

## REPORT WEBINAR ON #TIMEFOR8 – TUCA TUDCN

10 june, 2020

### **Background**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had global consequences on the income and livelihoods of workers around the world. Workers are facing increasing occupational safety and health risks; jobs are being suppressed worldwide and precariousness is growing. Informal economy workers have been especially affected as lockdown measures are challenging their livelihoods and they remain largely uncovered by social protection systems and lack access to health care. SDG8 on decent work and sustainable economic growth is therefore more relevant than ever.

In light of the pandemic and the need to put SDG 8 at the heart of responses to the crisis, the ITUC has been adapting its [Time for 8 Campaign](#) over the last month to put forward new messages that will respond to workers' priorities in this context.

### **Objectives**

- to present the new *Time for 8* Campaign and its [call to action](#)
- to discuss the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for the trade union advocacy work and the trade union key policy responses to the SDGs decade of action.

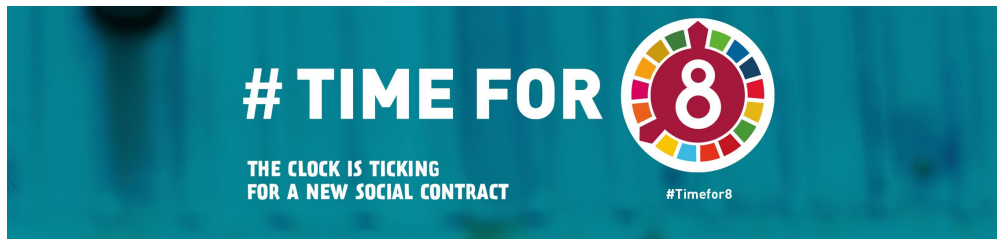
### **Participants**

The webinar counted with the participation of 18 representatives between TUCA/TUDCN members and TUCA representatives, plus 6 representatives of the ITUC/TUDCN staff.

### **Contents of the discussion**

The webinar opened with an analysis of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in the Americas by Rafael Freire, TUCA Secretary General. His presentation was followed by several interventions from national affiliates, who in most cases highlighted the lack of adequate policy responses from Governments to the health and employment crisis related to the pandemic, or even the instrumentalization of the COVID-19 to further worsen working conditions. As an exception, the Argentinian case provided a positive example where the government defined a recovery plan based on social dialogue.

The second part of the webinar focused on the main advocacy tools developed by the ITUC-TUDCN to promote the centrality of SDG8 within the overall agenda2030 and as a response to the impact of COVID-19 and to need for accelerated action towards the SDGs. In particular, Giulia Massobrio (ITUC) presented the SDG 8 Monitor and the key trade union policy responses for the SDGs decade of action, while Alain Rodriguez (ITUC) presented the new ITUC Campaign #timefor8. The presentations were followed by



questions and comments from participants, which highlighted the usefulness of both tools for awareness raising and advocacy purposes at the national, regional and global level, as well as the interest in linking them to current national initiatives promoted by affiliates to ensure coherence and enhance their impact. On his side, Freire expressed TUCA's commitment to use the #timefor8 campaign in the regional level as part of TUCA's work on PLADA and SDGs, in order to reinforce messages such as the need for better occupational safety and health measures, the call for a global social protection fund, the need to support SMEs and the fight against inequalities.

In their concluding remarks, both Paola Simonetti (ITUC) and Freire stressed the importance of using the tools and the expertise of the TUDCN to make trade unions asks on the SDGs more and more visible in all relevant decision making spaces related to sustainable development and to provide concrete proposals for a recovery from COVID19 based on decent work and sustainability.