

TUDCN Strategy on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

November 2017

The 2015 ITUC General Council resolution “Trade Union Priorities for Development”¹ framed the 2030 Agenda amongst the top priorities of the organisation, in alignment with the ITUC Frontlines and Priorities. This also includes the work of the ITUC regional organisations on the 2030 Agenda. The TUDCN 2016 General Meeting endorsed the multiannual global strategy 2016-2020², which established awareness raising, advocacy, mobilisation and research as pillars supporting the 2030 Agenda implementation at global, regional and national levels. Within this Agenda, the priority Goals for trade unions are:



Trade unions promote social dialogue as fundamental pillar to ensure sustainable development within the 2030 Agenda and beyond. Unions must engage in supporting this priority towards national governments, regional and global institutions. This strategy is aimed at outlining the steps in detail that the TUDCN will undertake to engage and coordinate trade unions on the 2030 Agenda implementation.

What is our engagement strategy?



Mobilisation and Engagement

Familiarise Trade Unions with Agenda 2030

Advocacy and Implementation

Trade Unions influence Agenda 2030 planning and implementation through social dialogue

Monitoring and Reporting

“Trade Union report on SDGs implementation”

¹ http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc-15gc_e_11-resolutionanddevelopment-en-05.pdf

² http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/tudcn_global_strategy_en.pdf

Mobilisation and engagement

Raising awareness of the importance and the relevance of the 2030 Agenda contents for the trade union movement is central to this work stream. An **exploratory survey** offers a picture of the trade union knowledge and attitudes regarding the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda. The survey asks about trade unions' awareness of the 2030 Agenda, about their priorities, their mobilisation, their engagement in governments' multi-stakeholders dialogues, and the specific needs and tools required to engage in the national SDG process.

The exploratory survey has been sent out to affiliates through the regional organisations, to gather information on trade union knowledge and attitudes regarding the 2030 Agenda.

A **trade union SDG pamphlet** was produced³, to promote the concepts of the 2030 Agenda and to highlight the trade union priority goals. It is aimed at proactively engaging union leaders and members on 2030 Agenda implementation.

Did you know...

- The 2030 Agenda consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. The agenda is a global plan for people and planet, and it is a call to action for all countries and all people.
- The 2030 Agenda is a global plan for people and planet, and it is a call to action for all countries and all people.
- Trade unions have been instrumental in shaping the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals to include priorities such as decent work, fair wages, equal opportunities, and social justice.
- Implementing the 2030 Agenda is primarily a national responsibility, and following up on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is a national responsibility.
- 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.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the trade union partner in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Trade unions are regularly consulted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS A trade union issue!

The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) is an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), bringing together affiliated trade union organizations, solidarity support organizations, regional ITUC organizations, the Global Union Federations (GUF), 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 dialogue and improve the coordination and effectiveness of trade union development cooperation activities.

What is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

What do trade unions have to do with all of this?

How can the SDGs work for your trade unions?

What to know more about the 2030 Agenda?

³ <https://www.ituc-csi.org/SDG-pamphlet>

Advocacy and implementation

Implies engagement of trade unions with relevant institutional stakeholders on policy-making processes related to the SDGs and their respective targets. This is a coordinated effort at global (UN/ High Level Political Forum - HLPF), regional (UN economic commissions/regional institutions), and national (governments) level. Trade Unions should make sure that their involvement in and contribution to achieving the 2030 Agenda commitments is visible and understood.

In order to support their effective advocacy efforts, trade unions should have a clear picture of the 2030 Agenda policy developments of relevant institutions (e.g. ministries, departments etc.). Therefore, a **rolling survey/mapping** was undertaken, to map how the 2030 Agenda is implemented at national and institutional level. This rolling survey is now incorporated in the trade union monitoring template on SDGs, which is produced by trade unions in countries presenting their SDG **voluntary national review** (VNR).

Training will also be organised to support the capacity of organisations to advocate for and monitor progress (see below). Training will be implemented during the regional networks meetings of the TUDCN and ITUC activities in conjunction with ILO/ACTRAV regional seminars.

Finally, **research** will support the visibility of the trade union contribution to the realisation of the SDGs (implementation). Specific research and case studies will focus on:

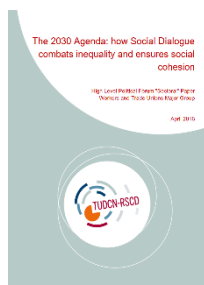
- **The role of social dialogue in development:** Examples of possible thematic areas are: social protection, minimum living wages, collective bargaining, formalising the informal economy, just transition, decent work compliance in supply chains, elimination of slavery. This work has already started in collaboration with the ILO.
- **The role of private sector in development finance.** Examples of possible thematic areas are: the use of ODA for private sector in development, emergence of so-called innovative development finance (PPPs and blending), business accountability in development.

There will be country-based or thematic reports each year.

A **trade union submission to the HLPF** is made yearly. This submission will put forward trade unions' policy positions on the themes under review in the year in question.

2016⁴:

The 2030 Agenda: how Social Dialogue combats inequality and ensures social cohesion



2017⁵:

Fighting poverty and promoting gender equality



⁴ https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/hlpf_tu_submission_en.pdf

⁵ https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/hlpf_2017_position_paper_en.pdf

Monitoring and reporting

This work results in the production of yearly **national SDGs trade union reports**⁶, to provide an alternative qualitative and quantitative reading of the progress made by governments in SDG implementation. The background work for these reports requires some research capacity, such as for the gathering of relevant data and its analysis. This can be done in collaboration with the ILO/ACTRAV regional and national offices, which can provide technical assistance to the unions. **Guidelines** will be elaborated to support national organisations in the drafting of the national SDGs trade union reports.

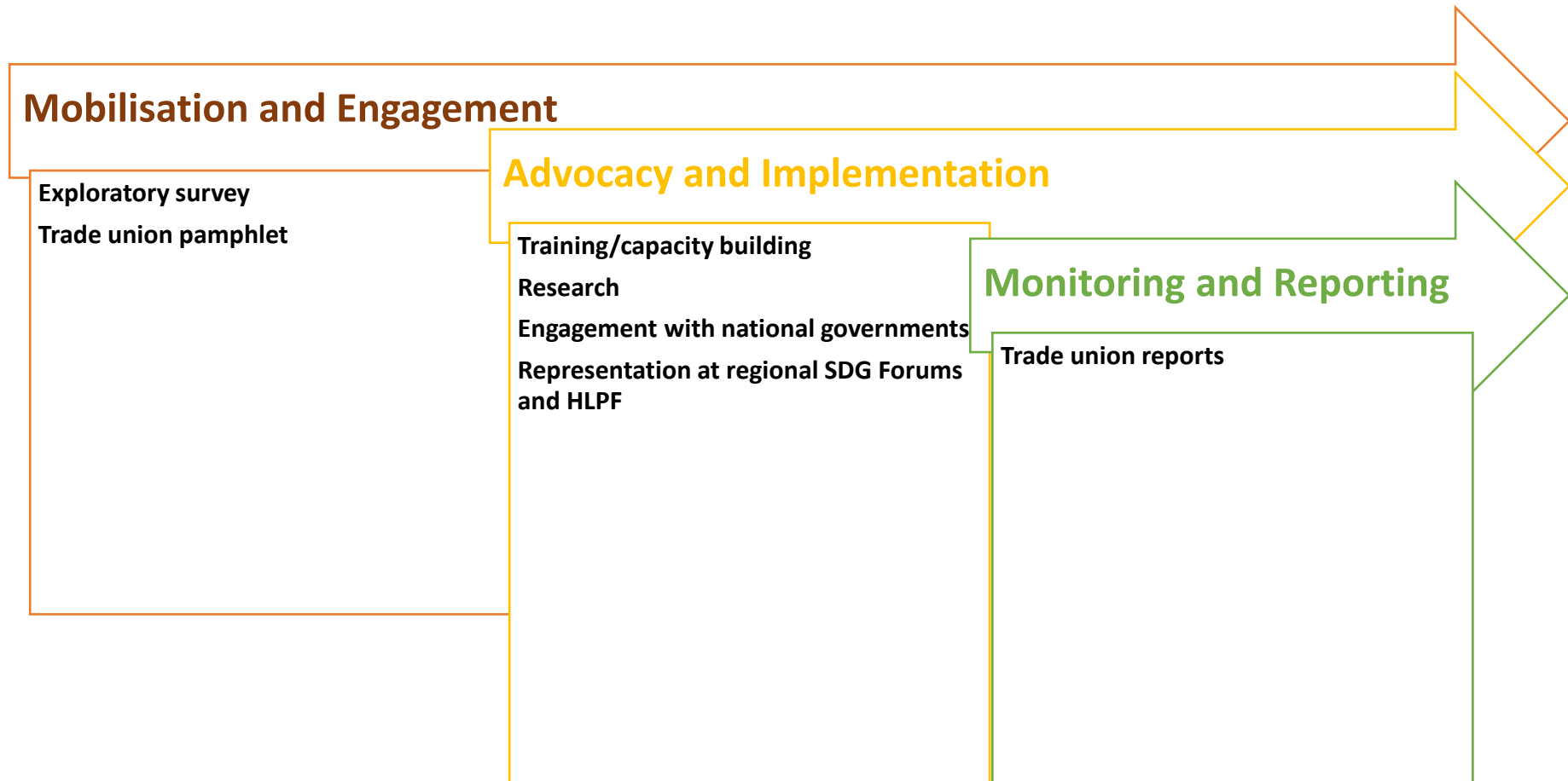
The monitoring report is focused on priority goals and targets and structured by a standardised methodology. It should be undertaken mainly by unions in countries that are presenting VNRs at the UN HLPF, but organisations are encouraged to continue a periodic monitoring. The objective of these reports is to reinforce workers' efforts to keep governments accountable to their 2030 Agenda commitments. The reports complement the 'official' monitoring, using indicators relevant to trade unions. The national reports should be elaborated before the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development and the HLPF that take place each year to contribute to unions' engagement with their governments in such spaces. To support these efforts, two-page **country profiles** are elaborated annually to summarise the main findings of each report.



In 2018, the thematic review of the SDGs will focus on the *“Transformation toward sustainable and resilient societies”* (SDG 6 water and sanitation (PSI), SDG 7 affordable and clean energy, SDG 11 sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 sustainable consumption and production, SDG 15 biodiversity/ecosystems). In 2019 the thematic review of the SDGs will focus on *“Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”* (SDG 4 quality education (Education International), **SDG 8 decent work and economic growth**, **SDG 10 reduce inequalities**, **SDG 13 climate**, **SDG 16 inclusive societies**).

⁶ <https://www.ituc-csi.org/2030Agenda>

Flow chart TUDCN 2030 Agenda strategy SDGs 1-5-8-10-13-16



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