



Trade Unions' 5 steps to realising the 2030 Agenda and "leaving no one behind"

1. Increasing inequality risks leaving many behind

High and rising inequality has a significant social and economic cost. The current rise in inequality is increasingly at odds with established paths towards sustainable development and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Instruments to combat increasing inequality must be utilized to their fullest.

2. The four pillars of decent work are crucial to achieve the SDGs and reduce inequality

Fulfilling the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda -employment creation, workers' rights, social dialogue and social protection- are crucial to ensure that "no one is left behind". In light of global trends, the importance of social dialogue and collective bargaining cannot be understated in efforts to combat inequality. There is a need to reverse the current trends by promoting and supporting social dialogue and the role of social partners.



3. Social dialogue, freedom of association and collective bargaining are cornerstones of the Decent Work Agenda

Social dialogue, freedom of association and collective bargaining serve as cornerstones for reducing inequalities. This is done by improving working conditions and ensuring fair employment relations and innovation, but also by valorising democratic institution-building more generally. It is clear that social dialogue has a key role to play in managing societal change.

4. National Reviews: social dialogue as an indicator and instrument

In order to achieve the SDGs and targets associated with the Decent Work Agenda, social dialogue must be promoted and utilised. This will require the collection of data directly assessing the existence and use of social dialogue at country level. At the same time, the national level review processes can benefit from the participatory and democratic nature of social dialogue when conducting the reviews. The follow up and review process of the 2030 Agenda aspires to be an inclusive and participatory endeavour, and social dialogue is a means to ensure that this is the case. This will be particularly important when it comes to reviewing areas which cover the Decent Work Agenda.

5. The role of the International Labour Organization and the social partners

In both implementation and monitoring, the role of the ILO, its tripartite constituents and its supervisory system, will be fundamental in the 2030 Agenda monitoring process. As the specialized agency of the UN on all labour related areas, the ILO possesses the required attributes to support the realization of many of the SDGs.

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