decision-making.



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# CHAD

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2019



Photo: UST

## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Chad has aligned its National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-2021 with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and has also integrated their objectives into relevant sectoral policies (health, agriculture, livestock farming, justice, education, and social affairs).

The Ministry of the Economy and Planning oversees the implementation of the SDGs related to the NDP and managing the Official Development Assistance (ODA) received by the country. Within the ministry, national coordination in charge of the SDGs coordinates policy and implementation through the work of focal points, technical and political committees.

While the structure for the implementation of the SDGs at national level is designed to be inclusive and transparent, it is not fully applied. Civil society platforms that

are part of the committees are invited to provide inputs to the national report on the achievement of the SDG. However, the representation of trade unions in these discussions is not fully ensured: only one seat is allocated to a trade union representative within the technical and political committees and none at the level of the national SDG coordination. Trade unions' input towards the selection of SDG priorities by the government has only been taken on board to a limited extent.

The national social dialogue structure does not include a discussion on the SDGs, despite trade unions' requests for this.

Trade unions report that the budgetary allocation towards the implementation of the SDGs by the government of Chad is not sufficient. The government relies primarily on ODA to cover the expenses associated with the SDGs.

### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION

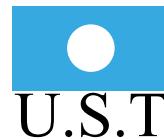


There are information sessions but no interaction

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government



# IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Numerous challenges towards reaching the SDGs remain to be tackled in Chad.

38.4 per cent of the population was living below the international poverty line in Chad in 2011, indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** was far off being reached. Indeed, the rates of poverty have been exacerbated by climate change, inter-army conflicts, inter-community conflicts between farmers and herders, and the petrol crisis, with certain equatorial regions of the country affected disproportionately. Across the country, basic services such as health, water, electricity, sanitation and education are unavailable to the majority of the population – only two per cent of the inhabitants have access to electricity.

While exact data for indicators on **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** are not available, the ILO estimates that only 18 per cent of the population of central Africa is covered by social services. The expenses allocated by the government of Chad towards health and education in 2013 constituted 4.81 per cent and 2.85 per cent respectively, largely provided for through ODA. Trade unions report that this is vastly insufficient, especially in view of the socio-political crises and armed and inter-community conflicts present in the region, which have resulted in Chad grappling with high numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Chad has adopted a national gender policy, which is mainstreamed through the NDP. Nonetheless, there is a need for significant improvement to achieve progress on **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, as women, who perform two thirds of all work hours and produce half of the country's food output, only earn 10 per cent of the total revenue and own less than 2 per cent of all land. More women (23.3 per cent) than men (17.6 per cent) are employed in the informal sector, although these numbers are nearly equal when it comes to agriculture. With regard to **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)**, only 1.7 per cent of women above 25 have attended second-

ary education; 86 per cent of women, as compared to 69 per cent of men, are illiterate. There are serious concerns about Chad meeting the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. Target 8.3 (**support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs**) is particularly worrying, with 91.5 per cent of jobs classified as precarious in 2017. Achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** is still far off, as unemployment, especially among youth, has been on the rise since 1990, when the recruitment for state positions was reduced. Twenty-two per cent of the population above 15 years of age faces underemployment, which affects rural areas disproportionately. At the same time, 41.4 per cent of workers, predominantly in the urban areas, have been affected by excessive workload. Furthermore, indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** show that 52 per cent of children have engaged in child labour in 2015. In addition, cases of human trafficking of children abducted for forced labour in agriculture and livestock farming and the abduction of pregnant women to be used as surrogate mothers have been recorded. **Target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** is far off from being met, as only 25 per cent of workers are estimated to be covered by collective bargaining agreements.

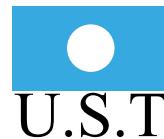
Enormous progress remains to be made for Chad to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as in 2011, the share of the top 10 per cent of income earners accounted for 32.4 per cent of overall GDP, while the bottom 20 per cent of income earners accounted for 48.8 per cent of GDP.

The imprisonment of three trade unionists in 2015-2016 is a concerning development impeding the achievement of **target 16.10 (ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements)**.

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

The Union des Syndicats du Tchad calls on the Chadian government to:

- Integrate funding for the SDGs into the national general budget.
- Open up participation in the national coordination process on the SDGs to all trade unions based on their representativeness and according to their members.
- Put in place a social dialogue process to specifically discuss trade union priority SDGs at all levels.
- Decentralise the parliamentary commission on the follow-up and evaluation of the SDGs to bring the SDGs closer to the local level throughout the country.
- Develop communication strategies on the SDGs.



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# 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 no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation



# 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 minuscule 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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# COLOMBIA

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGS



#HLPF2019



Foto: Mariela Alonso

## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Colombian government is implementing Agenda 2030 through two legal frameworks: the National Development Plans (the current one for 2018-2022 is called "Pact for Colombia, Pact for Equity"), and the 2015 decree creating the High-Level Interinstitutional Committee for the preparation and effective implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The High-Level Interinstitutional Committee is chaired by the Director of the National Planning Department and consists of the ministers for foreign affairs, finance, environment and sustainable development, the Administrative Department of the Presidency of the Republic, with the participation of the Minister Counsellor for the Government and the Private Sector, the director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics and the director of the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity. One of the main objectives of the Committee has been to prepare the Colombia's Voluntary National Report, which was presented at the UN High Level Political Forum in 2018.

Like the year before, in 2018, no consultations were organised with either civil society or trade unions on Agenda 2030 on its implementation in the country; trade unions point out that the government does not see them as partners in the implementation of the SDGs. The fact that the Ministry of Labour has not been involved in the work of the High-Level Committee is also concerning to trade unions, as they see this as proof that SDG 8 (decent work) has not been taken up as a priority for the government.

Trade unions are not aware of any additional resources having been allocated to the implementation of activities related to Agenda 2030 by the Colombian government.

### TRANSPARENCY



Regular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There is no consultation process at all

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation



# IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

Colombian trade unions highlight several focus areas for improvement to ensure Agenda 2030 implementation in the country.

With regard to **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)**, 2017 data indicate that 26.9 per cent of the Colombian population is living in poverty and 39.9 per cent is vulnerable to dropping below the poverty threshold; in 2016, 4.5 per cent of the population lived on less than US\$1.90 per day. In addition, 2018 indicators showed that 5.3 per cent of Colombian workers were living on between US\$1.90 and US\$3.20 per day. Indicators on **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** continue to be extremely worrying, showing that in 2018, only 65.7 per cent of workers were not covered by basic social security systems (health insurance, pension and insurance for occupational risks). In 2017, only 7.2 per cent of the unemployed population was provided with unemployment assistance, although this was an improvement on 2016, when the number was 4.5 per cent. Government spending on social programmes was low, with only the equivalent of 6.12 per cent of GDP being spent on education and healthcare in 2016.

There is a need for improvement to achieve progress on **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, where average indicators show a significant discrepancy between daily time spent on unpaid work by women (7h14) and men (3h25); this discrepancy is further pronounced in rural areas. Women between the ages of 25 and 44, who dedicate an average of 9h 15 to it per day, carry the heaviest burden of unpaid labour. With regard to **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels)**, in 2017, Women occupied 41 per cent of the highest management positions in government employment. However, no budget was allocated to the promotion of equality between women and men in the 2018–2022 National Development Plan.

There are serious concerns about Colombia meeting the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. Regarding **target 8.3 (promote policies that support productive activities, decent job creation)**, in 2018 the rate of informal economy workers reached 65.7 per cent. In 2016 (the last available data), 73.8 per cent of workers were classified as precarious

(working without a contract, or with a fixed-term contract or within a temporary employment agency, labour cooperative or collective companies); moreover, in 2018, 46.8 per cent of the working population were classified as being in vulnerable employment (either unpaid family workers or autonomous workers).

**Target 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work)** shows that while the 2018 unemployment rate stood at 9.7 per cent, it was much more likely to affect women (12.7 per cent) than men (7.4 per cent). The situation is even worse among young people (14–28 years old), their overall unemployment rate stood at 16.9 per cent: a dismal 22.3 per cent for young women and 12.9 per cent of young men. In addition, 9.8 per cent of Colombian workers are underemployed. The 'Neither in Employment nor in Education or Training' (NEET) indicators for youth for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 21.7 per cent in 2018. The challenge is greater for young women of whom 30.8 per cent are NEETs, compared to 12.7 per cent of young men. Progress remains to be made to reach **target 8.7 (end child labour in all its forms)**, as the 2018 indicators showed that 5.9 per cent of children (5–17 years old) were engaged in child labour. The number increases when unpaid domestic labour of 15 hours a week or more is considered – 10.3 per cent, affecting more girls (11 per cent) than boys (9.6 per cent). **Target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** is far from being met, as in 2018, an average of 336 workplace accidents took place every hour and 573 work-related deaths were registered.

Significant progress remains to be made for Colombia to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies)**, as the labour share of GDP (wages and social protection transfers) was low, at 33.9 per cent in 2017. In 2017, the earnings of 42.8 per cent of workers were equal to or below the national minimum wage.

With regard to meeting **target 16.10 (protect fundamental freedoms)**, the chief obstacle is the persisting impunity for grave violations to the rights to life and liberty of trade union activists and other human rights defenders. In 2018, trade unions registered 221 cases of attacks against trade unionists, including 33 killings.

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

Colombian trade unions call on their government to ensure the effective implementation of Agenda 2030 by:

- Involving social actors and civil society in the SDG design, planning and implementation process through open and transparent consultations.
- Including the Ministry of Labour in the High-Level Interinstitutional Committee on the SDGs.



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# FRANCE



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2019



Photo: CGT

## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The French government is currently drafting its national SDG roadmap, to be finalised in 2019. It is to be structured around four sections: the vision for the 2030 Agenda, the approaches to each SDG, stakeholder mobilisation, and monitoring and implementation. A steering committee, co-chaired by the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, has been set up for this purpose, along with multi-stakeholder working groups. The trade unions, which have been invited to take part in this process, have contributed to the discussions and will closely monitor the subsequent action taken and the outcomes obtained. For the CFDT, this monitoring is crucial, especially in light of the lack of transparency in decision-making processes and the risk that the inputs of the stakeholders consulted

will not be taken on board. The union centre has noted, for example, that the indicator framework established to monitor France's implementation of the SDGs is not ambitious enough and does not include highly relevant indicators proposed by stakeholders such as trade unions and associations. It is also critical of the fact that the reports on the national implementation of the SDGs often seem more like PR tools and are not sufficiently based on genuine evaluation and monitoring exercises to track progress and to identify where improvements can be made.

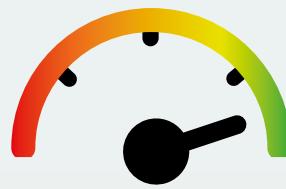
There is no tripartite social dialogue (state, employers, and workers) on the 2030 Agenda.

### TRANSPARENCY



Regular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There is a structured consultation/multi-stakeholder platform

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government



# IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

The French trade unions stress that even though France's human development index value in 2017 was 0.901, placing it in 24th place globally, improvements on several key indicators are needed for the country to achieve the SDGs.

Indicators on **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty)** show that, in 2016, **14 per cent of people lived under the national poverty threshold (defined as 60 per cent of the national median income)**. While this is a relatively low level for Europe, it is particularly high among certain population groups, such as young people (21.1 per cent per cent of women and 19.1 per cent of men in the 18-29 age category). The relatively low poverty rate is maintained thanks to social protection covering key areas (health, old age, disability, family, accommodation, unemployment), as well as the guaranteed minimum income and pension. It should, however, be pointed out that the current 'social minimums' are not, in themselves, enough to enable people to escape poverty. France allocates 32 per cent of GDP to social protection, the highest rate in Europe, enabling it to perform relatively well on **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors)**, as compared with other countries (although its performance could be improved).

Progress needs to be made towards meeting **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, bearing in mind that, according to the figures for 2009 to 2010, women spent nearly twice as much time (4 hours 1 minute) than men (2 hours 13 minutes) on unpaid work per day.

There are numerous concerns regarding the targets set under **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. Regarding **target 8.3 (promote policies that support productive activities and decent job creation)**, 7.6 per cent of jobs were estimated to be precarious in 2017. And although 85 per cent of

jobs are based on permanent contracts, 90 per cent of new hires are on fixed-term contracts, which can be as short as a few days. Furthermore, 7.1 per cent of workers are poor (earning below 50 per cent of the median wage). On **target 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all)**, a gender pay gap of 24 per cent persists. Unemployment stood at 8.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2019, and young people aged between 15 and 24 are the worst affected. The NEET (young people not in education, employment or training) indicator for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** was 11.5 per cent in 2017; the young people most likely to be NEET tend to have lower levels of education and come from lower socio-economic backgrounds. A number of concerns have emerged in relation to **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** in light of the fact that major decisions have been taken regarding the labour legislation, in recent years, without proper consultation with the social partners, resulting in a lowering of labour protections.

Progress remains to be made to 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 income earners in overall GDP in 2015 was 26.6 per cent while the bottom 20 per cent of income earners accounted for 7.9 per cent of GDP. In addition, the evolution of the Gini coefficient (0.288 in 2016) shows that, after a sharp increase, inequalities in living standards seem to be stabilising, but are still wider than around twenty years ago.

On **target 16.3 (promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all)**, the proportion of the incarcerated population detained without a sentence was 27 per cent in 2014.

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

The CFDT calls on the French government to integrate the SDGs into national policies (including their local and international dimensions) in an effective manner, to ensure that all policies are in line with the SDGs, and to make a critical appraisal of their implementation. It would recommend, in this respect, that supplementary indicators be defined for the purposes of monitoring the national implementation of the SDGs, with regard to goals such as:

- SDG 2 (eliminate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) to ensure transparency on the management of public and private stocks of agricultural goods and foodstuffs.
- SDG 3 (good health and well-being) to address the high number of pollution-related deaths.
- SDG 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) to fight against water pollution and make water resources more accessible.
- SDG 7 (ensure access for all to reliable, durable and modern energy resources, at an affordable cost) to address energy poverty.



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# GHANA



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2019



Photo: Dghchocolatier / Pixabay

### ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Ghana has integrated the SDGs into its Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policy (CPESDP) for 2017–2024. The CPESDP aims to achieve economic transformation and inclusive growth primarily through agricultural modernisation, industrial diversification and the promotion of youth employment, as well as through other means. Metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies have been encouraged to include the SDGs in their development plans.

The National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), together with the Ministries of Planning and Finance, the Ghana Statistical Service and the Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research, oversee the implementation of the SDGs. A High-Level Inter-Ministerial Committee, an SDG Implementation and Co-ordination Committee, a Civil Society Platform as well as an SDGs Technical Committee have been set up to streamline efforts on Agenda 2030. The Ghanaian

government has decided to work on all SDGs prioritised by trade unions (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16).

Trade unions are informed on the implementation of the SDGs through the Civil Society Platform. Work within the platform is organised around the individual SDGs, with TUC Ghana convening the work on SDG 8 (decent work) and participating in working groups on other relevant goals. The NDPC engages with both trade unions and employers' organisations to consult on the SDG implementation process, including the selection of indicators and the validation of reports. Some of the recommendations put forward by trade unions have been taken on board by the government.

Trade unions report that the national budgeting process has been aligned with Agenda 2030, although they have concerns about the allocations.

#### TRANSPARENCY



Complete access to information

#### CONSULTATION



There is a structured consultation/multi-stakeholder platform

#### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government



# IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Serious challenges towards reaching the SDGs remain to be tackled in Ghana.

23.4 per cent of the Ghanaian population was living under the nationally defined poverty threshold in 2016/17, with rural populations affected by it (39.5 per cent) to a much higher degree than urban ones (7.8 per cent) in 2016/17, indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** was far from being reached. Even more concerningly, 4.8 per cent of the working population was living below the international poverty threshold in 2016/2017.

In addition, the levels of social protection coverage are low, with only 11.5 per cent of the working population having access to a state pension. Over 11 million working people, mainly those in the informal economy, do not have access to social security – suggesting that the achievement of **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** is still far off. While the Ghanaian government has significantly increased its spending on education, which accounts for 16.3 per cent of the 2019 budget, allocations to health (7.7 per cent) and social protection (5.1 per cent) remain low.

With regard to **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)**, 2012-13 data shows that women spend more time than men on all unpaid domestic activities. They are also more likely to be employed in the informal economy than men, having represented 54.9 per cent of the informal labour force in 2015. Much progress remains to be made 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)**; between 2010-2017, only 54.6 per cent of women over 25 years and older had completed at least some form of secondary education, compared to 70.4 per cent of men.

There are serious concerns about Ghana being able to meet the targets set by **SDG**

**8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**, with numerous indicators showing signs of deterioration in past years. **Target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)** is particularly worrying, as in 2015, 83.2 per cent of the population worked in informal employment outside of agriculture. This means that 66 per cent of work in Ghana can be classified as precarious or vulnerable. While unemployment is relatively low, standing at 4.2 per cent in 2017, it has nearly doubled since 2013, when it stood at 2.2 per cent, suggesting that achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** is getting further off. Unemployment rates are particularly high for youth aged 15-24, 9.1 per cent (2017) of whom are unemployed, nearly double the 2013 rate of 4.6 per cent. In addition, the 2017 underemployment rate stood at 13.1 per cent. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at an alarming 30.5 per cent in 2017, nearly triple the 2013 rates, with young women particularly affected (33.3 per cent). Indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** show that 17.5 per cent of children were engaged in child labour in 2012. **Target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** requires attention, as in 2016, 13 cases of violations of labour rights were reported, involving the rights of workers to establish and join trade unions, the right to collective bargaining and the right to strike. Both collective bargaining coverage (16.6 per cent in 2013 and 14.7 per cent in 2016) and trade union density (24 per cent in 2010 and 20.6 per cent in 2016) went down over the years.

Wide disparities in wealth distribution are a challenge to reaching **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as in 2016, the share of the top 10 per cent of income earners in Ghana accounted for 32 per cent of overall GDP, while the bottom 20 per cent of income earners accounted for 4.7 per cent of GDP.

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

The TUC Ghana calls on the Ghanaian government to:

- Review and strengthen the labour protections afforded by the 2003 Labour Act.
- Set up an SDG desk or focal person specifically for trade union priority SDGs at the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations to coordinate with employers and labour.
- Use the tripartite system to engage employers and labour to discuss the SDGs.
- Ratify ILO Convention 158 on the termination of employment and enforce the ratified ILO Convention 29 on forced labour.
- Ensure a timely and adequate fund disbursement for the implementation of Agenda 2030.



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# INDONESIA



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2019



Photo: Desfosses / Pixabay

## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Indonesia has incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the current Long-Term Development Plan for 2005-2025 and the National Medium-Term Development Plan for 2015-2019. The SDGs are also being mainstreamed into the upcoming Long-Term Development Plan for 2025-2045.

The Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) is in charge of the implementation of the SDGs. A National SDG Coordination Team was established in 2017 to formulate a road map for implementing the SDGs over 2017-2030. The team ensures coordination at both horizontal (between ministries, agencies and non-state actors) and vertical levels (between the national and local governmental levels). The ministry informs civil society about the SDG implementation process online and through consultations. KSBSI is invited to participate in all consultations, although it is the only trade union involved. While they have provided input towards the selection of SDG priorities by the government, few suggestions were taken on board, with the government prioritising the issues already included in its Long-Term Development Plan.

Social partners are involved by the government in the implementation of the SDGs through the National SDG Coordination Team and its task force focused on economy-related issues, which deal with SDGs 7, 8, 9, 10, and 17. Trade unions report that the budgetary allocation towards the implementation of the SDGs by the government is not sufficient. With Indonesia's graduation to middle-income country status and the subsequent decrease in Official Development Assistance (ODA) received, greater efforts are needed through domestic resource mobilisation to address the resulting financial gap.

KSBSI attentively looks at the efforts made by the Indonesian government to fill the financial gap through blended finance initiatives, such as the SDG Indonesia One , or through cooperation with Malaysia around the "green sukuk" initiative – an innovative financing mechanism aimed to protect the environment and tackle climate change. For example, in early 2019, Indonesia traded USD1.25 billion in five-year green sukuk that will invest in renewable energy and green infrastructure. KSBSI monitors the development impact of such initiatives.

### TRANSPARENCY



Complete access  
to information

### CONSULTATION



There are information sessions  
but no interaction

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from  
social partners to the national government



# IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

While some indicators are improving, challenges towards reaching the SDGs remain to be addressed in Indonesia.

Improvement remains to be made on **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)**, as 6.8 per cent of the population was living on under USD1.9 per day in Indonesia in 2016, although this is an improvement from the 2015 number of 7.5 per cent. Still, in 2015, 27.2 per cent of the population was living below the lower middle-income poverty line of USD3.2 per day.

With regard to **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)**, 6 per cent of the population is receiving a pension (8.2 per cent of men and 4 per cent of women), and social protection systems for health and education cover 72.9 per cent and 33.2 per cent of the population, a proportion which has been increasing. Overall, government spending on education, health and social protection amounted to 26 per cent of the 2018 budget.

Progress on **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)** has been slow and trends have even reversed, as the numbers of women in the Indonesian informal economy have increased from 61.4 per cent in 2017 to 61.8 per cent in 2018, while the same numbers for men have slightly dropped. With regard to **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)**, only 27.5 per cent of all managerial posts were held by women, and the proportion of women in professional jobs has declined from 47.59 per cent in 2016 to 46.31 per cent in 2017. There has been significant improvement in women and girls' access to education, as in 2017, 44.5 per cent of the female population had obtained at least some secondary education, up significantly from 19.6 per cent in 2015. This improvement is due to the introduction of a mandatory nine-year period of schooling.

While there has been overall progress on meeting the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote**

**sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**, it has been slow, and challenges remain to be addressed. **Target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)** shows some improvement in the eradication of informal work for men (53.7 per cent of men worked in the informal economy in 2018, down from 54.3 per cent in 2017), but not for women. Vulnerable employment has also decreased from 58.3 per cent in 2016 to 47.5 per cent in 2017. There was progress in achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** as unemployment decreased, from 6.8 per cent in 2012 to 4.1 per cent in 2017 for women and from 5.8 per cent in 2012 to 4.6 per cent in 2017 for men. The percentage of underemployment has also decreased from 7.5 per cent in 2017 to 6.8 per cent in 2018 for men and 7.7 per cent in 2017 to 6.4 per cent in 2018 for women. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** dropped from 10 per cent in 2017 to 9 per cent in 2018 for youth between 15-24. Indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** show that in 2017, 23.4 per cent of children between 10-17 from urban areas engaged in labour, compared to 76.6 per cent of those in rural areas.

Progress remains to be made for Indonesia to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as in 2013, the share of the 10 per cent highest income earners accounted for 31.9 per cent of the overall GDP and owned 77 per cent of the total assets. However, the Gini coefficient for the country has reduced somewhat from 2017 to 2018, suggesting a reduction in income inequalities.

According to the ITUC Rights Index, there were 28 violations in labour rights in law and practice in Indonesia in 2016, hampering the achievement of **target 16.10 (ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements)**.

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

The KSBSI calls on the Indonesian government to ensure coherent action to implement the SDGs by:

- Maintaining coordination efforts made by the National SDG Coordination Team, especially ensuring complementarity of efforts between the central and local governments.
- Improving partnership between the government and civil society actors, including trade unions, to ensure buy-in and shared responsibility.
- Enhancing the financial allocations to the implementation of the SDGs by strengthening the involvement of the parliament and ensuring its support to increasing the budget for this purpose.
- Ensuring that the SDGs are seen as integral to the existing national development plan and fully integrated into national goals.
- Ensuring – by introducing more initiatives and facilities in addition to the existing ones – that there are no financial gaps in financing the implementation of the SDGs.



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# IVORY COAST

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGS



#HLPF2019



Photo: UGT

## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Planning and Development are the main bodies in charge of implementing Agenda 2030 in the Ivory Coast. The government is working on some of the SDGs prioritised by trade unions (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 16) and has specifically integrated SDG targets into its education and healthcare policies. SDGs 10 (reducing inequalities within and between countries) and 13 (combatting climate change) are not currently prioritised due to the overall scope of the challenges faced by the Ivory Coast.

Trade unions are informed about the implementation of Agenda 2030 by government representatives through their participation in colloquia of reflections on the SDG process. However, these sessions are intended to be informative rather

than consultative in nature, as the government reserves a primary responsibility for the process for itself. Nevertheless, some of the contributions made by trade unions that are in line with Agenda 2030 goals have been taken on board by the government.

While social dialogue bodies such as the National Commission for Social Dialogue and the Youth Employment Agency exist in the Ivory Coast, their discussions do not touch upon Agenda 2030 nor the implementation of the SDGs.

Trade unions report that the budgetary allocation towards the implementation of the SDGs by the government of Ivory Coast is not sufficient.

### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There are information sessions but no interaction

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Given its placement as one of the countries with the lowest human development index in the world (HDI of 0.492 in 2017, 170th place), enormous challenges remain for the Ivory Coast to reach the SDG objectives.

28.2 per cent of the Ivorian population was living under the international poverty threshold in 2015. In addition, in 2018, 25.5 per cent of the employed population was under this threshold, indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** was far from being reached. While poverty in rural areas is diminishing (from 62.5 per cent in 2008 to 56.8 per cent in 2015), it has increased in urban settings (from 29.5 per cent in 2008 to 35.9 per cent in 2015), where it primarily affects men. In addition, levels of social protection coverage are very low, with only 5 per cent of the population covered by some form of social security, suggesting that the achievement of **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** is still far off. 2018 budgetary allocations on essential services such as social protection, health and education accounted for 8.8 per cent of the country's GDP.

Some progress has been made 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)**, as in 2015, there were 94 girls per 100 boys in primary schools, an improvement from 88 per 100 in 2008. In secondary schools, the proportion was 80 girls per 100 boys in the first cycle and 68 girls per 100 boys in the second cycle in 2015. However, women's representation in the Ivorian parliament remains very low, at 9.8 per cent, far from the 30 per cent objective.

There are serious concerns about Ivory Coast being able to meet the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. Target **8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)** is particularly worrying, as nearly all employment in the country (93.6 per cent)

is informal. In addition, between 70 to 90 per cent of workers are classified as vulnerable. Achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** is still far off with an underemployment rate of 11.4 per cent in 2016, which disproportionately affects those living in rural areas (15.9 per cent), women (19.3 per cent) and youth (17 per cent). NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 36 per cent in 2016 and were particularly high for young women (46.5 per cent). Indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** show that 29.9 per cent of children were engaged in child labour in 2011, with girls more likely to be affected (30.6 per cent) than boys (26.9 per cent). Performance on **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** is worrying, as the number of fatal workplace accidents has been steadily increasing between 2014 and 2016. In 2016, seven violations of labour laws were recorded, including of the right to establish and join trade unions, the right to strike and to collective bargaining.

Wide disparities in wealth distribution are a challenge to reaching **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as in 2015, the share of the top 10 per cent of income earners in the Ivory Coast accounted for 31.9 per cent of overall GDP, while the bottom 20 per cent of income earners accounted for 5.7 per cent of GDP.

The Ivorian government is addressing **target 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning)** through its 2012 National Programme for Combatting Climate Change and its National Strategy for 2015-2020, which was approved in 2014 and foresees addressing climate change through sustainable socio-economic development that contributes to improving people's living conditions and their resilience to the effects of climate change, but trade unions have not been included in dialogue around these processes.

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

The Union Générale des Travailleurs de Côte d'Ivoire calls on the government of the Ivory Coast to create joint monitoring committees composed of government representatives and social partners in order to better involve trade unions in the SDG implementation and monitoring process.



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# MONGOLIA



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2019



Photo: Khosbayar Batbayar / CMTU

## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Mongolian government has incorporated the SDGs into its Sustainable Development Vision 2030 (SDV) and its Program of Action 2016-2030.

The National Development Agency is in charge of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Vision 2030. All ministries are further expected to implement the SDV and the government's development agenda within their respective policy areas. The government has committed to working on all trade union priority SDGs (SDG 1, 5, 8, 10, 13 and 16).

Mongolia has formed a standing committee on the Sustainable Development Vision 2030 at parliament level. Social stakeholders such as unions, employers and civil society organisations, including CMTU, are invited to become members of the committee and access information on the SDG implementation process. The National Development Agency further organises multi-stakeholder consultations

with public and private actors as well as civil society organisations. CMTU has participated in these consultations to discuss the scope of Mongolia's Voluntary National Review (VNR) and to identify key priorities, such as making sure annual budgets support the SDGs and SDV priorities, as well as the setting up of monitoring and evaluation systems to assess and report on progress.

Social partners are involved in general by the government through their work on the ongoing labour law reform, as well as in discussions on the laws on social protection and taxation and initiatives for the transition from informal to formal employment. These are important areas that are obviously connected to the SDGs.

The budgetary allocations towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Vision 2030 are currently being debated – social actors have requested that this process result in clear and transparent outcomes.

### TRANSPARENCY



Regular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There are information sessions but no interaction

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

While some indicators are improving, challenges towards reaching the SDGs remain to be addressed in Mongolia.

High levels of poverty remain an obstacle to reaching **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)**, as 34.9 per cent of the rural and 27.1 per cent of the urban population lived in poverty in 2016; in addition, up to 25 per cent of the employed population have been estimated to be working poor in the same year. Nonetheless, between 1990 and 2017 Mongolia's human development index increased from 0.579 to 0.741, or 27.9 per cent.

The proportion of population covered by social protection systems has slightly increased from 53.3 per cent in 2014 to 56 per cent in 2016, indicating slow progress towards **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)**. However, Mongolia still has failed to ratify ILO Convention 102 on Social Security, and the amounts of the social protection rates provided are low.

Indicators 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)** are optimistic, with 91.2 per cent of women having completed at least some level of secondary education in 2017 and the proportion of women in managerial positions increasing somewhat between 2010 (37.9 per cent) to 2017 (40 per cent).

Progress remains to be met on the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**, where negative trends tend to impact more on men than on women in the workforce. **Target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)** showed that 24.5 per cent of the workforce

was in informal employment in 2014 – more men (28.1 per cent) than women (20.7 per cent). In 2017, 24.5 per cent of the population was in low paid work – 27.1 per cent for men and 22.6 per cent for women. 46.9 per cent of work was precarious, although this was an improvement from 56.3 per cent in 2010. With regard to **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)**, while 2017 unemployment rates were relatively low, at 6.4 per cent of the working population above 15 years of age, the figure stood at 7 per cent for men and 5.7 per cent for women; the group most affected were women between the ages of 15-24, who face an unemployment rate of 22.6 per cent. Underemployment, although low (1.1 per cent of the working population above 15 years of age), has been rising in the past years for the youngest population (15-24 years of age). NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** have also been increasing since 2010 and stood at 19.8 per cent (17.7 per cent for men and 22.1 per cent for women) for youth between 15-24 in 2017. Indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** show that the average ratio of child labour between 2010-2016 stood at 17 per cent, with 9 per cent of urban children engaged in labour, compared to 30 per cent of those in rural areas. **Target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** is far off being met as the proportion of non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers stood at 24.6 per cent, while fatal injuries stood at 2.2 per cent in 2017. In addition, the number of trained labour inspectors as a ratio of the workforce stood at only 0.6 per 10,000 employed persons in 2017.

Progress remains to be made for Mongolia to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as in 2016 the labour share of GDP stood at a low 27.6 per cent (although this has been an improvement on past years). However, it is promising that the national minimum wage has more than doubled between 2010 and 2017.

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

The CMTU calls on the Mongolian government to implement the SDGs by:

- Fully implementing core ILO conventions that it has ratified to ensure decent work standards are met.
- Ratifying ILO Convention 102 on Social Security.
- Collaborating with social partners to produce SDG statistics on decent work and social dialogue.



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# TANZANIA



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

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Photo: TUCTA

### ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Tanzania has integrated the SDGs into its national planning by including them into the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 and the Long-term 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. To ensure transparency, a parliamentary group on the implementation of the SDGs has been created. The Tanzanian government is working on all SDGs prioritised by trade unions (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16) to a certain extent.

Trade unions are informed about the implementation of the SDGs through Progress Reports produced by the National Bureau of Statistics. However, while the government claims to have put in place a consultation mechanism for civil society, trade unions were not invited to take part in it. The government has further organised an awareness-raising workshop on the SDGs, but this failed to include community and non-state stakeholders. While trade unions discuss issues directly related to SDG 8 within the framework of the tripartite social dialogue, this is not officially part of the SDG consultation process.

Trade unions report that the national budgeting process has been aligned with Agenda 2030. However, only 68 per cent of the FYDP II refers directly to SDG objectives.

#### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

#### CONSULTATION



There are information sessions but no interaction.

#### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation.



# IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Given its placement as one of the countries with the lowest human development index in the world (HDI of 0.538 in 2017, 154th place), enormous challenges remain for Tanzania to reach the SDG objectives.

49.1 per cent of the Tanzanian population was living under the international poverty threshold in 2011, indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** was far from being reached. While this is an improvement of nearly 11 per cent points compared to 2007, it is still a shockingly high number. At 67 per cent, the proportion of the working poor (workers living on under US\$3.1 per day) is also extremely high, a challenge compounded by the drop in wages and purchasing power caused by inflation. In addition, levels of social protection coverage are very low, with social security covering less than 1 per cent of the entire population, and about 6.5 per cent of the formally employed population – suggesting that the achievement of **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** is still far off. In 2014, 17.3 per cent of the budget was allocated to spending on essential services such as social protection, health and education. While there have been some increases in budgetary spending on health in the past years, these have been a result of foreign-funded development spending.

With regard to **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)**, women spend more than three times more time than men on unpaid domestic activities and care. They are also less likely to be employed in waged labour (50 per cent) as compared to men (77 per cent). Much progress remains to be made 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)**, as between 2010–17, only 11.9 per cent of women over 25 had completed at least some form of secondary education.

There are serious concerns about Tanzania being able to meet the targets set by

**SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all).** Target 8.3 (**support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs**) is particularly worrying, as in 2014, 71.8 per cent of the population (68.3 per cent of men and 76.1 per cent of women) worked in informal employment outside of agriculture. In addition, in 2017, 83.5 per cent of work in Tanzania was classified as precarious or vulnerable. Furthermore, 36.8 per cent of workers were low paid, with women more likely to be affected (42.3 per cent) than men (31.3 per cent). Underemployment stood at 13.7 per cent in 2014, suggesting that achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** is still far off. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** were particularly high for women (19 per cent), although young men were also affected (10.6 per cent). Indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** show that 23.2 per cent of children were engaged in child labour in 2014. **Target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** requires attention, as in 2016, 21 cases of violations of labour rights were reported, 18 in law and three in practice. Furthermore, trade union density decreased in 2015, standing at 24.3 per cent, 1 per cent point less than in 2014.

Wide disparities in wealth distribution are a challenge to reaching **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**. In 2011, the share of the top 10 per cent of income earners in Tanzania accounted for 31 per cent of overall GDP, while the bottom 20 per cent of income earners accounted for 7.4 per cent of GDP.

The ITUC Global Rights Index suggests that there are systematic violations of trade union rights in Tanzania, impeding the achievement of **target 16.10 (ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements)**.

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

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 and other key decision-making process regarding 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 timeframe, feasibility, and sustainability of implementation.
- Ensure that all sectors, ministries and local authorities include SDG targets into their strategic plans.



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# VENEZUELA



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2019



Foto: Mariela Alonso

### ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Venezuelan government's development goals are set out in the 2013-2019 Economic and Social Development Plan for the Nation (Homeland Plan), currently underway, which does not cover the SDGs or establish concrete strategies for their implementation, since the plan was drawn up prior to the approval of the 2030 Agenda. Since then, measures have been announced such as the Programme for Recovery, Growth and Economic Prosperity (2018), which seeks to address the challenges faced by the Venezuelan working class and is seemingly framed around the targets within SDG 8. The 2019-2025 Homeland Plan, currently being drafted, is said to fully incorporate all 17 SDGs.

The Homeland Plan is headed by the president and is implemented through the bodies and instruments set up within the National Planning System, under the aegis of the Ministry of Popular Power for Planning.

The development measures implemented by the government, however, lack transparency and cannot be audited by civil society, trade unions included. In 2018, the

policies adopted included measures to combat the impact of high poverty rates on the quality of life within society, such as providing food aid for 16.3 million people, which cannot be seen as positive, as it implies greater reliance on the government. Trade unions were not consulted regarding the design and implementation of the 2013-2019 Homeland Plan, and no consultation or reporting process was established to assess its implementation. Although the government claims that it has launched a consultation process for the drafting of the 2019-2025 Homeland Plan, the trade unions point to the impossibility of assessing it and taking part in the consultation, as the mechanism is only open to those who hold a "homeland card".

There is no tripartite social dialogue in place in Venezuela, nor any such dialogue on the SDGs. The government does not recognise autonomous or independent trade union organisations. ASI Venezuela has nonetheless attempted to present its position and observations to the government through declarations, press conferences and press releases.

#### TRANSPARENCY



No access to information at all

#### CONSULTATION



There is no consultation process at all

#### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

The deep political and economic crisis in Venezuela has given rise to serious reverses in relation to numerous SDG targets.

In 2017, 87 per cent of the Venezuelan population was living on the poverty line, an alarming rate and one that places the country very far from meeting **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)**. In addition, 61.2 per cent of the population was living in extreme poverty. All households have suffered a fall in purchasing power as a result of the skyrocketing hyperinflation; and Venezuelan workers are the worst paid and the most impoverished in Latin America and the Caribbean. This is echoed by the levels of social discontent: 12,715 protests were recorded in 2018, 89 per cent of which were fuelled by demands related to economic, social, cultural and environmental rights. Nearly half of the protests were linked to the loss of workers' rights, the fall in the purchasing power of salaries and the lack of raw materials for industries and transportation.

The Venezuelan government introduced a series of measures in line with **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)**, to supplement existing social security provisions, such as the additional allowances for vulnerable groups – disabled people, pregnant and breastfeeding women, school children, pensioners, etc. ASI Venezuela, however, considers these programmes to be exclusionary, in practice, as they are only accessible to those who support the government. Moreover, these ad hoc measures fail to address the underlying problem, bearing in mind that social investment during 2018 amounted to 72.5 per cent of the national budget and yet the social crisis is deepening.

More effort is required for Venezuela to meet **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, as almost 50 times more women than men devote their time exclusively to unpaid domestic work. The female labour force participation rate, according to ILO estimates, was 52 per cent in 2018, and women represent 36.3 per cent of the labour force in the informal sector. The more than 18 per cent gender wage gap is, in fact, linked to the shift in the female labour force towards the informal economy. With regard to **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)**, the portion of women educated to at least secondary school level was 71.7 per cent. Women study more than men, and yet the gender pay gap persists across the board. As regards leadership at decision-making levels, the average participation rate among women is just 21 per cent.

There are serious doubts about Venezuela's ability to meet the targets set under **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. The political and economic crisis in the country has contributed to job cuts in both the public and private sectors, the outsourcing of public administration tasks, the closure of companies or their transfer to neighbouring countries, and the rapid growth of informal and precarious employment. Of all the countries in the Americas, Venezuela has the highest number of subcontracted, outsourced and informal workers within its public administration.

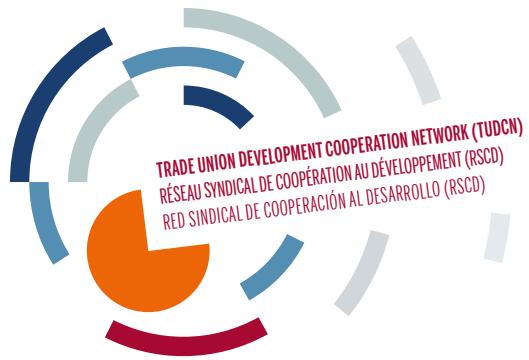
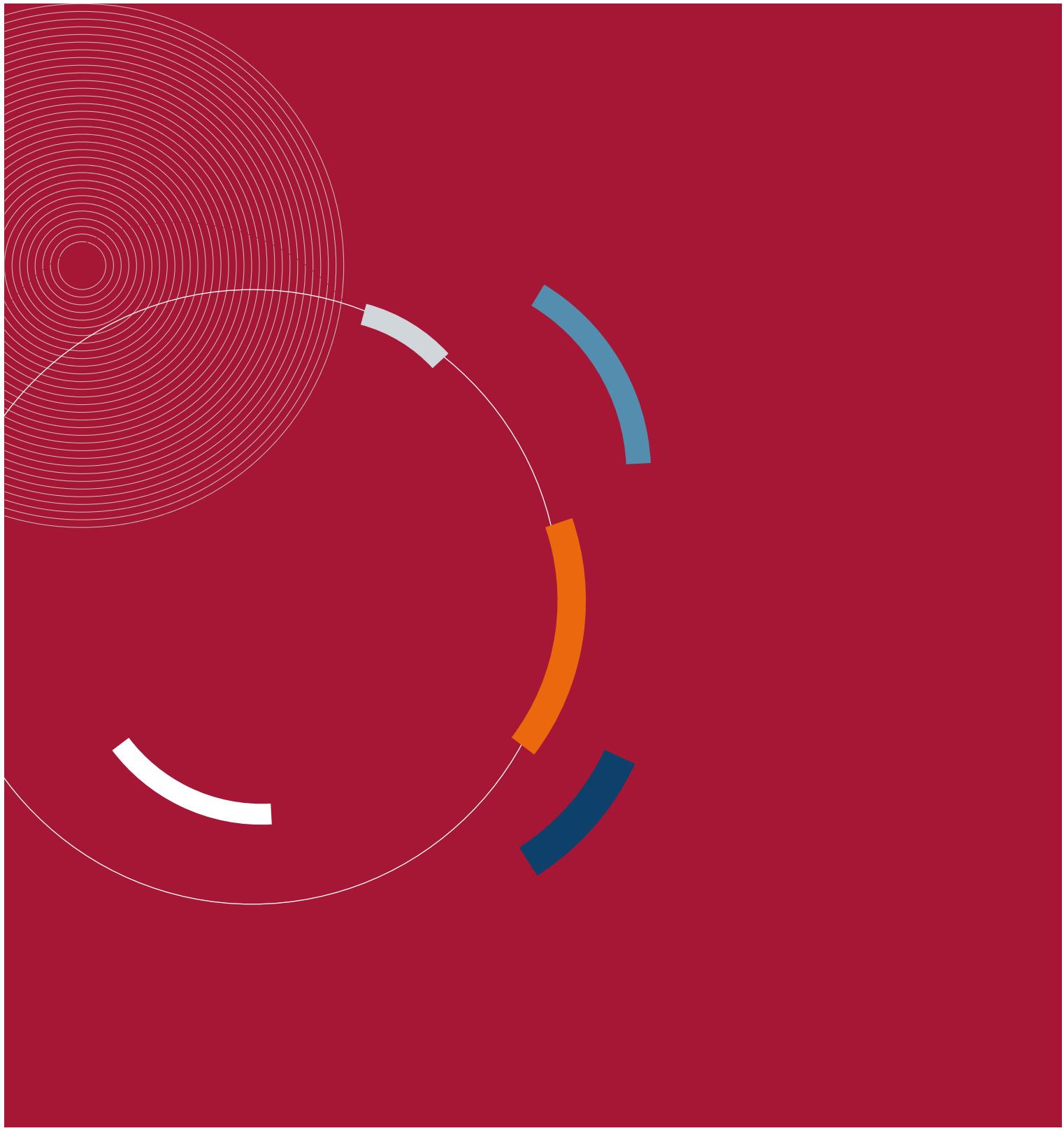
It is very unlikely that Venezuela will meet **target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation)**, given the high rate of informal employment – 41.3 per cent of the economically active population (EAP) works informally. In addition, 67 per cent of the EAP and 21 per cent of public sector employees receive pay that is not in line with the national minimum wage, and the wage tables are not adjusted in accordance with the collective agreements in force. Venezuela is very far off the mark when it comes to target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers): 29 violations of the right to the freedom of association and collective bargaining (12 in law and 17 in practice) were reported during the period up to 2016. ASI Venezuela warns that the Venezuelan state systematically violates trade union rights, interfering in trade union elections, threatening, disqualifying and dismissing trade unionists and placing legal restrictions on the right to strike. Particularly worrying in the context of **target 8.8 and target 16.10 (ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements)** are the cases of trade union leaders Erick Zuleta and Carlos Navarro, who have been facing harassment and persecution since September 2018, seemingly in retaliation, in the case of the latter, for the complaints filed with the ILO regarding violations of international conventions.

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

ASI Venezuela is urging the Venezuelan government to include all the social partners in the drawing up of strategic action plans aimed at reaching the SDGs. The participation of actors such as workers' representatives, civil society and other actors such as the private sector must be fully recognised as essential and crucial to the design of an effective and inclusive development model.



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