

Workers and Trade Unions Major Group inputs to Zero Draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Agenda

Intro Chapter. Declaration

Preamble

We question the attempt to cluster the 17 goals into 9 headlines in the preamble. We are in particular concerned that the consolidation has omitted any reference to Decent Work and presumably been replaced by “sustainable lifestyles for all”. We therefore suggest to include Decent Work in this headline. This could read as: *Foster inclusive economic growth, **Decent Work**, shared prosperity and sustainable lifestyles for all*

We also believe that the second headline should read:

Secure **Ensure** education, health and essential services, rather than securing.

Introduction (paras 1-9)

Our only comment would be to seek an inclusion of references to *human rights* and *decent work* in paragraph 3.

Commitment to shared principles (p. 10-11)

No comment. Support in general references, including to CBDR.

Our world today (p. 12-14)

In paragraph 12 we see rationale to include a reference to *threats to democracy and fundamental human rights, underemployment* (i.e. working poor), and *shrinking space for civil society*.

Vision for the agenda (p. 15)

This is a commendable paragraph in its ambition but we would like to include also a reference to *Decent Work* and *Social Protection Systems*.

We also suggest removing *affordable* before drinking water. Replace *basic* education with “*free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education*”.

The New Agenda (p. 16-29)

P. 17

Paragraph could benefit from explicit articulation of the fundamental freedoms: *freedom of association, of speech, of the press, of religion*.

P. 18

Suggest to add access to *quality* education and *decent work* in place of employment

p. 19

No concrete comment other than placement of the para seems curious and the focus remains solely on the achievement of economic growth

p. 20

Spirit of para seems okay though order in sequence of paras is curious

p. 21

Could propose adding the poorest, as there currently is nothing about economic exclusion

p. 22

refer to *quality and free* education. Add *irrespective of socio-economic background*

p. 24

Support the inclusion in declaration but can be better articulated

Employment focuses first on youth employment and then Decent Work for All – should be the other way around

We see rationale for also including a reference to the *social dialogue*, and *social protection, including floors*

p. 26

Replace employment with *decent work*

p. 28

Propose explicit mention of the “*fundamental freedoms*” which are not articulated in the SDG targets

Implementation (p. 30-37)

p. 30

General comments:

- Overemphasis on the private sector to generate the resources needed to deliver.
- Would suggest a new sentence on the role of the state at very start of the chapter.
- We miss any reference in the chapter on domestic resource mobilisation and progressive taxation

p. 34

Support giving a focus on policy coherence and coordination in reference to Trade, but should qualify *for sustainable development*

p. 37

When listing stakeholders – should include reference to *major groups* and in particular *trade unions/labour*

Chapter 1. SDGs and Targets

The SDGs and targets remain exactly as agreed in the Open Working Group. The likelihood is very low that anything will change with relation to the SDGs and Targets, and even the “technical proofing” (the effort to ensure that the targets are consistent with existing commitments) is in question.

Therefore, our earlier reflections on the SDGs and Targets remain up to date – though we support the rationale for maintaining the integrity of the OWG in its entirety.

Chapter 2. Means of Implementation

The Means of Implementation Chapter is very curious—it includes eight introductory paragraphs and then simply repeats the Means of Implementation already included within the SDGs and Targets.

While Para 2 is focused purely on the action frameworks for countries in special situations (LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS). The inclusion feels out of context with the rest of the chapter.

Para 5 opens up for something more specific about progressive taxation and how efforts to increase tax revenue should be linked to increased progressivity too.

Para 7 refers to all actors tasked to implement such a broad agenda. Push for major groups reference and in particular *trade unions*.

Chapter 3. Follow up and Review

Principles (p. 1-3)

That there is an explicit suggestion that the follow up and review is voluntary is worrying. Perhaps aspiring for commitments that were in some measure binding was too ambitious but that simply reporting on progress is purely voluntary lacks ambition and commitment.

On the positive side, the reporting process at all levels should be undertaken in an open inclusive matter bringing together all stakeholders. It also suggests that existing mechanisms for monitoring the agenda should be integrated, which could ultimately create space for accountability instruments which are by their nature stronger than what is proposed in the post 2015 framework.

National Level (p. 4-5)

The two paragraphs are quite limited in thinking and what is there lacks ambition. National states should be required, not encouraged, to develop strategies for tracking the SDGs. Similarly, periodic reporting should also be mandatory.

Regional Level (p. 6-7)

There is little by way of concrete content when it comes to the regional review capacities. Mutual learning through peer reviews and the like is useful however the regional organizations are probably best placed to take on an ambitious assessment of the SDGs. Therefore, regional mechanisms should be tasked and resource to carry out more frequent reviews of progress than at the Global Level. Regional organizations should be better equipped to take on more comprehensive and frequent assessments than at global level.

Global Level (p. 8-16)

As anticipated the High Level Political Forum will serve as the primary body for global accountability. The proposals are mainly in line with the earlier agreements defining the HLPFs mandates. Points to note are:

- (positive) Integrate existing reporting mechanisms
- (negative) Reviews remain voluntary
- (positive) Thematic reviews to explore assess different elements of the agenda
- (negative) HLPF already has a complicated agenda to review, so adding FfD to this in addition will be over burdensome.
- (neutral) Global Sustainable Development Report needs elaboration. Indicators work will serve as the centrepiece but needs to reflect ambition of the SDGs and Targets.
- (positive) Language on Major Groups and Other Stakeholders as part of the HLPF follow up is welcome
- (Positive) Suggestion to have Secretary General prepare guidelines for national reports and reviews but will it incorporate external ideas.