



MONGOLIA



A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2019



ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Mongolian government has incorporated the SDGs into its Sustainable Development Vision 2030 (SDV) and its Program of Action 2016-2030.

The National Development Agency is in charge of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Vision 2030. All ministries are further expected to implement the SDV and the government's development agenda within their respective policy areas. The government has committed to working on all trade union priority SDGs (SDG 1, 5, 8, 10, 13 and 16).

Mongolia has formed a standing committee on the Sustainable Development Vision 2030 at parliament level. Social stakeholders such as unions, employers and civil society organisations, including CMTU, are invited to become members of the committee and access information on the SDG implementation process. The National Development Agency further organises multi-stakeholder consultations

with public and private actors as well as civil society organisations. CMTU has participated in these consultations to discuss the scope of Mongolia's Voluntary National Review (VNR) and to identify key priorities, such as making sure annual budgets support the SDGs and SDV priorities, as well as the setting up of monitoring and evaluation systems to assess and report on progress.

Social partners are involved in general by the government through their work on the ongoing labour law reform, as well as in discussions on the laws on social protection and taxation and initiatives for the transition from informal to formal employment. These are important areas that are obviously connected to the SDGs. The budgetary allocations towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Vision 2030 are currently being debated – social actors have requested that this process result in clear and transparent outcomes.

TRANSPARENCY



Regular access to limited information

CONSULTATION



There are information sessions but there is no interaction

SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government





IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

While some indicators are improving, challenges towards reaching the SDGs remain to be addressed in Mongolia.

High levels of poverty remain an obstacle to reaching **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)**, as 34.9 per cent of the rural and 27.1 per cent of the urban population lived in poverty in 2016; in addition, up to 25 per cent of the employed population have been estimated to be working poor in the same year. Nonetheless, between 1990 and 2017 Mongolia's human development index increased from 0.579 to 0.741, or 27.9 per cent.

The proportion of population covered by social protection systems has slightly increased from 53.3 per cent in 2014 to 56 per cent in 2016, indicating slow progress towards **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)**. However, Mongolia still has failed to ratify ILO Convention 102 on Social Security, and the amounts of the social protection rates provided are low.

Indicators on **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)** are optimistic, with 91.2 per cent of women having completed at least some level of secondary education in 2017 and the proportion of women in managerial positions increasing somewhat between 2010 (37.9 per cent) to 2017 (40 per cent).

Progress remains to be met on the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**, where negative trends tend to impact more on men than on women in the workforce. **Target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)** showed that 24.5 per cent of the workforce

was in informal employment in 2014 – more men (28.1 per cent) than women (20.7 per cent). In 2017, 24.5 per cent of the population was in low paid work – 27.1 per cent for men and 22.6 per cent for women. 46.9 per cent of work was precarious, although this was an improvement from 56.3 per cent in 2010. With regard to **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)**, while 2017 unemployment rates were relatively low, at 6.4 per cent of the working population above 15 years of age, the figure stood at 7 per cent for men and 5.7 per cent for women; the group most affected were women between the ages of 15–24, who face an unemployment rate of 22.6 per cent. Underemployment, although low (1.1 per cent of the working population above 15 years of age), has been rising in the past years for the youngest population (15–24 years of age). NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** have also been increasing since 2010 and stood at 19.8 per cent (17.7 per cent for men and 22.1 per cent for women) for youth between 15–24 in 2017. Indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** show that the average ratio of child labour between 2010–2016 stood at 17 per cent, with 9 per cent of urban children engaged in labour, compared to 30 per cent of those in rural areas. **Target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** is far off being met as the proportion of non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers stood at 24.6 per cent, while fatal injuries stood at 2.2 per cent in 2017. In addition, the number of trained labour inspectors as a ratio of the workforce stood at only 0.6 per 10,000 employed persons in 2017.

Progress remains to be made for Mongolia to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as in 2016 the labour share of GDP stood at a low 27.6 per cent (although this has been an improvement on past years). However, it is promising that the national minimum wage has more than doubled between 2010 and 2017.

WHERE TO NEXT?

TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The CMTU calls on the Mongolian government to implement the SDGs by:

- Fully implementing core ILO conventions that it has ratified to ensure decent work standards are met.
- Ratifying ILO Convention 102 on Social Security.
- Collaborating with social partners to produce SDG statistics on decent work and social dialogue.



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of TUDCN/ITUC and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.