

Trade Union Position on the UN “Pact for the Future”

PRIORITIES on REVISED DRAFT OF 14 May 2024 (“REV1”)

- **Organisation’s name:** **INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ITUC)**, which represents 191 million workers in 169 countries and territories, and leads the [UN Workers and Trade Unions Major Group](#).
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(Proposals for new language in green)

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

- Action 1 (SDGs) : we support the call to fully implement the SDG Summit Declaration (paragraph 3.a) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (3.b).
- Action 2 (SDGs financing): we welcome the reference to the negotiations to finalize a United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation (paragraph 4.f) , to a global minimum-level of taxation on high net-worth individuals (4.g) and accelerating reforms of the multilateral development banks and development finance institutions (4.h).
- Action 4 (invest in people): we welcome the call to **“invest in people” by “ensuring universal access to social protection, quality inclusive education and lifelong learning, universal health coverage and decent work for all”** (paragraph 6). To this end, securing **“ambitious outcomes on financing all aspects of social development**, including universal social protection, at the Second World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025” (6.b) is of utmost importance.
- Action 5 (inclusive societies): the commitment of ensuring that “all human rights are at the centre of our efforts to eradicate poverty, combat inequalities, leave no one behind and implement the 2030 Agenda” (paragraph 7.b) is very welcome.
- Action 6 (gender equality): we call for a specific reference for gender equality in the world of work, including **equal pay for work of equal value, decent care work and the eradication of gender-based violence**.
- Action 8 (climate): we call for an explicit commitment to **Just Transition programmes based on tripartite social dialogue**, in line with the ILO Guidelines for a just transition.

Chapter II. International peace and security

- Action 11 (peaceful societies):
 - o as stated by the ILO Constitution, “universal, just and lasting peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice”. Therefore, we call for **a reference to social justice** when referring to “addressing underlying drivers and root causes of armed conflict (...) by accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda” (paragraph 16.a).
 - o We also suggest rephrasing paragraph 16.c) as follows”: {we agree to} “ensure that **spending on arms does not come at the expense of is converted into** investment in sustainable development and building sustainable peace”.

- Action 21 (world free of nuclear weapons): the need to accelerate the implementation of existing nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments (paragraph 26.c) should be reinforced with a **commitment to the universalisation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

- Action 28 (human rights): we welcome the commitment to “integrate a **human rights-based perspective to norm-setting processes** for new and emerging technologies” (paragraph 36.b), while we call for an **explicit reference to labour rights**.
- Action 29 (gender equality): we welcome the reference to addressing **gender-based “persistent barriers** to equal and meaningful access to and participation and leadership in science, technology and innovation (paragraph 37. a).

Chapter IV: Youth and Future Generations

- Action 32 (social services): we celebrate the references to the decent work for youth in paragraph 42, including: the “importance of investing in **essential social services** for young people, including social protection”; the recognition that “to fulfil their full potential and secure **decent work** and quality employment, young people must have access to education opportunities throughout their lives”; the call to “build **education systems and life-long learning** societies that are tailored to the needs of young people today and in the future by enhancing curricula (...) and improving access to technical and **vocational training** for the digital and green transitions”; and “create **sustainable jobs and decent livelihoods** for youth, especially in developing countries and particularly for young women, and establish universal, adequate, comprehensive and sustainable social protection systems”.
- Action 33 (equal opportunities): we welcome the references to the need to “fight and **eradicate all forms of racism**, racial discrimination, xenophobia, islamophobia and antisemitism, and all forms of intolerance” (paragraph 43.a) and “**combating gender stereotypes** and negative social norms and eliminating discrimination,” (43.b).

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

- Action 36 (reinvigorate multilateralism):
 - o we agree with the call for “strengthened accountability and compliance mechanisms” of the multilateral system (paragraph 47.a), to “ensure that all Member States can meaningfully participate in global decision-making in multilateral institutions, especially developing countries”(47.c).
 - o We also agree on the need for multilateralism to “allow for the meaningful participation of a diverse range of actors beyond States” (47.d). **This recommendations should include a reference to the participation of social partners through social dialogue.**
- Action 43 (international financial architecture): we support the call on the boards of the IMF, the World Bank and other multilateral development banks to take further steps to enhance the representation and voice of developing countries (paragraphs 54.a and 54.b)
- Action 45 (debt relief): we welcome the commitment to “pursue a stronger, pro-active multilateral response to the ongoing debt crisis that enables countries to sustainably escape debt overhang and prioritize government expenditure on the achievement of the SDGs” (paragraph 56.a), as well as request

to the UN Secretary General to make concrete recommendations for reform to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025” (56.b).

- Action 46 (Special Drawing Rights- SDRs): we welcome the call to “encourage countries to voluntarily rechannel at least fifty percent of SDRs from the 2021 issuance” (paragraph 57.a), “encourage the IMF to develop protocols to facilitate rapid SDR issuances and voluntary re-channeling during times of crisis” (57.b), and the need to “establish consistent regulation of bank and other financial service entities (57.d).
- Action 47 (climate finance): “concrete steps to ensure that the private sector, especially large corporations, contributes to sustainability and protecting our planet, including through strengthening **reporting procedures and making ratings of investment products more credible**” are essential (paragraph 58.b) . At the same time, we call on this paragraph to refer also to “**alignment of private investments with SDGs, ILO standards, due diligence and responsible business conduct**”, to enhance the developmental added value of climate finance.
- Action 51 (partnerships):
 - o The commitment of paragraph 62.a, related to “ensuring that relevant stakeholders can meaningfully participate in United Nations’ processes and that Member States have access to the views and expertise of partners on a systematic basis” is instrumental to achieving each and every objective of the Pact for the Future. Meaningful participation should start at the national level, by recognizing **freedom of expression and association** as key components of democratic societies.
 - o When referring to the need to strengthen the accountability of the private sector towards the implementation of the agreed frameworks of the United Nations (paragraph 62.c), the Pact for the Future should support the adoption of a **UN Treaty that holds businesses to account for human rights violations**.