The ITUC welcomes the initiative of the UN system and the inclusion of global civil society to work on the new UN development agenda, which will replace the Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015. Even though the MDG framework has many shortcomings in its approach, structure, content and – as proven over the years - effectiveness, trade unions believe a common global development agenda, supported through the UN system, can play an important role in mobilising and coordinating world-wide efforts to advance human development. The ITUC and its affiliated organisations around the world are committed to ensure a meaningful and representative trade union contribution to the post-2015 process, advocating for the inclusion of decent work and social protection goals in the new agenda.

From MDGs to a comprehensive global development agenda

The Millennium Development Goals have helped to focus world-wide development efforts and have achieved significant progress in a number of areas. They have however failed to address some of the key challenges faced by workers and their families. The target of "full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people" came too late to the agenda and did not receive sufficient attention, prominence and commitment. More comprehensive action is required to overcome the failures and ensure gender equality and women's rights. The three health-related MDGs, including on HIV/AIDS still remain alarmingly short of established targets and the promise of 'education for all' has not been realised.

Paradigm shift is needed. A new development agenda that delivers equity, social inclusion, decent work, structural transformation and sustainable livelihoods for working people while protecting our environment is needed and should be based on the human rights based approach as well as on the principles of democratic ownership and leadership. The post-2015 agenda, integrating the Sustainable Development Goals, should set global and universal goals, translated into country-owned targets and indicators as well as addressing the issue of global public goods, global challenges and global governance.

Proposed goals to be included in the post-2015 development agenda

Goal: Full employment and Decent Work for all

Work is a key element of social and economic development. Through job creation and better working conditions people, communities and countries can lift themselves out of poverty and improve livelihoods. This happens only when work is decent, productive, provides fair wages, underpinned by rights. A decent work goal must include concrete targets for full employment, investment in green job promotion, reducing precarious work and ensuring a living wage as well as complying with international labour rights for all workers and gender equality at the workplace. The ILO Decent Work Agenda[1] provides a useful reference for the understanding of decent work and its components as well as indicators for the measurement of the progress on its implementation.

Goal: Universal social protection

Ensuring universal access to basic guarantees of social protection is a human right and a direct and efficient way of reducing inequalities. The new agenda should include a goal on the implementation of social protection floors as defined in the Bachelet Report[2], and the ILO Recommendation 202 which has set an international standard to be applied at national level. Targets must be set and realised on income security for the unemployed, the sick, the disabled, pregnant women, children and the elderly as well as on access to health care, education, housing and sanitation. While social protection remains the responsibility of governments, a Global Fund for Social Protection should be established to introduce or strengthen social protection floors in the poorest countries.

What we cannot accept

Social and economic inequalities: The most significant and worrying trend is increasing inequity. Economic inequality has been widening at global and national levels, leading to social unrest and social tensions in many countries. Inequality has been a factor in destabilising the economy and inhibiting poverty reduction[3].

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[1] **The ILO Decent Work Agenda** is a comprehensive policy framework built on four strategic objectives, with gender equality as a crosscutting objective: creating jobs; guaranteeing rights at work; extending social protection and promoting social dialogue. Its implementation is supported through integrated Decent Work Country Programmes.

[2] *Social protection floor for a fair and inclusive globalization.* Report of the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group. ILO, 2011

[3] *Inequalities and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, UNRISD, October 2012

Poverty: Despite progress at the global level in poverty reduction, even at the current rate of progress, estimates indicate that about 1 billion people will still be living on less than $1.25 a day in 2015, corresponding to an extreme poverty rate of just below 16% globally[4]. This is unacceptable.

Precarious work and working poor: According to ILO statistics, there were still 456 million workers in the world living below the $1.25 a day poverty line in 2011. The global number of people in vulnerable employment is 1.52 billion. The prevalence of informal work arrangements is increasing in rich and poor countries and now stands at around 40% of the global labour force. Women and young people are more likely to find themselves in such insecure and poorly paid positions than the rest of the employed population[5].

Environmental degradation: Environmental destruction is displacing families and communities from their lands and productive livelihoods. Climate change threatens the sustainability of the planet itself. 1.8 billion people are expected to face water scarcity by 2025. 180 million will be affected by food shortages. There will be 200 million climate migrants by 2050. We will also need 50% more food, 45% more energy and 30% more water by 2050. Our planet and people are at risk[6].

Shrinking space for civil society: Over the last years in many countries legal and extra-legal measures were introduced or attempted by both state and non-state actors to limit the activities and influence of civil society, violating people's civil and political rights. Civil society's engagement, including trade unions, has been also limited in many global level policy processes, leading to their failure in providing adequate and people-centred responses to the current global economic, social, political and environmental challenges[7].

What we need

Domestic employment, income and social policies: Domestic macroeconomic policies that ensure full and decent employment should be combined with appropriate income and social policies in order to effectively address economic and social inequality and poverty.

Social protection: Quality public services and social protection are a crucial element of social policies to effectively address poverty, inequality and social exclusion. But above all, social protection is a human right and it is governments' duty and obligation to ensure its extension to all citizens.

Effective taxation policies: Effective taxation policies, including a progressive income tax and effective domestic, foreign and transnational private sector taxation, are important to ensure funding for social protection floors, climate action and development. The introduction of Financial Transactions Taxes will ensure that the financial sector makes an equitable contribution to funding global public goods and for repairing the costs of financial crises.

Policy Coherence for Development: In order to reach the vision, coherent policy approach is needed both at international and national levels, including macroeconomic policies, trade and investment agreements, migration regulations and related policies, ensuring that all of the policies contribute to the achievement of the vision and objectives set by the new agenda.

Democratic ownership and enabling environment for civil society: Civil society participation, including trade unions in social dialogue and collective bargaining structures, is not only a human right, but also an effective mechanism contributing to social and economic inequalities reduction and a prerequisite for the agenda's overall effectiveness, credibility and sustainability.

Focus on human rights and well-being for all: The post-2015 process must also include a transition to more comprehensive measuring of human and economic development which complements GDP with assessment of more equal wealth distribution and well-being based on the universal human rights framework.

Environmental sustainability: Respect for environmental boundaries is crucial not only for the future generations, but also for millions of people affected by various challenges that result from environmental degradation and climate change. A shift to a genuine green economy is needed with new decent jobs created from environmentally-friendly investments and millions other jobs transformed into sustainable ones.

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About the ITUC

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) is the main international trade union organisation, representing the interests of working people worldwide. Our primary mission is the promotion and defence of workers' rights and interests, through international cooperation between trade unions, global campaigning and advocacy within the major global institutions.
The ITUC represents 175 million workers in 153 countries.

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[4] *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012*, United Nations, September 2012
[5] *Ibidem.*
[6] *Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A future worth choosing,* United Nations, 2012
[7] *State of civil society 2011*, CIVICUS, 2012