

ITUC - KEY MESSAGES ON SDGS UNDER REVIEW AT [HLPF 2024](#)

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Key targets:

- *Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere*
- *Reduce at least by half the proportion of people living in poverty*
- *Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all*
- *Equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services, ownership and control over land, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance*
- *Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters*
- *Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions*
- *Sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication*

ITUC messages:

1. Invest in **decent and climate-friendly jobs** as a key element of poverty eradication. Full employment must be a core policy **objective** for all governments and international financial institutions. Public investments on jobs must increase, especially in climate-friendly sectors including sustainable infrastructure, the care economy and the green economy.
2. Extend **social protection** to achieve universal coverage in line with ILO standards, given that more than half of the global population lacks any social protection coverage. It is necessary to remove barriers for migrants' access social security and to facilitate the portability of contributions and entitlements as migrants are disproportionately excluded from social protection, which heightens their risk of falling into poverty.
3. Support countries that lack sufficient domestic resources to finance social protection by 1) allocating at least 7% of Official Development Assistance towards social protection, 2) establishing a Global Social Protection Fund to kickstart national social protection systems, and 3) complementing the efforts of the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.
4. Tackle working poverty by establishing statutory or negotiated **minimum living wages**, along with collective bargaining. Minimum living wages should be applied to all workers, including migrant workers, informal workers, domestic workers, the self-employed, undeclared workers, and home-based workers. These policies must go hand in hand with the promotion of **equal pay for work of equal value**, through inclusive labour market policies, formalisation processes and measures tackling occupational segregation and discrimination.

5. Respect **workers' rights**, including freedom of association and collective bargaining, regardless of the workers' contractual or migration status and for all sectors, given that erosion of workers' rights drives poverty and exclusion. In line with the ILO Centenary Declaration, job creation strategies should guarantee the application of a **labour protection floor** to ensure that fundamental workers' rights are respected, an adequate minimum wage is applied, maximum limits on working time are guaranteed, and safety and health at work are upheld.
6. Recognise universal access to **social services linked to basic needs** such as food, shelter, drinking water, education, health and social protection, which are essential to eradicate multidimensional poverty.
7. Tackle **precarious and informal work** and promote the registration of non-declared workers, as well the formalisation of the informal economy in order to improve working conditions and increase social and economic inclusion, in line with ILO Recommendation 204.
8. Advance gender equality, equality of treatment and opportunity for all, non-discrimination and inclusion as a key element to elevate women out of poverty and advancing social justice. This includes women's income security and equal opportunities to access paid, decent and formalised work, closing the gender pay gap, promoting decent work including in care and ending gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work.
9. Establish institutionalised tripartite **social dialogue** mechanisms on poverty and inequalities eradication policies, as part of broader sustainable development policies.
10. Support the implementation of the **UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions**, as a key UN-led initiative to promote integrated national employment and social protection strategies to boost just digital and climate transitions.
11. Promote **progressive taxation systems** at the country level and support a **UN-led global governance on taxation** to address inequalities between countries, and to tackle tax evasion, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows. This should include a multilateral reform of the current corporate tax architecture, including a minimum tax floor of 25 per cent for all corporations, a switch to unitary taxation with fair allocation factors, a billionaires' or wealth tax, and a financial transactions tax.
12. Recognise the role of **trade unions**, at local, national, sectoral and global levels, as actors at the **forefront of the fight against poverty**, including in-work poverty, and the effort to create a fairer society.

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Key targets:

- *End hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food.*
- *End all forms of malnutrition and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.*
- *Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.*
- *Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.*
- *Maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.*
- *Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity.*
- *Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.*
- *Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.*

ITUC messages:

1. Recognise **access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food as a human right** and implement inclusive and gender-responsive policies tackling malnutrition, that respect and promote human and labour rights.
2. Define food security as a strategic policy objective and protect food supply from the speculative global markets and its artificial fluctuations.
3. Implement **just transition** policies and investment plans based on **social dialogue** to promote decent job creation **in sustainable agriculture**, that are able to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation of land and that are based on gender-responsive just transition measures, including women farmers' equal access to land and resources.
4. Ensure decent working conditions and minimum **living wages** for workers throughout the food system and invest in **training and skills development** to support workers in sustainable agriculture, including for migrant workers in temporary labour migration programmes.
5. Move away from temporary labour migration schemes in the agriculture and food processing sectors as these schemes often limit migrant workers ability to exercise their

labour and human rights. Prioritise instead long-term or permanent, rights-based pathways for migrant workers in the food systems.

6. Ensure that all workers in the agriculture sector, including migrant workers and informal workers, are covered by labour protections. Ensure proper formalisation of the informal economy in agriculture and food production, and eradicate all forms of labour exploitation, including child labour, in food systems.
7. Promote **sustainable farming practices**, which have the potential to improve the quality and quantity of food supplies and could lead to the creation of millions of jobs,¹ including enforceable pesticides policies based on reduced use and banning of the most toxic pesticides in the transition to organic farming.
8. Restore government power to build and use strategic food reserves to limit price volatility, ensure an adequate return to small producers and a living wage for workers. Adopt an international regulatory framework to ensure a fair functioning of food commodity markets and avoid financial speculation and extreme **food price volatility**.
9. Step up international **finance** to support sustainable agriculture in developing countries, where the vast majority of the world's hungry people live, and establish adequate **accountability mechanisms for sustainable and "green" investments** in agriculture, including compliance with labour, environmental and fiscal standards.
10. Provide the necessary means for indigenous communities to assert their land rights, by aligning national legislation with **ILO Convention No. 169** and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
11. Implement the Doha Development Agenda and ensure that the WTO Agreement on Agriculture 1) guarantees food security, 2) improves the incomes and livelihoods of small producers, and 3) does not discriminate against developing countries.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Key targets:

- *Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries*
- *Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning*
- *Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning*
- *Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization*
- *Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management*

ITUC messages:

¹ ITUC, Just Jobs Campaign, 2021, https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/just_jobs_campaign_brief.pdf

1. Introduce **just transition measures** in countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with effective participation of social partners, as established by the ILO principles for a just transition.
2. **Implement the Work Programme on Just Transition Pathways adopted at COP28** and ensure that the focus on labour rights becomes central to climate policy discussions.
3. **Implement just transition industrial policies and investment plans** based on social dialogue and the protection of labour rights to promote the creation of decent climate-friendly jobs.
4. Open up permanent, rights-based and gender-responsive regular pathways for climate driven migration, which ensure access to decent job opportunities in line with international labour standards. Most legal pathways available for climate-affected populations are temporary, which increases risk of exploitation and limits access to rights.
5. **Accelerate the decarbonisation** processes through sustainable solutions that provide decent work and contribute to formalisation, negotiated with the social partners.
6. Guarantee a well-managed just transition away from fossil fuels by 1) providing employment guarantees, 2) ending wasteful government subsidies to fossil fuel companies, 3) preventing their profiteering, and 4) ensuring the protection of households against energy poverty.²
7. Guarantee the necessary levels of **investment in social protection, skills and lifelong learning** needed to ensure just transition.
8. **Uphold human and labour rights** while fostering inclusive participation of trade unions in climate policy formulation.
9. Enhance **mitigation** ambitions to create quality jobs, backed by just transition measures.
10. Deliver on **adaptation** needs through robust social protection plans and funding mechanisms recognising the centrality of decent work opportunities and social protection not only as measures that enhance resilience of communities to future shocks, but also as means to address drivers of climate displacement.
11. **Recognise the mandate of UN processes outside the UNFCCC on just transition, especially the role of the ILO** as the recognised tripartite body and the ILO Guidelines on Just Transition.
12. Step up international **climate finance** for developing countries, and establish **accountability mechanisms for sustainable and "green" investments**, to avoid greenwashing and ensure that all labour rights are respected and all investments are really climate friendly.
13. **Provide the finance for the Loss and Damage facility** and for investment in just transition.
14. Ensure the **alignment of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) with just transition principles by promoting social dialogue** and sufficient public funding throughout the climate finance cycle, including feasibility, implementation and evaluation.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Key targets:

- *Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere*

² ITUC, 5th Congress Statement.

- *End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children*
- *Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all*
- *Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime*
- *Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms*
- *Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels*
- *Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels*
- *Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance*
- *Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration*
- *Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements*
- *Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime*
- *Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development*

ITUC messages:

1. Ensure the respect of the rights to **freedom of association and collective bargaining and the right to strike** (ILO Conventions 87 and 98). Labour rights, hand in hand with social dialogue, are pillars to **build peace and democratic processes** that are a cornerstone for sustainable development.
2. **Guarantee informed and meaningful participation of social partners in all stages of decision-making processes on sustainable development policies**, to ensure good governance, transparency and accountability.
3. Recognise the role of labour activists as both human rights defenders and peace builders. Adopt effective regulations and policies to prevent and sanction the cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of trade unionists.
4. Promote the creation of **labour courts** and guarantee access to **legal aid on labour related matters**.
5. **Promote a framework for common security**, cemented on the principles of the United Nations, that addresses the ideological, social and economic causes of conflicts and holds to account those who are responsible for initiating and sustaining wars and for committing war crimes as well as terrorist attacks.
6. Promote actions to tackle the root causes of conflict in line with the ILO Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation (No. 205). This includes advancing economic security for working people, and fighting any extremism that promotes hatred and exclusion.
7. Promote the universalisation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and the conversion of current investments in weapons - including nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction- into **investments in social infrastructure to safeguard peace and stability**.

8. **Strengthen the international agenda for Women, Peace and Security** by setting a 50 per cent goal for women's participation at all levels of international peace and security undertakings.
9. **Establish regular UN Peace Conferences, on the basis of the UN report Our Common Agenda**, following the model of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP).
10. With a view to achieving the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, **strengthen international law and revitalise treaties in the area of disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and the arms trade** – particularly the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

ITUC messages:

1. **Reinforce the role of social dialogue as a key means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in strategies to build recovery and resilience from converging crises.** To be sustainable, crisis response measures must be built on the engagement of social partners. Social dialogue and industrial relations help to rebuild trust in institutions and contribute to crafting equitable and sustainable policies.
2. We need **a new model of global governance** to redress the current imbalance of power and uneven distribution of wealth at international level. A truly inclusive multilateral system where social partners are on board and have a say.
3. **Ensure the implementation of adequate financing strategies** that include an increase in the quantity and quality of Official Development Assistance (ODA); debt relief restructuring and cancellation; the implementation of progressive taxation systems and a multilateral reform of the current corporate tax architecture, including a minimum tax floor of 25 per cent for all corporations, a billionaires' or wealth tax, and a financial transactions tax ; tackling tax evasion, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows; reallocation of Special Drawing Rights and business accountability.
4. **Improve the quantity and quality of data** to input into national policy making processes.
5. **Implement digitalisation strategies** that promote just transitions and life-long learning.