

Trade Union reaction to *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

- **Trade Unions welcome the universal character of 2030 Agenda** endorsed by World leaders in September 2015
- Trade Unions are particularly committed to realising goals and targets to **end poverty**, foster **decent work**, ensure **quality education**, provide **public services, infrastructure and social protection policies**, **reduce inequalities**, champion **women's participation in the work force** and improve fiscal, wage and **social protection policies**
- Trade Unions assert that **the Means of Implementation (MoI) of the 2030 Agenda** cannot be entirely assimilated to the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)** and that the latter should remain a **distinct international agreement with its own process for follow-up**.
- Trade Unions believe **governments could have reached greater ambition in relation to follow-up and review**, through binding commitments based on existing international standards
- The review process at national level, in all countries, should be genuinely participatory, with **social dialogue as a pillar to ensure ownership of policy processes**
- The International Labour Organisation (ILO), based on standards and supervisory mechanisms from global through to the national level, should be fully integrated in the 2030 Agenda follow-up and review process
- Unconditional criteria are needed to **ensure that private sector intervention is in line with the public interest**, especially this is supported by public resources
- Trade unions are convinced on the need to **ensure the environmental integrity of these goals**; therefore, we are [calling on governments](#) to secure an ambitious deal in the upcoming COP21 and to ensure coherence in national implementation between the two processes.



AN AMBITIOUS SET OF GOALS AND TARGETS

World leaders endorsed the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** at the UN Sustainable Development Summit on 25-27 September 2015. **The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its targets are ambitious**, and the framework Preamble and Declaration are convincing calls to action on a vast and complex agenda.

Trade Unions welcome all goals in the 2030 Agenda, but are in particular committed to realizing goals:

- To **end poverty** in all its forms (Goal 1), and in particular the target on **social protection** (Goal 1.3);
- To ensure **quality education** (Goal 4) and all of the corresponding targets;
- To achieve **gender equality** (Goal 5) and in particular targets to unpaid care and domestic work through the **provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies** (Goal 5.4) and **women's leadership** (Goal 5.5);
- To promote **decent work for all** (Goal 8) and all of the corresponding targets;
- To **reduce inequality** (Goal 10), with particular emphasis on the target focused on **fiscal, wage and social protection policies** (Goal 10.4); and
- To ensure **access to justice and rule of law** (Goal 16) in particular the target to protect fundamental freedoms (Goal 16.10).

Permalink: www.ituc-csi.org/2030Agenda



FLAWS IN THE SDGs' SUPPORTING FRAMEWORK

The **2030 Agenda is lacking ambition** in its commitments to implement the SDGs through financing and progressive public policy, as well as a sound accountability framework.

Trade Unions are convinced that the **Means of Implementation will be the subject of some confusion** and contention in coming years, at least in terms of how this international agreement will be interpreted by the different poles of influence within the UN system.

Divisions exist among the UN membership concerning the link between the recently-adopted **Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)** on Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda.

Trade Unions believe that the AAAA, although lacking concreteness, should remain a distinct international agreement with its own process for follow-up.



FOLLOW-UP AND ACCOUNTABILITY: FROM VOLUNTARY TO MANDATORY

The 2030 Agenda Follow-Up and Review Process remains fundamentally voluntary. Trade Unions regret the lack of ambition, in particular in the follow-up, review and accountability through binding commitments based on existing international standards.

Compulsory monitoring, if not binding commitments, would ensure that behaviour across actors contributes positively to the totality of objectives. The ILO framework is a 'living' example on how accountability mechanisms can work at global level through to the national level but more importantly it should be integrated into the overall assessments on progress.

The review process at national level should be genuinely participatory. **Social dialogue is a pillar to ensure ownership of policy processes at the national level** and should be utilized and promoted wherever and whenever possible.

Freedom of association and right to collective bargaining are enabling rights needed to fight poverty, implement decent jobs and build institutions capable to be effective and representative in the social dialogue.

The Follow-up and Review Process should integrate instruments to **hold business accountable at all levels, including through adherence to international labour and environmental standards**. Unconditional criteria are needed to ensure that private sector intervention is in line with the public interest, especially where public resources are used to support the private sector.