SDGs decade of action: trade union policy responses
The road to 2030

The SDGs decade of action

We only have 10 years to achieve the SDGs

Some targets need to be met before 2030

At this level of progress we will not achieve the SDGs, especially SDG 8

We need to put forward key policy responses from trade unions in this decade of action
Why an SDG 8 Monitor?

To show the centrality of the social and labour dimensions within the Agenda 2030 and how SDG 8 influences other SDGs

To use the findings as a basis to develop policy responses to enhance progress on SDG 8 and the whole 2030 Agenda
ITUC SDG 8 Monitor: Methodology

• The SDG 8 composite indicator is built up on a selection of indicators based on relevant, reliable and available statistical data maximising the world population coverage (97.2%)

• All indicators are collected from official international sources using the following criteria:
  ✓ Relevance of indicators of SDG 8 in the 2030 Agenda
  ✓ Relevance of indicators from other goals (related to the world of work) in the 2030 Agenda.
  ✓ Relevance of indicators outside the 2030 Agenda but nonetheless related to the world of work (proxy to SDG 8 targets)
ITUC SDG 8 Monitor: Methodology

• The SDG 8 composite indicator is made up of four sub-domains:
  • Economic Well-Being
  • Employment quality
  • Labour vulnerability
  • Labour rights

• It examines performance at global and regional level, notably through “income level”- and “regional level”-based groupings and shows evidence on interrelations between SDG 8 and relevant indicators of the 2030 Agenda

• Rating scale that ranges from 70 to 130, where value 100 represents the world average
ITUC SDG 8 Monitor: Main findings

1. The world was not on track to achieve SDG 8 and the 2030 Agenda

2. Economic growth alone cannot ensure the full achievement of SDG 8 ambitions

3. The world needs improved global governance
The world was not on track to achieve SDG 8 and the 2030 Agenda

Results of SDG 8 Composite Indicator by income groups

- There is a clear North-South divide
- All low-income countries perform below the world average
- Among lower-middle income countries, only 15% of the group presents values above the world average
- Only 30% of upper-middle income countries have values above the world average
- 22% of the high-income group countries perform below the world average
The world was not on track to achieve SDG 8 and the 2030 Agenda

Results of SDG 8 Composite Indicator by UN regions

- Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa and the Middle East, Asia and Oceania, and Sub-Saharan Africa – perform below the world average
- The only exception is Europe and North America with a value slightly above the world average
- North America and Europe are better placed than the rest of the world; however, despite their good performances in terms of GDP or GNI per capita, there is a long way ahead also for wealthier regions
Economic growth alone cannot ensure the full achievement of SDG 8 ambitions.

Economic well-Being by income groups
....examples: growth alone does not grant wider well-being for all
Economic growth alone cannot ensure the full achievement of SDG 8 ambitions.

Employment quality by income groups
....examples: the world needs a global policy for employment quality
Economic growth alone cannot ensure the full achievement of SDG 8 ambitions.

Labour vulnerability by income groups
...examples: vulnerability of workers is seen in all regions of the world
Economic growth alone cannot ensure the full achievement of SDG 8 ambitions.

The labour rights by income groups

![Graph showing labour rights by income groups across different income levels.]
The world needs improved global governance

• Overall, the ITUC SDG 8 Monitor outcomes also show that there is still a significant lack of comparable data among countries for several dimensions of the SDGs.

• This includes SDG 8, especially regarding the indicators on informal economy, social protection, occupational health and safety, and child labour amongst others.

• It is not only a problem of the quantity of information/data provided but also of the quality and timeliness.
ITUC SDG 8 Monitor: conclusions

• The **economic dimension alone** cannot ensure the full achievement of the ambitions of SDG 8 nor those of the 2030 Agenda

• We need to go **beyond GDP** to consider other elements that will contribute to increasing living standards, social protection and public services, democratic rights and freedoms, the engagement of people and the respect for the environment to reach sustainable and just economies

• Producing and measuring **data is a matter of political choice that directly affects global policy responses and governance**: improving availability and comparability of statistical data, especially in developing countries, is essential to track progress, including improving indicators to adequately describe human development and well-being
Policy responses of trade unions

Human well-being and sustainable and just economies

Labour rights (SDGs 8, 1, 5, 10 and 16):

• Suppressing rights such as freedom of association and collective bargaining compromises the achievement of SDG 8 and the whole 2030 Agenda.

• We need a labour protection floor: fundamental workers’ rights, adequate minimum wages, safety and health at work and maximum limits of working time.

Occupational health and safety (SDG 8):

• Protecting workers and their families from the risk of contracting COVID-19 must be a top priority for employers and governments.

• Protection in the form of paid sick leave from day one
Policy responses of trade unions

Universal social protection and access to health care (SDGs 8, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 11):

• Put in place universal social protection systems covering all workers

• Global Fund on Social Protection

*Interactions between SDG 8 and income inequality*
Policy responses of trade unions

Minimum wages (SDGs 8, 1 and 10):
• Establish minimum living wages to limit income poverty

*Interactions between SDG 8 and poverty*
Policy responses of trade unions

Gender pay gap (SDGs 8 and 5):
• Equal pay
• Policies for the sharing of care responsibilities
• Investment in public care services
• End gender-based violence at work (C190)

*Interactions between SDG 8 and gender parity*
Policy responses of trade unions

Formalisation of the Informal Economy (SDGs 8, 5 and 10):

• Formalisation of informal jobs
• Creation of new jobs in the formal economy
• Guarantee access to social security and social protection through voluntary contributory schemes

Support the real economy and sustainable investments (SDGs 8 and 9)

• Urgent economic stimulus to support MSMEs in labour intensive sectors and tied to the protection of jobs and wages.
• Solid industrial policies negotiated with social partners
Policy responses of trade unions

Business due diligence (SDGs 8, 7, 11, 12 and 13):

• Ensure business accountability and transparency in investments and due diligence in global supply chains.

• Investments must be in line with SDGs and particularly SDG 8.

• Corporate bailouts must require companies to deliver on due diligence: living wage, social protection, FoA and CB, reducing carbon footprint

Technology and innovation (SDGs 8, 4 and 9)

• Regulatory frameworks that can guarantee a human-centred approach to technology

• Invest in quality public educations systems and lifelong learning to reskill
Policy responses of trade unions

Energy decarbonisation (SDGs 8, 7, 11 and 13)

• Industrial transformation through a Just Transition
• Sustainable transport systems through a Just Transition

Governance and collective actions

• Social dialogue
• Availability and comparability of statistical data to allow better analyses of progress on the SDGs
Thank you for your attention