



TIME FOR 8 WEBINAR AFRICA

8 JUNE 10.00 AM-12.30 PM BRUSSELS

REPORT

Session 1: The COVID-19 socio-economic impact in Africa

The meeting started with the welcoming of participants by ITUC Deputy General Secretary, Mamadou Diallo, and ITUC-Africa General Secretary, Kwasi Adu-Amankwah. This was followed by a session on the Covid-19 socio-economic impact in Africa which started with a presentation from the ITUC Africa General Secretary on the general situation in the region. Participants also inputted to this session with general remarks on how the situation is affecting workers in their countries, especially informal economy workers. In the framework of this session a representative from ILO/ACTRAV presented the initiatives that they are undertaking to analyse the impact of COVID-19 on trade unions.

Session 2: Key trade union policy responses for the SDGs decade of action

The following session consisted in a presentation and subsequent discussion on the key trade union policy responses for the SDG decade of action. In this session the SDG 8 Monitor was presented together with its main findings which show that:

- The world was not on track to achieve SDG 8 and the 2030 Agenda,
- Economic growth alone cannot ensure the full achievement of SDG 8 ambitions
- The world needs improved global governance.

The trade union policy responses to the SDG decade of action were then presented, these include key demands around the areas of labour rights, occupational health and safety, universal social protection and access to health care, minimum wages, the gender pay gap, formalisation of the informal economy, support to the real economy and sustainable investments, business due diligence, technology and innovation, energy decarbonisation and governance and collective action.

Following the presentation contributions were made by participants, emphasising the importance of the SDGs and development finance in the current world context. The Secretary General from FESTU Somalia introduced how they have been engaging with the United Nations (UN) in their country through the UN Cooperation Framework (UNCF) and emphasised the importance of trade unions engaging in the UNCFs.

Session 3: the new Time for 8 Campaign and the call to action

The third session focused on the ITUC Time for 8 Campaign and its call to action. The renewed Time for 8 campaign and its new messages around trade union responses to the Covid-19 context was presented. In the run-up to the UN High-Level Political Forum the ITUC is calling on affiliates to provide messages from leaders on the importance of SDG 8 and workers' testimonies on how the Covid-19 crisis is affecting their

lives and livelihoods. The campaign also includes a call for trade union engagement with the UN Resident Coordinators, through an advocacy letter.

Conclusions

The final remarks highlighted the importance of trade union engagement in the Time for 8 campaign and its call to action and especially the need for trade unions to have a say on the policy making of the UN system and SDG implementation.



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