

SUMMARY SECTORAL PAPER TO HLPF 2024
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) – Workers’ and Trade Unions Major Group

Multiple crises are turning decent work into an illusion for the majority of workers and derailing progress on the SDGs, while democracies and the rule of law are increasingly under attack.

In this context, trade unions call for a **New Social Contract**¹ based on six key demands: 1) the creation of decent and climate-friendly jobs with Just Transitions; 2) rights for all workers; 3) minimum living wages and equal pay; 4) universal social protection; 5) equality and 6) inclusion.

DEMANDS ON THE SDGs UNDER REVIEW AT HLPF 2024

• **SDG 1**

- Invest in **decent and climate-friendly jobs** as a key method for tackling poverty.
- Achieve universal **social protection** in line with ILO standards.
- Support developing countries by 1) allocating **at least 7 per cent of ODA to social protection**, and 2) setting up a **Global Social Protection Fund**.
- Respect **workers’ rights** and **minimum living wages with equal pay**.
- Advance **gender equality to elevate women out of poverty**.
- Establish **social dialogue** on poverty eradication policies.
- Reform international tax architecture and support **progressive taxation**.

• **SDG 2**

- Recognise the **right to food as a human right**.
- Ensure **decent work, lifelong learning** and minimum living **wages** for workers in agriculture and throughout the food supply chains, including for migrant workers.
- Implement **Just Transition** policies based on **social dialogue in sustainable agriculture**.
- Support **Indigenous communities’** land rights in line with ILO Convention No. 169.

• **SDG 13**

- Introduce **Just Transition measures** based on social dialogue in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- Implement the **Work Programme on Just Transition Pathways** adopted at COP28.
- Deliver on **adaptation needs** through robust social protection plans.
- Step up **international climate finance** for developing countries, with **accountability mechanisms** for sustainable and green investments.
- Promote **social dialogue** to align the **New Collective Quantified Goal** with **Just Transition principles**.

• **SDG 16**

- Uphold **labour rights** and **social dialogue** as pillars to peace and democratic processes.
- Engage **social partners** in all sustainable development policy-making processes.
- Advocate for **labour courts** and access to legal aid on labour matters.
- Set a 50 per cent goal for **women’s participation at all levels** of international peace and security initiatives.

¹ ITUC, V World Congress, Final Statement, November 2022: <https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/5co-final-statement-en.pdf>

- Enhance international law on **disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation, and the arms trade.**
- **SDG 17:** Build a renewed multilateralism based on **social dialogue and democracy** to promote social justice.

CENTRALITY OF SDG 8 TO RESCUE THE SDGs

HLPF 2024 should be the place to:

- Put **Decent Work at the heart of UN development processes**, including the Summit of the Future and the 2025 World Summit on Social Development.
- Support the **UN Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.**
- Uphold **social dialogue and democracy** as key governance tools for the SDGs .
- Adopt clear **commitments to finance SDGs** and to reform the international financial architecture.