



## ITUC SIDE EVENT AT THE HLPF 2022

### “A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR A GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA”

11 July 2022, 8-9am (New York time)

#### REPORT

The virtual meeting began with an introduction by **Paola Simonetti**, Director of the ITUC Equality Department. She presented the agenda and explained that the objective of the meeting was to put forward and discuss trade union policy recommendations to contribute to the theme of the HLPF 2022, namely "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda ". In this framework, Simonetti made clear that trade unions consider SDG 8 key for recovery: indeed, progress on SDG 8 provides a strong leverage for other goals, including the goals under review at the HLPF 2022.

The first part of the event was a panel discussion about policy priorities to advance progress towards a gender transformative new social contract.

The first discussant was **Zingiswa Losi**, President of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). Losi highlighted the relevance of the decent work agenda to advance on gender equality (SDG 5), by clarifying that the trade unions' call for a New Social Contract rooted on SDG8 includes equal pay for work of equal value, health and safety working conditions, eradication of gender-based violence and harassment and investment in the care economy. Looking at the case of South Africa, Losi highlighted that women, especially black, have been impacted by COVID-19 in terms of job losses and by an increase in domestic violence. Losi concluded by calling for inclusive processes that involve women through social dialogue, collective bargaining and collective action.

The next speaker was **Susan Hopgood**, President of Education International. She discussed the interconnections between SDG8, SDG5 and SDG4 (access to education). "When girls and women fully participate in quality and inclusive education, they improve their access to career development, financial independence and autonomy," she said and called for a gender-transformative education supported with policies, data, laws and adequate budget dedicated to education.

The second part of the event focused on the role of the United Nations and the Member States in carrying out a new social contract.

The discussion was opened by **Beate Andrees**, Special Representative to the United Nations and Director of the ILO Office in New York. She explained the relevance of the UN General Secretary's Report "Our Common Agenda" and the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection to advance the SDGs. She also shared the current work on the Global Accelerator, led by the ILO, which aims to put in place measures to promote 1) better policy integration on social protection, jobs and just transition; 2) address the challenge of resource mobilisation, complementing domestic fiscal efforts with international financial support; and 3) enhance multilateral cooperation to provide political and strategic support to the Accelerator, particularly to promote job creation in the green and digital economies.



The second speaker in this session was **Flor de Lis Vasquez Muñoz**, Counselor of the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations. She presented the Global Care Alliance (GCA) launched by the Government of Mexico and supported by many governments and international organizations (including the ITUC), as a key initiative aimed at promoting care as a public good and human right, and fostering institutionalized policies on care and adequate investments.

The two sessions were followed by an exchange with the audience who flagged key interconnections among the topics discussed in the two panels, such as the impact of climate change on gender equality, the link between the promotion of climate friendly jobs and the call for investments in the care economy, and the timeliness of the UN Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection or Just Transitions in the context of national recovery from Covid-19.

**Paola Simonetti** concluded the event with a pledge that unions will continue to supporting investments in measures that provide for sustainable, inclusive and gender-transformative progress aligned with the SDGs.