

Trade Unions Event HLPF 2020

July 13, 8.00-9.00 am NY time

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this event will be virtual in format. The event will be held in English and French and Spanish interpretation will be provided.



SDGs Decade of Action: A New Social Contract for recovery and resilience

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought a crisis of unprecedented significance to people's health, jobs and lives globally. Governments must take extraordinary and radical measures to overcome the emergency and to lay the groundwork for the recovery. A piecemeal approach clearly does not fit the purpose. On the contrary, systemic change based on interlinked and complementary policies at social, economic and environmental level is the way forward.

While the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be severely challenged by the crisis, it is also very clear that the SDGs are more relevant today than ever. The SDGs provide the vision and show the path towards resilient economies and inclusive societies, and any recovery measures and investments should be in line with the SDGs to fight poverty, unemployment and to enhance sustainability.

The Covid-19 pandemic is also bluntly showing the key role of SDG 8 – decent work and economic growth – within the 2030 Agenda. SDG 8 is the most wide-ranging response measure, as it contains targets on decent work, occupational health and safety, social protection, inclusive economic growth, equitable distribution of wealth and environmental preservation.

[#Timefor8](#) is a campaign of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

As the [ITUC SDG 8 Monitor](#) shows, the world was not on track to achieve SDG 8 before the pandemic and 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, democratic rights and freedoms, the engagement of people and the respect for the environment to reach sustainable and just economies, including improving availability of data to track progress and support global governance.

The hugely insufficient coverage of social protection, for example, requires that governments provide urgent multilateral responses such as a Global Fund on Social Protection to respond to both humanitarian and recovery needs for the most disadvantaged countries. Around \$35 billion would secure five-year funding for the poorest countries in the world to secure emergency relief now and build resilience over time.

Covid-19 pandemic recovery requires that governments respond with specific measures for decent work and inclusive growth. These measures cannot happen without workers' and employers' organisations involvement and support. Resilience can only be built on social dialogue, which goes a long way in crafting equitable policies and to rebuilding a new social contract between governments, employers and workers.

Objectives

The paper [SDG decade of action - trade union policy responses](#) highlights the relevance of the SDGs in Covid-19 recovery and resilience, and offers policy responses to accelerate the SDGs decade of action focusing on the driving role of SDG 8 within the 2030 Agenda. The purpose of the event is to exchange views among different actors on these proposals and support political engagement on the recommendations to foster a new social contract for sustainable development.

Program

Debate moderated by by Sharan Burrow, ITUC General Secretary

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group

Mario Cimoli, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Jacqueline Mugo, Secretary General of Business Africa

Ayuba Wabba, National President of the Nigeria Labour Congress and President of the ITUC

Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organisation

Organiser

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). Contact details: paola.simonetti@ituc-csi.org