

“ADDRESSING CONVERGING CRISES THROUGH SDG8: TRADE UNION RESPONSES FOR SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES”

WEBINAR: 16-17 FEBRUARY 2022 12:00 – 2 PM ADDIS ABABA TIME

Background

In the framework of the [Trade Union Development Cooperation Network \(TUDCN\)](#) - an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) that aims at bringing the trade union perspective in development policy processes, African trade union centres have been actively engaged in advocacy on the SDGs.

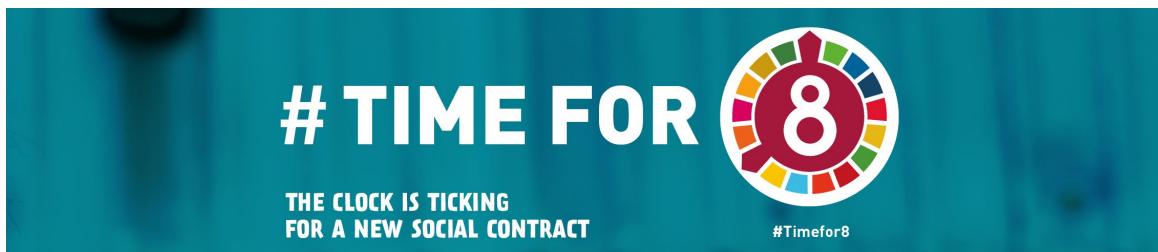
Since 2019, the ITUC [Time for 8 Campaign](#) has been putting forward the importance of SDG 8 in the recovery from the current multiple crises. ITUC affiliates' engagement in this campaign translated into an [incredible mobilisation of trade union leaders and workers](#) to emphasize the role of the trade unions as development actors and the importance of SDG 8 to leverage the overall Agenda 2030. The Campaign has also been a space to voice the trade union support to key UN processes, such as the UN Secretary-General's call for a “renewed social contract” in his report “Our Common Agenda”, and the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transitions.

An important part of our actions in the framework of the Time for 8 Campaign in Africa has been to promote the role of SDG 8 in the national dialogue with governments and the United Nations Resident Coordinators. Moreover, African trade union leaders have been engaging in the UN-ECA Regional Fora on Sustainable Development to show the centrality of decent work in accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda.

In preparation for the Ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Niger, 28/2-2/3/2023), the trade union centres involved in the African Trade Union Development Network (ATUDN) of the International Trade Union Confederation of Africa (ITUC-Africa) will meet virtually to discuss their strategy for the Forum and to dialogue with key organizations involved in the implementation of the SDGs, such as the UNECA, the ILO, the African Union and the UN Development Cooperation Office.

Objectives

- Discuss strategies to strengthen the national dialogue between trade unions, governments and UN Resident Coordinators, in order to enhance the role of SDG 8 in the governments' development policies and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks;
- Define key messages and advocacy strategy for the ITUC-Africa delegation participating to the Ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Niger, 28/2-2/3/2023);
- Share trade union priorities to accelerate the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, with key organizations involved in the implementation of the SDGs, such as the UNECA, the ILO, the African Union and the UN Development Cooperation Office.



Participants:

- Trade union leaders that participate in the African Trade Union Development Network (ATUDN) of the International Trade Union Confederation of Africa (ITUC-Africa)
- ITUC and ITUC-Africa leadership
- Representatives from ILO Regional Office for Africa and ACTRAV/ILO
- Representatives from UN Development Cooperation Office for Africa
- Representatives from UNECA
- Representatives from the African Union

AGENDA

16TH OF FEBRUARY: ATUDN MEETING IN PREPARATION TO THE NINTH SESSION OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

12:00-12:10	Welcome and opening	Eric Manzi , Deputy General Secretary, ITUC Paola Simonetti , Director Equality Department, ITUC
12.10-12:20	Update on trade union engagement on SDGs at global and regional level	Giulia Massobrio , TUDCN Coordinator, ITUC
12:20-1 pm	Members' updates on SDGs advocacy at national level Reflections from the ILO Bureau of Workers' Activities (ACTRAV)	TUDCN Members' report on their key national achievements on SDGs during 2022 Maria Helena Andre' , Director, ACTRAV ILO Moderator: Diego Lopez , Coordinator of Development Cooperation Policies, ITUC/TUDCN
1-1.40 pm	The UN-ECA Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and opportunities for trade union engagement. Discussion on trade union priorities on the SDGs under review in 2023 and strategy for the UN-ECA Forum	Guy Nicolas Nahimana , Focal Point for Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, UN-ECA Diego Lopez , ITUC Moderated by Giulia Massobrio , ITUC
1.40-2 pm	Conclusions and way forward	Paola Simonetti , ITUC



17TH OF FEBRUARY: HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE “ACCELERATING THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND AGENDA 2063 IN AFRICA”

12:00-12:10	Welcome and opening	Kwasi Adu-Amankwah , General Secretary, ITUC-Africa Eric Manzi , Deputy General Secretary, ITUC Paola Simonetti , Director Equality Department, ITUC
12:10-12:50	High Level Debate: Accelerating the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in Africa: the role of decent work and just transition Q&A	Ms. Sweta Saxena , acting director, Gender, Poverty & Social Policy Division, UN-ECA Ms. Odette Sarr Bolly , Programme Coordinator, Labour, Employment and Migration Division, African Union Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon – ILO Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Africa Eric Manzi , DGS ITUC (moderator)
12.50-1.20	Discussion on trade union priorities and engagement on the SDGs	Open discussion
1.20-1:30	Conclusions and way forward	Paola Simonetti , Director Equality Department ITUC Eric Manzi , DGS ITUC