

# NORWAY



## TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2018



### ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Norwegian government is focusing on all trade union priority SDGs; however, it has not developed an overall national plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Ministry of Finance is in charge of implementing the domestic agenda and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the international one. Every ministry is further responsible for follow-up on relevant goals – e.g. the Ministry of Finance is coordinating activities on SDGs 8 and 10 and the Ministry of Climate and Environment is in charge of SDG 13. Trade unions are concerned about this fragmented approach, which impacts the overall delivery of the 2030 Agenda, as the criteria for implementation applied by each ministry lack coherence.

Trade unions report that while the overall decision-making process is transparent, the fragmentation of the SDG agenda means that monitoring for impact is difficult.

This makes the process of scrutiny more challenging, not only for trade unions, but also for the parliament. The same challenges persist with regards to consultations, to which trade unions are invited on an ad hoc thematic basis by different ministries. Genuine and coherent social dialogue on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is lacking.

While the government claims to have allocated additional resources for the implementation of the SDGs, trade unions report that it is not clear how these have been assigned to different ministries and how much has been earmarked for each goal.

#### 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?

Norwegian trade unions present an overall positive picture of the country's progress towards achieving the SDGs, with a few areas for improvement.

Indicators on **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty)** show that the 2015 human development index for Norway was 0.949, ranking the country as the most developed in the world. With regards to **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)**, most groups, such as children, mothers, people in retirement and those with severe disabilities, are estimated to enjoy 100% social protection coverage. These values were lower for certain categories, such as the unemployed (61.8% in 2014), vulnerable groups (83.1% in 2016) and those subject to occupational accidents (89.6% 2013). Indicators on **target 1.a (ensure significant mobilisation of resources to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions)** show that in 2015, the equivalent of 5.5% of GDP was spent on education, 8.4% was spent on health and 19.4% was spent on social protection.

On **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, 2016 figures show that 15% of Norwegian adults regularly provide unpaid care for sick, elderly or disabled. The gender differences with regard to this figure are small, but there is some disparity when it comes to the area of residence: 13% of people living in urban areas with at least 100 000 inhabitants provide unpaid help to others, against 16% of those in smaller urban areas and 15% in dispersed areas. Women do slightly more unpaid domestic work (3.5h) than men (3h) per week. 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)**, there are 38% of women in managerial positions in Norway; 48% of women have a higher education degree compared to 38.7% men.

Norway faces fewer challenges than most with regard to meeting the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. On **target 8.3 (promote policies that support productive activities, decent job creation)**, in 2014, 5.3% of the work was considered as vulnerable or precarious. On **target 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all)** the unemployment rate at the beginning of 2018 was a low 3.9%; the underemployment stood at 6.2%. The 2015 indicators on the gender wage gap suggested a gap of 7% in median incomes between women and men. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 7% of youth aged between 15-29 in 2016. On **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)**, in 2016, there were 45 work accidents with deadly outcomes and 10,079 occupational accidents resulting in long-term absence, 60% which affected men. Overall collective bargaining coverage stands at 73%, with 100% coverage in the public sector and 58% in the private sector; trade union density is 49%. In 2015, Norway's score in the labour rights index was 0.17, with only one violation in law of the right to strike, which excludes members of the military and senior civil servants.

Progress remains to be made for Norway to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as the share of the bottom 20% income earners in overall GDP in 2015 was 9%, compared to the 22.3% share of the top 10% income earners. The labour share of GDP (wages and social protection transfers) remains low, standing at 51% in 2016.

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

Norwegian trade unions call on their government to improve the implementation of the SDGs in the country by:

- developing a coherent national plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- improving the inclusion of social partners in the process of SDG implementation in line with the Nordic model of cooperation;
- ensuring a coherent and concrete reporting on the budget process and strengthening parliamentary scrutiny;
- adopting a holistic approach, in particular with regard to implementing SDG 8 together with the Paris Climate Agreement's call for a just transition and the ILO's Just Transition Guidelines.



Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions



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