

# Key Messages from Trade Unions to the 2023 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

# SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

- **Universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation** as a human right.
- Manage **water as a common good** and invest in **public safe drinking water and sanitation services**.
- Invest in **decent climate-friendly jobs in water resources management, sanitation services and related infrastructure**, based on gender-responsive just transition measures.
- **Extend social protection coverage**, including income security and healthcare services, to those exposed to water insecurity.
- **Establish social dialogue mechanisms on water and sanitation management** to achieve an integrated management of water resources at all levels.
- Support **a global treaty on plastic pollution** as a key element to improve water quality, which must include just transition measures for all workers in the life cycle of plastics, from fossil fuel fracking to production to waste.

# SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy

- Recognise **access to energy as a human right** and ensure the universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, through inclusive and gender-responsive energy policies that respect and promote human and labour rights.
- **Tackle energy poverty** through development of renewables capacity and support households facing energy insecurity.
- Implement **Just Transition industrial policies and investment plans.**
- Introduce **gender-responsive Just Transition measures related to energy** in NDCs.
- **End wasteful government subsidies to fossil fuel companies and prevent their profiteering** while ensuring protection of households against energy poverty.
- **Step up international climate finance to support renewable energy production in African countries.**

# SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

- Increase **public sector-led investments in infrastructure** to meet development needs and support decent job creation.
- Advance in reforms to **increase the share of industry and industrial employment**. Increase the participation of state agencies in the allocation of credit, technological development and markets expansion.
- **Support micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises to ensure employment retention and the formalisation of the informal economy.**
- Implement **just transition industrial policies that provide a foundation for national jobs plans** and development.
- **Reduce dependency on foreign products in crucial sectors** (food, energy, pharmaceutical, etc.) by advancing domestic investments and regional integration.

# SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

- Ensure that industrialisation and structural transformation produces **shared outcomes by ensuring minimum living wages and collective bargaining on wages.**
- Increase the **value added content of the exports of primary products.**
- **Ensure access to quality and affordable internet and put in place proactive digitalisation policies** as well as rules to ensure labour and union rights for homebased, platform and remote workers.
- Invest in **gender-responsive strategies for skills development and life-long learning**, especially for youth, to integrate workers in modern productive practices. Design and implement national systems of skill certification as well as systems for the recognition of skills and qualifications of migrant workers.

# SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities

- Ensure support for and investment in **a just transition towards sustainable cities**
- Accelerate the **decarbonisation of urban transport** through sustainable solutions that provide decent work and contribute to formalisation.
- **Undertake energy efficiency measures in social, public and low-income housing**, reducing energy demand and bills, while creating decent and climate-friendly jobs.
- Ensure **fundamental changes to infrastructure and buildings** through renovations of existing buildings, CO2 reduction from building operation, and fossil-free building sites in cities.
- **Expand access to decent housing and infrastructure for all urban residents** while addressing climate change.
- Ensure **resilience to extreme weather conditions and disasters** and protect populations from price shocks or disconnections from services.
- **Invest in local and proximity quality public services for all** and assist families and hard to reach groups

# SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- **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 the Covid-19 crisis.
- Promote **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.
- **Financing:** more and better dev coop, debt relief, taxation, reallocation of SDRs and Business accountability.
- **Data:** more and better data at the national level
- **Digitalisation:** Just Transition and life-long learning

# Thanks