

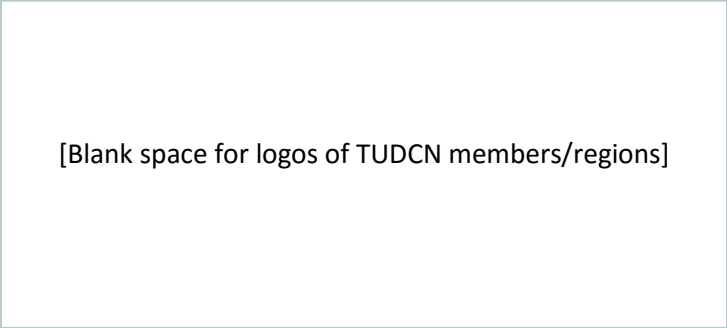
Did you know that...

- Trade unions were involved in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, from 2000-2015) and in the post-2015 process that led to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
- Trade unions have been instrumental in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals from their beginning, to include priorities such as decent work, fight against inequalities, just transition and civil society participation?
- The 2030 Agenda consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 targets and many more indicators to measure progress?
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global and universal agenda for both developed and developing countries, and it includes specific goals to promote decent work for all?
- Implementation of the 2030 Agenda is done nationally, but monitoring and follow-up is performed also at regional and global level?
- The fate and success of the 2030 Agenda depends on other global processes such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Financing for Development process and the development effectiveness agenda?
- Trade unions are regularly consulted by the UN and other international organisations to shape global development frameworks?
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a natural trade union partner for the realisation of Sustainable Development Goal related to the Decent Work Agenda?



The **Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN)** is an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), bringing together affiliated trade union organisations, solidarity support organisations, regional ITUC organisations, the Global Union Federations (GUFs), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC). TUDCN’s objective is to bring the trade union perspective into the international development policy debates and improve the coordination and effectiveness of trade union development cooperation activities.

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# The Sustainable Development Goals

## A trade union issue!



**What is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?**  
**What are the Sustainable Development Goals?**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global development framework agreed by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 by 193 countries. It replaces the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, 2000-2015), whose main objective was to reduce extreme poverty.

The 2030 Agenda gives continuity to this objective and it is structured in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve by 2030, including the promotion of decent work, the fight against inequalities and climate change, the need for more gender equality, quality education and strong institutions:

SDG1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
SDG2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
SDG3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
SDG4	Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning
SDG5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
SDG6	Ensure access to water and sanitation for all
SDG7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
SDG8	Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
SDG9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
SDG10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
SDG11	Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
SDG12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
SDG13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
SDG14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources
SDG15	Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss
SDG16	Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies
SDG17	Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The 2030 Agenda includes commitments on the three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Trade unions advocate the role of social dialogue as a means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A responsible private sector needs to abide to international labour standards and contribute in the countries where they operate.

The fate and success of the 2030 Agenda depends on other global processes such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Financing for Development process and the development effectiveness agenda.

**What trade unions have to do with all this?**  
**What are the trade union priorities in the SDGs?**

Trade unions, as social partners, promote decent work, social dialogue and social protection along the whole spectrum of global development.

Trade unions are focusing their advocacy and partnership efforts on these SDGs:

	Rights alone can ensure people are sustainably lifted out of poverty
	Gender inequality in the labour market and in social policies must be addressed. Male and female labour must be properly valued and rewarded. This requires policy and laws to protect both formal and informal economy workers, to ensure compliance with anti-discrimination and minimum wage legislation and core labour standards, and to secure effective and universal access to social protection.
	Decent work is the foundation of fair and inclusive growth, it is a driver of development and social advancement. This, along with social protection for those that can't find or are unable to work, addresses inequality, a major drag on social and economic progress. SDG8 is the hub for trade union action on SDGs.
	High and rising inequality among and within countries has a significant social and economic cost. The current rise in inequality is increasingly at odds with established paths towards sustainable development. Trade unions will fight for the adoption of policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, in order to reduce inequalities
	Climate impacts hit working people first, and with extreme weather events, changing seasons and rising sea levels, whole communities stand on the frontlines. In order to stabilise the climate, profound changes need to be made to energy systems – and therefore to all economic sectors. There are no jobs on a dead planet.
	Trade unions promote the rule of law and democracy, as well as freedom of association and of organisation. Only democratic societies and institutions can create an enabling environment for decent work to flourish.

**How can trade unions engage in the SDG process?**

<p>At national level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asking national government to consult trade unions in 2030 Agenda implementation planning</li><li>• Invoking the SDGs in social dialogue with employers and government</li><li>• Engaging in ILO decent work country programmes</li><li>• Engaging with EU delegations and UN bodies in your country</li><li>• Participating in multi-stakeholder platforms for 2030 Agenda implementation</li><li>• Taking part in national CSO alliances for 2030 Agenda implementation</li><li>• Raising awareness among workers about 2030 Agenda</li><li>• For trade unions in donor countries: advocating for priority SDGs in cooperation programmes</li></ul>
<p>At regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asking national governments to bring trade union priorities to regional bodies dealing with 2030 agenda (ECLAC, UNECA, ESCAP, UNECE)</li><li>• Participating in UN regional mechanisms for 2030 Agenda monitoring, review and follow-up</li><li>• Taking part in regional CSO initiatives for 2030 Agenda implementation</li></ul>
<p>At global level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asking national governments to bring trade union priorities to the annual UN High-Level Political Forum, which reviews and monitors the 2030 Agenda implementation</li><li>• Participating in TUDCN's shadow monitoring of the 2030 Agenda</li></ul>

**Want to know more about the 2030 Agenda?**

- Trade unions and 2030 Agenda: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/2030Agenda>
- The International Labour Organization and 2030 Agenda: <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/sdg-2030/lang--en/index.htm>
- The United Nations and sustainable development: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>