



TIME FOR 8 WEBINAR ASIA-PACIFIC
8 JUNE 10.00 AM-12.30 PM

REPORT

Session 1: The COVID-19 socio-economic impact in Asia and Pacific

The meeting started with the welcoming of participants by ITUC Deputy General Secretary, Owen Tudor, and ITUC-Asia and Pacific General Secretary, Shoya Yoshida. This was followed by a session on the Covid-19 socio-economic impact in the region, which started with a presentation from the ITUC Asia and Pacific representative on the general situation in the region. Representatives from trade union organisations from Indonesia and the Philippines have complemented the general presentation in the Region with specific updates on their country and on the increase of unemployment rate. 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.

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

This 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. The campaign includes a call for trade union to engage with the UN Resident Coordinators through an advocacy letter. It also includes a call of the ITUC to its 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. Participants have welcomed the tools and they will send messages and testimonies to be disseminated in TUDCN platforms during the HLPF2020 weeks.



Conclusions

The support and participation from the affiliates at national level at this point it is fundamental, as it is important to start a dialogue at country level with the UN resident coordinators to start a path towards the UN Decade of Action plan with a focus on the country level.



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