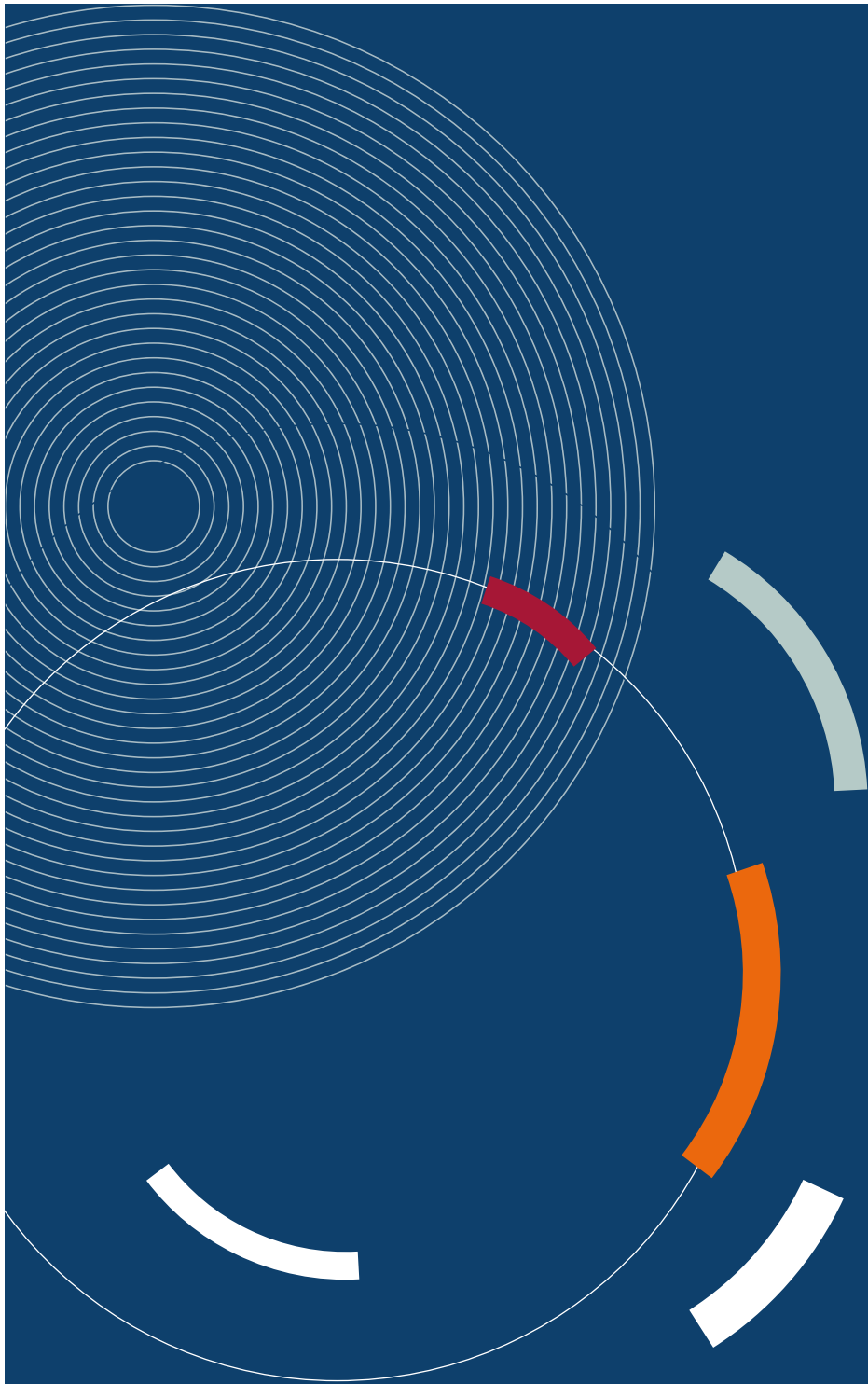




# A TRADE UNION TAKE ON THE SDGs



2018



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# INTRODUCTION

Through their everyday work on upholding freedom of association and collective bargaining, on promoting decent work and the rights of working people, trade unions are instrumental to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Their contribution to decision-making, via social dialogue, has far-reaching implications on consensus-building that facilitates policy implementation.

Trade unions have undertaken to build an independent worker's perspective on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through their own in-depth monitoring process at national level, they have focused on a number of priority thematic areas, as well as on the implementation process as a whole. The highlights of this monitoring process are summarised in the two-page Trade Union SDGs Country Profiles, enclosed in this document.

With this work, trade unions aim to reinforce the accountability of the implementation process as well as to build bridges and strengthen collaboration with other stakeholders. They provide independent monitoring of key SDGs, highlighting worker's priorities at national level. By evaluating the implementation based on transparency, consultation and social dialogue, trade unions establish whether key requirements for an inclusive approach are being met. Based on this analysis, they provide specific recommendations to governments.

## HOW THE WORK IS ORGANISED

Through the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN), trade unions have identified a number of priority SDGs that are relevant to all unions. They are Goal 1 (no poverty), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (decent work), Goal 10 (reduced inequalities), Goal 13 (climate action) and Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

As national governments are responsible for the 2030 Agenda implementation, national trade union centres have undertaken this monitoring work. While official 2030 Agenda indicators are included in this analysis, the monitoring goes into further depth and includes other national level data in order to complete the picture.



### Further information:

[www.ituc-csi.org/2030Agenda](http://www.ituc-csi.org/2030Agenda)

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<sup>1</sup> The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) is an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation bringing together all trade union actors involved in development cooperation. This includes its affiliated national organisations and its regional organisations in Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Americas, as well as Solidarity Support Organisations, Global Union Federations (representing the different sectors), the European Trade Union Confederation and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD.



# ASSESSING IMPLEMENTATION

## TRANSPARENCY



### TRANSPARENCY

Trade unions have assessed their experience of transparency in the implementation of the SDGs within their country. Transparency was assessed on two fronts: 1) access to information on the process and outcomes, decisions making procedures, consultation meetings, policy documents, persons in charge; and 2) access to decision-making reasoning: clear explanation of how and why implementation decisions are made.

The analysis exposed certain significant issues. Limitations to information access took a number of forms, most notably relating to how the information was made available, with what regularity and who was responsible for future policy-making. Certain reports highlight that information was made available upon request. However, coupled with a lack of clear contact points, this constituted a major barrier to transparency. The best examples were of publicly-available information systematically made available (including online), while the worst were of cases where no updates on implementation being made-available at all.

### CONSULTATION

The need for multi-stakeholder consultation is vital to realise the truly participative implementation process described in the 2030 Agenda. If the interests and perspectives of those impacted are not integrated into the policy-making process, resulting policies and their implementation simply will not work for broader society to leave no one behind. Trade unions and civil society organisations have a key role to play. Trade unions assessed the consultation modalities, with special value given to functioning multi-stakeholder consultation platforms.

## CONSULTATION



Only a few countries were shown to have adequate consultation processes in place. In some cases consultations lack structure and are organised on an ad hoc basis, rather than systematically and according to a clear work plan. In other cases, while certain structures have been put in place at national level, the space for meaningful contributions has been limited or non-existent. Numerous trade union centres flag a disingenuous consultation process: consultation sessions have in effect been information sessions, with inadequate opportunities for substantive contribution. Finally and most worryingly, certain countries still lack any formal consultation process at all.

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Social dialogue is a fundamental means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Overall, the analysis has highlighted insufficient integration of social dialogue into the implementation process of the SDGs. Cases in which workers and employers are consulted together are rare. Where they do exist, they tend to be confined to Goal 8 rather than the 2030 Agenda implementation as a whole. While social partners are often consulted, a siloed approach in which little effort to bridge these perspectives can be observed.

Yes, the use of tripartite or bipartite social dialogue to establish common positions between employer and employees has been shown to yield significant results towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.<sup>2</sup> It builds consensus among the social partners, facilitates policy implementation and results in policies that are more inclusive. Shaping the world of work to meet the demands of the 2030 Agenda is crosscutting and fundamental to achieving each of the 17 SDGs.

<sup>2</sup> As detailed in 'Social dialogue for sustainable development in Uruguay, Ghana and Indonesia': <https://www.ituc-csi.org/social-dialogue-development>; and 'Social dialogue as a driver and governance instrument for sustainable development': <https://www.ituc-csi.org/issue-paper-social-dialogue-development>

# RECOMMENDATIONS

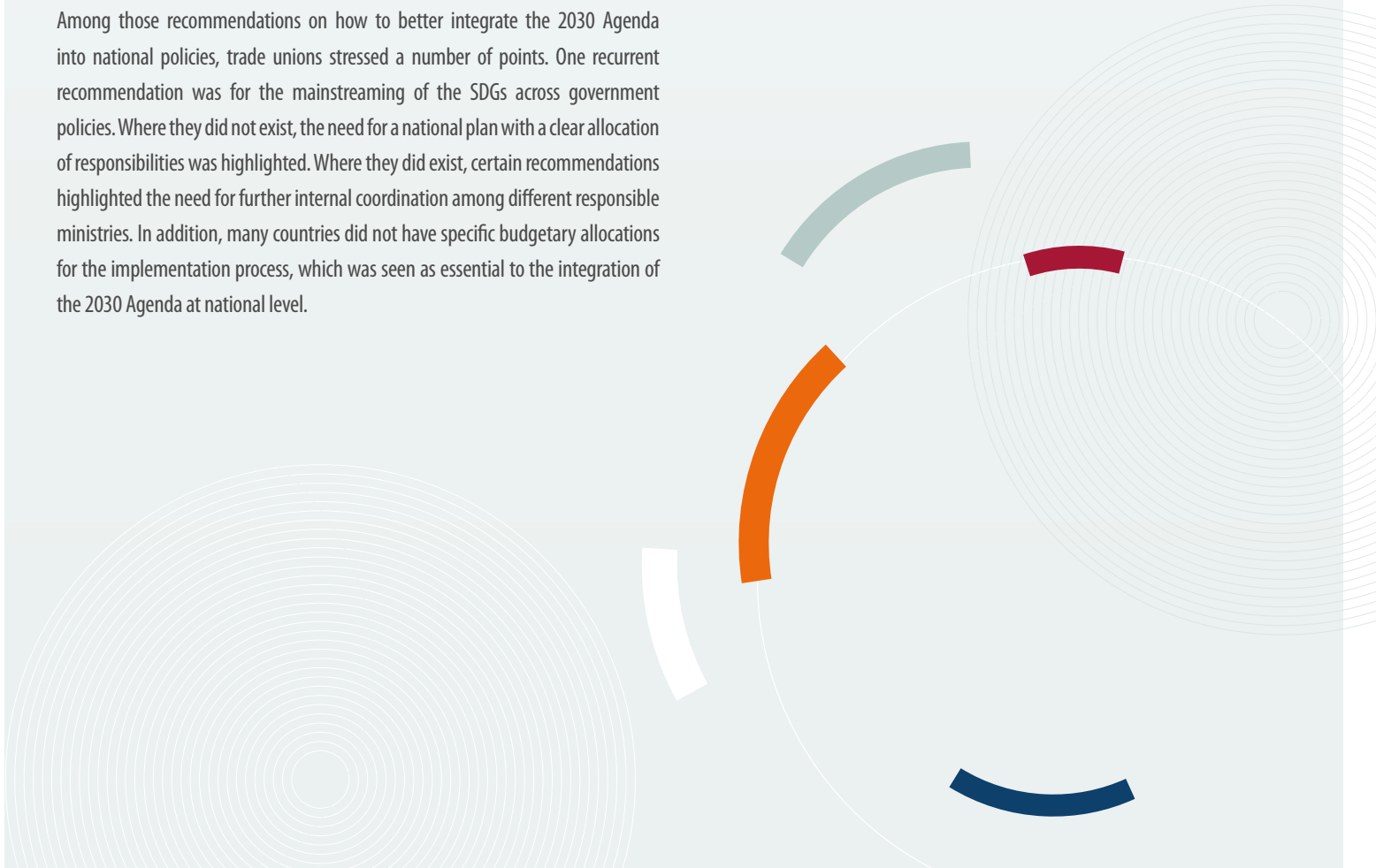
The trade union country reports identify issues with current 2030 Agenda implementation approaches at national level. Trade union organisations have outlined recommendations to their governments, tailored to their national contexts.

While these recommendations are specific to the contexts and implementation approaches of individual countries, a number of trends can be observed. The majority of recommendations can be grouped into two broad categories: those concerning how to better integrate the 2030 Agenda into national policies and those focussed on improving the engagement modalities of stakeholders. In addition, a number of recommendations focussed on enhancing the monitoring provisions, on capacity building of different actors and on building accountability. Finally, a number of recommendations focussed on addressing specific national policy issues. Reinforcing the transparency, democratic ownership, mutual accountability of actors, inclusivity and the focus on tangible results were crosscutting to the trade union recommendations.

Among those recommendations on how to better integrate the 2030 Agenda into national policies, trade unions stressed a number of points. One recurrent recommendation was for the mainstreaming of the SDGs across government policies. Where they did not exist, the need for a national plan with a clear allocation of responsibilities was highlighted. Where they did exist, certain recommendations highlighted the need for further internal coordination among different responsible ministries. In addition, many countries did not have specific budgetary allocations for the implementation process, which was seen as essential to the integration of the 2030 Agenda at national level.

Regarding the engagement modalities, trade unions called for a rights-based approach to the design and implementation of public policies. Integrating social dialogue as a governance mechanism for the implementation process was repeatedly put forward as a model to achieve this. Trade unions further expressed their commitment to the multi-stakeholder approach, and called on governments to integrate comprehensive consultation provisions in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies.

Beyond those categories, trade unions suggested ways of strengthening monitoring and accountability provisions as well as of building capacity of key actors, including governments. Regarding monitoring, the analysis stressed the need for verifiable, independent and comparable data, as well as the watchdog role of civil society organisations, including trade unions. This was closely linked to ways of ensuring mutual accountability among key actors at country level.





# 2018 COUNTRY PROFILES



# AUSTRALIA



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

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## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Australian government has thus far avoided framing national policy debates in the 2030 Agenda context and has not set a national implementation plan for the 2030 Agenda; its national VNR indicators are in the process of being drafted.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is coordinated by the Department of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet (PM&C) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through an inter-departmental committee at the level of deputy secretaries. The committee has made the following allocation of responsibilities among government agencies: SDG 1 – Department of Social Services with support from PM&C, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Attorney General's Department (AGD); SDG 5 – PM&C with support from the Department of Social Services (DSS); SDG 8 – the Treasury, with support from the

Department of Employment and ABS; SDG 10 – the Treasury, with support from the DSS and Department of Immigration; SDG 13 – Department of Environment, with support from AGD; and SDG 16 – AGD with support from the Department of Defence.

Some consultations on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have been held with groups representing international NGOs, such as the Australian Council for International Development. However, trade unions have so far been included in only one information (rather than consultation) session, at which the government explained its process for developing the VNR, briefed attendees on which departments oversee the development of SDG indicators, and invited partners to offer examples of where the SDGs were being met through government work.

### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There are information sessions but no interaction

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation





## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Due to the absence of a national implementation plan for the 2030 Agenda, Australia's SDG priorities are not known. Nonetheless, trade unions are concerned about the government's lack of progress on meeting some key SDG targets.

ACTU points out that meeting **target 1.3 (implementing appropriate social protection systems)** is impeded by the fact that Australia has relatively low welfare spending compared to other developed countries (e.g. only 3.5% of GDP spent on pensions in 2013) and most of the increases in expenditure in this area relate to demographic shifts. While this model has required decent minimum wages, and measures such as mandated company pension contribution, wage growth has remained flat for several years and in-work poverty has increased. Worryingly, in 2017, the president of the Fair Work Commission, which sets the minimum wage, stated that the current minimum wage would not lift all employees on it out of poverty — particularly single parents with children.

In 2012, the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated that the cash economy amounted to 1.5% of Australia's GDP — a figure which is expected to further increase. The ACTU is concerned that the shadow economy creates gaps in the regulatory environment, which results in workers and their representatives facing difficulties in enforcing laws or recovering stolen wages. Due to workers' low bargaining power and the ineffectiveness of regulatory intervention, workers are unable to easily withdraw from participation, which results in wages being driven down. This situation poses a challenge to meeting **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies)** as low wages and the potential for exploitation disproportionately affect women, who are more likely to be employed in the informal economy.

There are serious concerns about Australia meeting the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. There has not been significant progress in reaching **target 8.3 (promote policies that support productive activities, decent job creation)**, as the proportion of workers earning less than 2/3 of the median has not dropped significantly over the past ten years, remaining at

just over 15%; gender disparity for this indicator has also remained in place, with 19% of women earning less than 2/3 of the median compared to 13% of men. In addition, the minimum wage and the rates establishing industry standard wages have not been adequately increased over this period, while wages accumulated in the top decile.

With regards to **target 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value)**, 40% of Australians are in insecure work, ranging from unwanted or enforced 'self-employment' to contracted work arrangements. Underemployment has also risen, and there are currently 1.1 million underemployed Australians; young people are particularly vulnerable to underemployment. In 2016, 82.3% of all jobs created were part-time. The average weekly earnings in Australia demonstrate a significant gender pay gap (with \$1662 weekly earnings for men and \$1409 for women). In 2012-13, unemployment rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women were 14.4% and 14.5% respectively, representing one of the most significant labour market gaps in Australia.

The Australian government is currently attempting to address the fact that there are an estimated 4300 people living in slavery in the country, by working on a legislative act designed to eradicate modern slavery. Consultations with NGOs, business groups and trade unions on this act are ongoing, which will contribute to meeting **target 8.7 (take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery)**.

A number of government policies run counter to **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)**. The ILO has repeatedly criticised the government for placing restrictions on the right to strike, which is currently only allowed during the period of negotiation of enterprise bargaining agreements. The ACTU further reports frequent politically motivated attacks on unions, such as investigations into donations made to the Labour Party by the Australian Workers Union or ensuring full media coverage while raiding the organisation's offices.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The ACTU priority for the Australian government is to establish a firm commitment to tripartite and social dialogue. There is further an urgent need to set up a national implementation plan for the 2030 Agenda, which should be done through a multi-stakeholder consultation processes.

To ensure its effective implementation, the national implementation plan should establish:

- A baseline assessment of how the government is meeting individual SDG targets;
- Specific national targets and measures;
- Thorough and inclusive monitoring processes as well as ongoing assessment procedures.





# BENIN



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

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Meeting of the president with women market workers by Présidence de la République du Bénin (flickr.com – creative commons)

## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The SDGs form the basis of the ongoing redrafting of the National Development Plan of the government of Benin. The redrafting process follows the analysis and prioritisation of the SDGs to select relevant goals and indicators and align them with the Government Programme of Action (PAG). In addition, Community Development Plans have been aligned with the 2030 Agenda objectives. The 2016-2021 PAG is implemented through a series of reforms, flagship and priority projects and focuses on three pillars: (i) democracy, the rule of law and good governance, (ii) structural transformation of the economy and (iii) improvement of living conditions.

The implementation of the SDGs is overseen by a state minister charged with the oversight of the National Development Plan. All ministries are involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and have designated SDG focal points.

A Directorate General for the Coordination and Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (DGCS-ODD) has been created within the Ministry of Planning and Development. The DGCS-ODD presides over the steering committee coordinating the consultative framework with civil society. Consultations are centred around four themes: social issues, the economy, the environment and governance. Trade unions remark that the working methods of the consultative framework rely too heavily on unreliable or imprecise statistics and fail to recognise the reality on the ground.

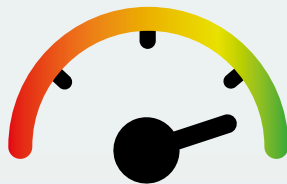
No additional resources have been allocated to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; the majority of resources allocated to SDG implementation come from donors such as FAO, UNICEF, UNDP or GIZ.

### TRANSPARENCY



Regular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There is a structured consultation/ multi-stakeholder platform

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government





## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

The government of Benin, although working on all the SDGs prioritised by trade unions, has limited its action to only some of the targets within these goals. Trade unions have concerns with regards to the fulfilment of several other targets however.

With regards to **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)**, 2015 data indicates that 49.6% of the population of Benin is living below the international poverty line; trade unions stress that the number of people living in poverty in the country has been rising over the last ten years. In addition, 29.39% of workers lived under the poverty threshold in 2016. Indicators on **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** show that the majority of the population, primarily those in the informal economy, is excluded from social protection; only 9% of the population is covered by health insurance and unemployment assistance is not provided.

There is a need for improvement to achieve progress on **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, as according to trade union sources, women spend on average three times more time on unpaid domestic work than men. Furthermore, 95% of working women are employed in the informal economy. **Target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)** is far from being reached, as between 2005-2015 only 15.8% of women and girls had accessed at least some secondary education. Trade unions cite the primary obstacles to the continued education of girls as forced marriage, early pregnancy and sexual harassment.

With regards to **target 8.3 (promote policies that support productive activities, decent job creation)**, in 2012, 90.4% of employment outside of agriculture was informal. As indicated above, the informal economy is heavily

feminised. In 2010, 87.7% of jobs were considered precarious due to the lack of respect of workers' rights and failure to provide the minimum wage. On **target 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all)**, while the official unemployment rates were low, at 2.7% in 2011, underemployment concerned 37.3% workers in 2010. Young people, and especially young women, are more affected by unemployment, with overall levels at 14.3% - 18.1% for women and 11% for men between 15 and 24 years of age. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 20% for youth, with young women once again affected more severely (25.7%, compared to 15% for young men). There is progress to be made on reaching **target 8.7 (end child labour)**, as 2011 data indicate that 15.2% of children between the ages of 5 and 14 are engaged in labour, primarily in rural settings. While child labour is banned in Benin, its practice has not yet been fully eradicated. Concerns remain with regard to **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments)**, as several violations of trade union rights have been registered in 2015, including violations of fundamental freedoms, the right to freedom of association, collective bargaining rights and the right to strike. Fewer than 100 labour inspectors are in service as of 2018, with trade unions alerting that at least 150 more of these posts should be created.

Significant wealth inequalities remain to be tackled in Benin, as demonstrated by indicators on **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**: in 2015, the top 10% of income earners accounted for 37.6% of overall GDP, while the bottom 20% of income earners accounted for only 3.2% of GDP.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Trade unions from Benin call on their government to ensure the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda by:

- Strengthening social dialogue around the implementation of the National Development Plan;
- Capacity building and training of staff involved in SDG implementation and its monitoring;
- Better coordination between ministerial SDG focal points;
- Operationalising the SDG priorities through the adoption of a rights-based approach to the design and implementation of public policies.







# BRAZIL



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

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© Trade union lead protests in central Sao Paulo by CUT

## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

Significant challenges remain regarding the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Brazil. While in 2016, the Brazilian government announced the creation of a National Commission for the SDGs and presented its Voluntary National Review at the 2017 HLPF, trade unions highlight that these moves present a falsified view of the situation in the country. Indeed, trade union partners denounce the policies of the current Brazilian government as contrary to the spirit and objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

The National Commission on the SDGs set up an official dialogue structure, involving representatives of workers and employers, at the end of 2016.

However, its deliberations do not appear to have an influence on the development of public or economic policies, including when the need to protect the poorest and most vulnerable.

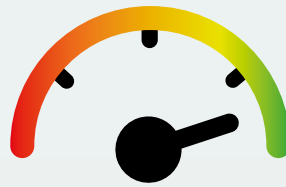
Trade unions denounce the lack of transparency and access to information with regard to all government policies, including those on the SDGs. They further state that far from providing additional resources for the implementation of the SDGs, the government has cut spending in areas which were contributing to the fulfilment of the goals. Concerns persist with regard to the rule of law and space for civil society operations, as demonstrated by a wave of attacks on left-wing leaders and human rights defenders, such as councillor Marielle Franco.

### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There is a structured consultation/ multi-stakeholder platform

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government





## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Brazilian trade unions point out that the country is facing significant challenges to the achievement of the SDGs, in particular with regard to **SDG 1 (eradicating poverty)**, **SDG 5 (gender equality)** and **SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)**.

Indicators for **target 1.1 (eradicating extreme poverty)**, which until recently had been showing steady improvements, have once again been in decline. The percentage of the population below the poverty line, which had dropped drastically from 12.76% in 2003 to 3.66% in 2014, rose for the first time since 2001, reaching 4.3% in 2015. Trade unions believe this indicator will only worsen as a consequence of a constitutional amendment passed by the parliament in 2016 which has led to significant cutbacks in public spending and affected the provision of social services. The government is also in the process of introducing a social security system reform, which, if implemented, will go directly against the objective set by **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems)**. The proposed reform plan raises the retirement age and is likely to disproportionately affect the poorest segments of society, rural workers and women.

There is a clear need for progress on reaching **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies)**, as 2012 indicators showed women perform nearly four times as much unpaid labour as men per day (2.7h for women versus 0.7h for men). **Target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at**

**all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)** is also far from being reached, with only 59.1% of women attaining some form of secondary education.

Until recently, indicators for **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** had demonstrated significant improvement, with unemployment rates dropping from 12.9% in 2003 to 4.3% in 2014. However, the current situation in Brazil is concerning for workers. Data from 2013 shows that 23.1% of all work in the country is precarious and unemployment is rising, especially among young people (15-24), 30.2% of whom are unemployed. Over 25s are also facing a high unemployment rate of 9.7%. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stand at a worrying 19.9% for men and 30% of women. Progress on **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** is undermined by the recent labour law reforms. They give primacy to negotiated agreements at the company level over national legislation, lengthening the working week to 60 hours, flexibilising employment contracts and weakening the role of trade unions and collective bargaining.

Significant progress remains to be made for Brazil to reduce social inequalities and reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as the share of the top 10% of income earners accounts for 40.5% of overall GDP, while the bottom 20% of income earners account for a miniscule 3.6% of GDP.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Brazilian trade unions are prioritising their struggle for decent work and job security, the right to healthcare, gender equality, environmental protection and access to water and sanitation. They call on the current government to withdraw its proposed reforms of the labour law and the social security system, which they believe to be a direct attack on the rights of citizens and a step back in the process of reducing poverty and inequalities.





# COLOMBIA



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

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### ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Colombian government is implementing the 2030 Agenda through two legal frameworks: the National Development Plan for 2014-2018 and the 2015 decree creating the High-Level Inter-institutional Committee for the preparation and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The High-Level Inter-institutional Committee is chaired by the director of the National Planning Department. It consists of the ministers for foreign affairs, finance, environment and sustainable development, the Administrative Department of the Presidency of the Republic, with the participation of the Minister Counsellor for the Government and the Private Sector, the director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics and the director of the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity. The priority of the High-Level Committee has been the preparation of Colombia's 2018 Voluntary National Report (VNR).

No consultations have been organised with civil society or trade unions on the 2030 Agenda or the VNR development process; trade unions point out that the government does not see them as partners in the implementation of the SDGs. The fact that the Ministry of Labour has not been included in the High-Level Committee is also concerning to trade unions, as they see this as a failure to prioritise workers' concerns in the 2030 Agenda process.

Trade unions are not aware of any allocation of additional resources by the Colombian government for the implementation of activities related to the 2030 Agenda.

#### TRANSPARENCY



Regular access to limited information

#### CONSULTATION



There is no consultation process at all

#### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

It is not yet clear which SDGs will be prioritised by the Colombian government and if these will include those that are key to trade unions. Nonetheless, the Central Union of Workers (CUT) highlights several focus areas for improvement to ensure a successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

With regard to **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)**, 2017 data indicate that 26.9% of the Colombian population is living in poverty. Rural inhabitants are at much higher risk, with the rate standing at 36% for rural areas compared to 24.2% in urban settings. In addition, 2014 indicators showed that 19% of Colombian workers were living in poverty, with 31% of rural workers and 16% of those in cities affected. Indicators on **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** are extremely worrying, showing that in 2017, 65.9% of workers were not covered by basic social security systems (health insurance, pension and insurance for occupational risks). In 2016, only 4.5% of the unemployed population was provided with unemployment assistance. Government spending on social programmes was low, with only 4.9% of GNP being spent on healthcare and 4.6% of GNP on education in 2015.

There is a need for improvement to achieve progress on **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, where average indicators show a significant discrepancy between daily time spent on unpaid work by women (6h35) and men (2h); this discrepancy is further pronounced in rural areas. With regard to **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels)**, in 2016 only 43.8% of the people enrolled in higher education were women.

There are serious concerns about Colombia meeting the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. Regarding **target 8.3 (promote policies that support productive activities, decent job creation)**, 2017 data shows that 65.9% of employment is informal. The sectors of the economy most susceptible to informal employment are agriculture, fishing, livestock production, hunting and forestry (90.7% of informal workers); commerce, hotels and restaurants (78.2%); construction (74.1%); and transport,

storage and telecommunications (64.4%). The working population classified as precarious workers in 2016 stood at 73.8%. **Target 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work)** shows that while the 2017 unemployment rate for men stood at 7.2%, 12.3% of women were unemployed; the situation is even worse among young people (14-28 years old), whose overall unemployment rate stood at 16.1%: a dismal 21.2% for young women and 12.2% of young men. In addition, 9.7% of Colombian workers are underemployed. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 20.8% for youth in 2017, an increase on the 2016 number of 20.1%. The challenge is greater for young women of whom 29.7% are NEETs, compared to 12% of young men. Progress remains to be made to reach **target 8.7 (end child labour in all its forms)**, as the 2017 indicators showed that 7.3% of children (5-17 years old) were engaged in child labour (the expanded child labour rate was 11.4%), primarily in the sectors of agriculture, fishing, livestock production, hunting and forestry (44.4%) and commerce, hotels and restaurants (30.1%). Of these children, 54% were not remunerated for their work.

Significant progress remains to be made for Colombia to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies)**, as the share of the top 10% of income earners accounts for 40% of overall GDP, while the share of the bottom 20% of income earners accounts for only 3.9% of GDP. Labour share of GDP (wages and social protection transfers) is low, at 33.5% in 2015. In 2016, the earnings of 62.3% of workers were below the average national wage.

With regard to meeting **target 16.10 (protect fundamental freedoms)**, the chief obstacle is the persisting impunity for grave violations of the rights to life and liberty of trade union activists, 143 of whom have been killed in the past six years. In 2017, trade unions registered 198 cases of violations against trade unionists: 19 killings, 125 cases of threats, 24 cases of harassment, 16 physical attacks, nine arbitrary detentions, two illegal searches, one case of torture and one of forced disappearance.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Colombian trade unions call on their government to ensure the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda by:

- involving social actors and civil society in the SDG design, planning and implementation process through open and transparent consultations;
- including the Ministry of Labour in the High-Level Inter-institutional Committee on the SDGs.





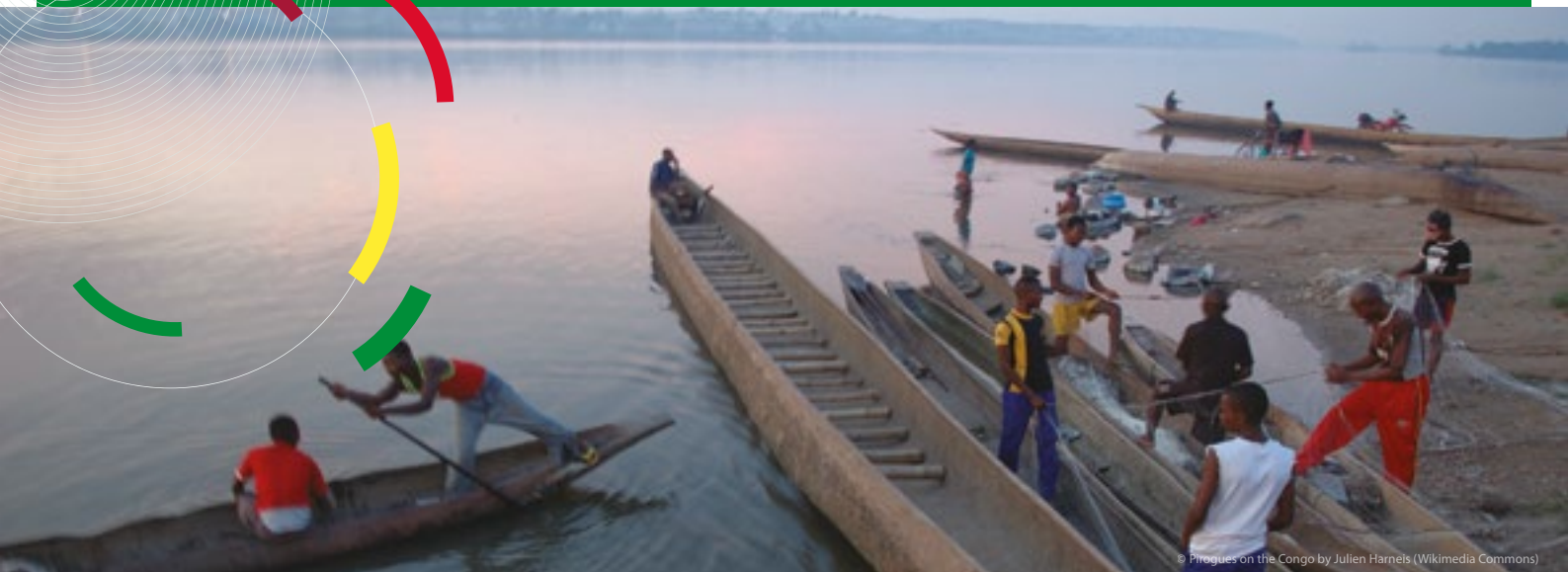


# REPUBLIC OF CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE)

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs



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## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) is planning to integrate the SDGs into its National Programme for Development for 2018-2022, which is currently still being drafted. The government has selected to focus on 14 of the 17 SDGs (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16), including all those prioritised by trade unions.

The Ministry of Planning, Statistics and Regional Integration oversees the integration of the 2030 Agenda into national programming and ensures the implementation of the SDGs. It is also in charge of managing the relationship with the UNDP, as a key partner. As a framework for the evaluation of the SDG

indicators has not yet been developed, public policies or additional resources to implement them have not yet been announced.

While the government organised a workshop to select priority SDGs in consultation with civil society and private sector representatives, trade unions were not invited to participate. Furthermore, trade union representatives have so far only had limited access to information on the SDG process from the government, despite submitting formal input. While a National Committee for Social Dialogue is in place, the SDGs or their implication on labour relations have not yet been discussed in that forum.

### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There is informal or ad hoc consultation

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



No involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation







## IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

Numerous challenges remain to reaching the SDG targets in the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville).

Of the Congolese population, 36.9% was living below the international poverty line in 2011 and 16.7% of workers were living under the national poverty line in 2016, indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** was far off being reached. This was despite the country's considerable economic growth in the past years, which has failed to translate into significant poverty reduction. In addition, indicators on **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** show that only 2.8% of the GDP was spent on social protection systems in 2011, covering just 22.1% of the population.

While no official data is available on indicators relating to **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, trade unions alert that unpaid domestic work remains heavily feminised. With regards to **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)**, challenges remain with regards to women's access to education, with only 45% of Congolese women and girls having accessed some form of secondary education by 2015.

Indicators on **target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)** is worrying, with 77% of the economy considered to be informal; 2005 estimates further suggested that 75.1% of jobs in that year were precarious. Worryingly, young people with university or technical education have the highest levels of unemployment; this is particularly true for educated women, whose unemployment rate stood at 10.8% (compared to 9.4% for men) in urban areas. This demonstrates an obstacle to reaching **target 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people)** and suggests the need to invest in the quality of

human capital. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 26.5% of youth (15-24) in 2015. Furthermore, indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate the worst forms of child labour)** show that 20% of children have been engaged in child labour in 2011 – due most likely to the high numbers of children displaced from the DRC and CAR as well as those made orphans due to conflict or the HIV/AIDS epidemic. **Target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** is challenged by the dropping unionisation rates which have resulted from numerous violations of trade union rights, especially in the private sector.

Progress remains to be made for Congo (Brazzaville) to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as in 2011, the share of the top 10% of income earners accounted for 37.9% of overall GDP, while the bottom 20% of income earners account for 4.2% of GDP.

Congo (Brazzaville) is committed to meeting **target 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning)** in view of its particular vulnerability to the consequences of climate change, despite the fact that it itself emits only 1.1 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person per year. The country's vulnerability is aggravated by multiple biophysical constraints that hinder its ability to adapt to climatic changes and slow down its development process. Regrettably, no dialogue with social partners, especially trade unions, has yet been set up to discuss the effects of climate change on employment.

The country is on the right path to meeting the indicators set by **target 16.3 (promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all)** as illustrated by the fact that each administrative department in the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) has a labour rights tribunal.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

COSYLAC calls on the government of Congo (Brazzaville) to:

- Invest in capacity building of the labour force;
- Strengthen the quality of education to effectively meet the needs of the fastest growing employment sectors;
- Ensure active trade union participation in government and other civil society activities on the SDGs.





# FINLAND



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2017



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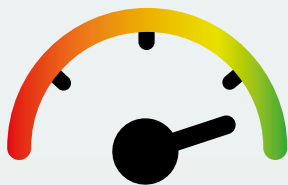
## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Finnish government has taken all SDGs into account when drafting the national plan on their implementation. The national plan is under the supervision of the Secretary for Sustainable Development who works within the Prime Minister's office, suggesting a strong political commitment to its implementation.

Many of the goals and issues prioritised by trade unions have been selected for implementation by the government: income disparity, decreasing poverty, decent wages, equal access to health and social care, life-long learning, education and skills as well as unemployment services. However, trade unions stress that they disagree with the government's approach to tackling these through economic rather than social development measures and its plans to cut costs for key initiatives such as health and social policy reform, education and the activation of the unemployed, including unemployed youth.

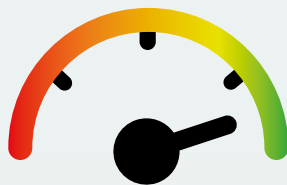
Consultations on the 2030 Agenda take place within the Council on Sustainable Development, coordinated by the Prime Minister's office. While trade unions, as well as other civil society representatives, have been involved in the preparations for the drafting of the national plan on sustainable development, they felt that some of their recommendations were not taken on board. An ongoing monitoring process on the implementation of the plan, coordinated by the Secretary for Sustainable Development and involving civil society, is in place. The structure is transparent, inclusive and democratic. Sustainable development budgeting has also been introduced, although trade unions regret that, so far, it only applies to ecological and not social development goals.

### TRANSPARENCY



Complete access to information

### CONSULTATION



There is a structured consultation/ multi-stakeholder platform

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government



**SAK**



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Finnish trade unions stress that improvement on several key indicators are needed to achieve the SDGs in their country.

Indicators on **target 1.a (ensure significant mobilisation of resources to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions)** show that in 2014, only 2.8% of Finnish GDP was spent on unemployment policy of which slightly over 1% was allocated to the activation of the unemployed, placing the country behind the median spending on this objective in Europe. The amount has decreased since 2011. While in 2014, 6.4% of GDP was spent on education, the government is planning to reduce this amount by 0.5 million euro between 2015 and 2020. Spending on health in 2015 was 9.4% of GDP, 0.1% less than the year before but 0.58% more than in 2010, due to aging population among other things. The budgetary allocation for all social welfare funding was 31.6% of the budget in 2015, 0.3% less than previous year.

There is a need for improvement to achieve progress on **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)** as, in 2016, women represented only 25% of the board members of stock market companies and 20% on other companies' boards; only 4% were presidents of boards in stock market companies.

There are multiple concerns about the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. Regarding **target 8.3 (promote policies that**

**support productive activities, decent job creation)**, in 2015, 16% of the total workforce was working on a part-time basis; the majority of part-time workers were women. On **target 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all)** unemployment continues to be a problem, with unemployment at 9% for men and 8.4% for women in 2016. In 2017, women's salaries were on average 3 euros per hour lower than men's. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** have oscillated between 8-10% of youth aged between 16-29 from 2008 to 2014. There are some concerning deteriorations with regards to **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)**, as the number of workplace injuries has risen by 3% in 2017 alone, especially among migrant or posted workers and due to subcontracting. This is particularly concerning as the number of trained labour inspectors has been on the decrease for several years, a source of concern for trade unions. Both collective bargaining coverage and trade union density have dropped from their 2012 levels of 90% and 70% respectively.

Progress remains to be made for Finland to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as the share of the bottom 10% income earners in overall GDP in 2016 was 11.8%, compared to 13.9% in 2008. This drop can be attributed to the recession. In the longer term, a steady unequal growth in wages has been a trend since the 1990s. The labour share of GDP (wages and social protection transfers) remains low, standing at 52.7% in 2015 – a decline compared to previous years.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Finnish trade unions call on their government to ensure that the implementation of the SDGs leads to meaningful changes in policy with a focus on social development. This can be achieved by:

- Setting concrete policy objectives;
- Developing solid means for their implementation;
- Attributing appropriate financial allocations.





# JAPAN

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

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## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Japan has committed to implementing all 17 SDGs. In December 2016, it established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters and published Guiding Principles for SDG Implementation. The SDGs Promotion Headquarters is coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but all ministries are involved in its implementation.

In December 2017, the government published its 2018 SDG Action Plan, which streamlines the 17 SDGs into eight thematic lines within the Guiding Principles. The Trade Union Priority SDGs (SDG 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16) are grouped according to the following thematic lines: 1) Empowerment of All People (SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 12): work related reforms, gender equality and women's empowerment, promotion of a barrier-free society and international cooperation for youth and

women; 3) Creating Market Growth, Revitalisation of Rural Areas, and Promoting Technical Innovation (SDGs 2, 8, 9, and 11): SDG model project for municipalities; 5) Energy Conservation, Renewable Energy, Climate Change Countermeasures, and Round Material-Cycle Society (SDGs 7, 12, and 13): renewable energy and energy saving; 7) Achieving Peaceful, Safe and Secure Societies (Goal 16): preventing the sexual exploitation of children, elimination of violence against women, international cooperation for the promotion of the rule of law, and capacity building for peace.

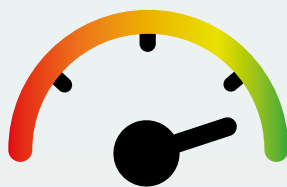
It is not clear what resources have been allocated to the implementation of the 2018 SDG Action Plan.

### TRANSPARENCY



Regular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There is a structured consultation/multi-stakeholder platform

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government





As part of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, the Japanese government has established a Round Table Meeting, where a wide variety of stakeholders, such as NGOs, non-profits, experts, private sector representatives and international organisations can gather to access information, discuss concerns and provide

input to the government. JTUC-RENGO represents workers' interests in this forum. There is no specific dialogue between the government and social partners on policy reforms linked to the implementation of the SDGs.

## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

JTUC-RENGO highlights shortcomings in meeting **target 1.3 (implement appropriate social protection systems)** due to low levels of public social expenditure as a percentage of GDP, which in 2013 stood at 25.4%.

Progress on **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies)**, is impeded by the fact that unpaid household and child-care work is predominantly seen as the responsibility of women. This is reflected in statistics demonstrating that, while women in Japan spend only 5.5 hours per day on paid work, they perform over three hours of supplementary, unpaid work in the same period. **Target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)** is far from being met, with the female share of employment in managerial positions remaining low, at 13% in 2016.

The wage gap between full time regular workers and non-regular workers or part-time workers stood at 13.5% in 2015, posing a challenge in reaching **target 8.3 (promote policies that support productive activities, decent job creation)**. Japan remains in violation of eight ILO Conventions - primarily related to the right to strike, to collective bargaining and to establish and join trade

union organisations - despite trade union calls to address these issues, impeding fulfilment of **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)**. Meanwhile, trade union density remains relatively low, at 17.8% by 2013 estimates, and has been declining, which can at least in part be attributed to the increasing numbers of non-regular workers who, unlike regular workers, do not automatically become unionised when hired.

There is a lack of progress towards achieving **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)** as the labour share of the GDP stood at 53.6% in 2017 and has been in decline over the years, due in part to the lack of improvement of non-regular workers' working conditions and wages. In addition, in 2008 the bottom 20% of income earners accounted for only 7.4% of GDP, while the share of the top 10% income earners stood at 24.8%.

JTUC-RENGO has been strongly promoting policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and balance environmental protection with economic growth (**target 13.2 integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning**).

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The JTUC-RENGO priority recommendation for the Japanese government is to promote a social dialogue based on a firm commitment to workers' rights such as freedom of association and collective bargaining.

To ensure this, trade unions call for:

- The implementation of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda through job creation, ensuring the respect of workers' rights, social protection and social dialogue, and the promotion of gender equality;
- The promotion of strict adherence to international rules for all business activities;
- The implementation of the 2018 SDG Action Plan in consultation with a diversity of stakeholders, including trade unions and economic organisations.





# MALI

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

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## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Malian government has committed to implementing all the SDGs. It aims to do so through four key tools: a strategic framework for economic renewal and sustainable development (CREDD) and its 2016-18 implementation plan that has been used in the programming of the national budget; the National Action Plan for 2015-18; the Social Urgency Plan; and the plan of action of the Agency for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

The Economy and Finance Ministry is the main actor in charge of implementing the SDGs by translating the CREDD into budgetary commitments at the sectoral level. It is also in charge of redistributing the development aid and budget support provided by international partners across the budget according to national and local priorities. The Ministry of the Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development, through its Agency for the Environment and Sustainable Development (AEDD), is tasked with implementing commitments on

climate change. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation leads the dialogue on the SDGs with international partners.

Trade unions have not benefitted from regular and transparent access to information on SDG implementation as no regular reporting process has been set up. They have, together with other civil society representatives, been involved in ad hoc consultations on subjects directly or indirectly linked to the fulfilment of the SDGs, such as budgetary allocations. However, none of these have been framed as discussions on this topic and there is no formal structure for dialogue on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Trade union partners believe that this is to do with the lack of a clear lead on SDG implementation and the dispersal of responsibilities between three ministries.

### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



Informal or ad hoc consultation

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

Numerous challenges to achieving the SDGs are yet to be tackled in Mali.

Of the Malian population, 47.2% was living below the international poverty line in 2015, indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** was far from being reached. In addition, the percentage of people living in poverty (below \$3.2 per day) stood at 35.9% in 2009. While both indicators are diminishing, the rate of improvement has decreased in recent years due to a rise in unemployment and the high cost of healthcare, in the absence of welfare systems. Promisingly however, indicators on **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** show that 28.8% of the 2016 national budget was earmarked for the provision of basic social services, a 10.6% increase on 2015.

There is a need for improvement on **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, for which 2008 data shows that on average, women engaged in around five hours of unpaid work per day, as compared to around half an hour per day for men. In addition, men engaged in around six hours of remunerated work per day, compared to around four hours for women, suggesting a considerable imbalance in earned income. Regarding **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)**, a parity law from 2015 setting a threshold of at least 30% of female candidates to be included in any electoral list is set to improve the representation of women in political and public life. However, serious challenges remain regarding education, with only 7.3% of Malian women and girls having received some form of secondary education prior to 2015.

There are serious concerns about Mali meeting the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. **Target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)** is particularly worrying, with 96.6% of jobs occurring within the informal economy. With 9.7% unemployment and an overall rate of 10.2% of underemployment, which hits urban dwelling women particularly hard (53.2% of them are underemployed), achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** is still far off. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 65% of youth (15-24) in 2014. Furthermore, indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate the worst forms of child labour)** show that 56% of children have been engaged in child labour in 2015. Worryingly, there has been a regression with regards to meeting **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** as trade union membership has dropped from 21% in 1999 to 16.7% in 2014.

Progress remains to be made for Mali to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as in 2009, the share of the top 10% of income earners accounted for 25.7% of overall GDP, while the bottom 20% of income earners account for 8% of GDP. However, these disparities have been decreasing.

Mali is committed to meeting **target 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning)** and has, in consultation with trade unions, put aside green funds for its implementation. It is a signatory of the Paris Climate Agreement and leads the Africa Group for Renewable Energy within the African Union.

## WHERE TO NEXT? TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The UNTM calls on the Malian government to:

- Establish a clear lead on the implementation of the SDGs among the government departments;
- Mainstream its strategic framework for economic renewal and sustainable development (CREDD) throughout all government policies, especially at local and regional levels;
- Ensure the greater involvement of civil society, including trade unions, in the direct implementation of the SDGs;
- Allocate adequate resources to the implementation of the SDGs.





# NEPAL

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

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## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Nepalese government has integrated SDG goals into its current five-year development plan. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is coordinated by the office of the Prime Minister and the National Planning Commission through the work of relevant ministries.

Trade unions raise concerns regarding the absence of adequate human and financial resources to implement the objectives set by the government in the context of the SDGs, citing the government's approaches to UNDP and other international agencies for bilateral and multilateral aid to finance the proposed programmes.

In addition, trade unions highlight issues around the government's poor resource and fund management as having the potential to hamper the efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Nepalese government organises consultations ahead of the drafting of its annual and tri-yearly development planning. Specific consultations on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have also been held. However, neither of these types of consultations have so far included trade union representatives, and they are limited to certain sections of civil society such as NGOs and representatives of the media, as well as international institutions (e.g. UNDP).

### TRANSPARENCY



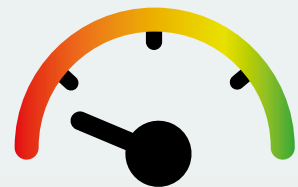
Irregular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There is no consultation process at all

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation





## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

On trade unions priorities SDGs, the government has set the following objectives (to be achieved by 2030): SDG 1 – reduce the poverty rate from 21.6% (in 2015) to 4.9%; SDG 5 – raise the proportion of women to men in professional and technical work from 24% (in 2015) to 40% in 2030; SDG 8 – reduce youth underemployment from 35.8% (in 2015) to 10%; SDG 13 – reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels from 0.10 (in 2015) to 0.05 metric tons per capita; and SDG 16 – reduce the percentage of children working under hazardous conditions from 30% (in 2015) to 0%.

With regards to **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)**, while Nepal has made significant progress since 1995, when 61.9% of the population was living below the international poverty line, the proportion in 2010 remained high, at 15%. Additionally, the percentage of people living in poverty in that year stood at 15.8%. Indicators on **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** show that only 62.5% of the population was covered by social protection systems in 2010.

There is a need for improvements to achieve progress on **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**. According to NTUC, 74.8% of women are engaged in unpaid labour within the household. Furthermore, extensive labour migration of men from rural areas has meant that 77% of economically active women work in the low-income agricultural sector.

There are serious concerns about Nepal meeting the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 23.4% of youth (15-24) in 2008. Furthermore, indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour)** show that 27.6% of children aged between 5 and 17 years old have been engaged in child labour in 2008, including 29.6% of 5-14 year-olds. Implementation of provisions relating to **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** leaves much to be desired in Nepal, as 19 violations of ILO conventions (18 in law and one in practice) have been recorded up to 2015.

Progress remains to be made for Nepal to **reach target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as the share of the top 10% of income earners accounts for 26.4% of overall GDP, while the bottom 20% of income earners account for 8.3% of GDP.

## WHERE TO NEXT? TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

NTUC stresses the need for the Nepalese government to strengthen its financial policy and human resource base in order to effectively and efficiently implement the SDGs. To further ensure the success of its development plans, trade union partners emphasise the need for transparency, participation, dialogue and partnership with social partners, including trade unions.

A number of strategic priorities emerged from the trade union analysis. In order to make meaningful progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, they recommend that the government of Nepal prioritise the following:

- Creating employment, decent work and decent wages;
- Ensuring gender equality by ensuring women's full and equal access to the world of work;
- Establishing robust and regular social dialogue and integrating it into the policy-making process;
- Implementing labour law, social protection systems for workers and people living in poverty;
- Addressing occupational health and safety and environmental issues.





# SENEGAL



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

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## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Senegal has integrated the SDGs into its Emerging Senegal Plan (PSE), a national policy document implemented through five-year priority action plans (PAP) and integrated into sectoral development programming of individual ministries. The PSE covers all 17 SDGs divided into three thematic priority axes: (1) growth and the structural transformation of the economy (SDGs 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9), (2) human capital, social protection and sustainable development (SDGs 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15) and (3) governance, institutions, peace and security (SDGs 10, 16 and 17).

The Ministry of the Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Planning, through their planning directorate, oversee the implementation of the SDGs.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is monitored through the harmonised framework for follow-up and evaluation created by the two ministries in 2015.

Trade unions have not benefitted from regular and transparent access to information on SDG implementation as, so far, only one mid-term information session has been organised on this subject. While some consultations had been set up in connection to the 2030 Agenda process, such as a workshop to validate the PSE and a workshop on the SDGs, trade unions have not been adequately involved in them. Trade unions have, however been able to participate in a process of pre-validating the voluntary national review of Senegal.

### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There are information sessions but no interaction

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK GETTING DONE?

Numerous challenges to reaching the SDGs remain to be tackled in Senegal.

In 2011, 37.9% of the Senegalese population was living below the international poverty line and 46.7% of workers were living under the national poverty line in 2010, indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** was far off being reached. In addition, indicators on **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** show that only 8.3% of the population is covered by some sort of social protection – giving an insight into the size of the informal economy, within which workers are not covered by social protection.

While no official data is available on indicators relating to **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, trade unions warn that domestic work, which is heavily feminised, remains an informal and unorganised sector of the economy, where wages are often below the minimum and workers' rights are frequently abused. With regards to **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)**, serious challenges remain with regards to women's access to education, with only 10.2% of Senegalese women and girls having accessed some form of secondary education prior to 2015.

**Target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of MSMEs)** is worrying, with 58% of jobs being precarious. This hits workers in the informal sector or those casually employed hardest. While unemployment was relatively low in 2015, at 4.9%, achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** is

still far off for youth between the ages of 20-24 and 25-29, who face respective unemployment rates of 19.5% and 17.5%. Furthermore, underemployment stood at 9.9% in 2011. NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 36.2% of youth (15-24) in 2015. Furthermore, indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate the worst forms of child labour)** show that 16.9% of children have been engaged in child labour in 2015 – a number which is particularly concerning as it relates to children used as street beggars and workers in coal mines in the east of Senegal.

Progress remains to be made for Senegal to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as in 2011, the share of the top 10% of income earners accounted for 31% of overall GDP, while the bottom 20% of income earners account for 6.1% of GDP. However, trade unions stress that due to the difficulties in estimating the genuine volume of GDP without taking into consideration the true size of the informal economy, it is hard to rely on the veracity of these estimates.

Senegal has, in consultation with trade unions, put in place a National Plan of Action for adaptation to climate change in efforts to meet **target 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning)**.

Concerns remain with regards to meeting **target 16.10 (ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements)**, as the ITUC Right Index has noted 24 violations of trade union laws in Senegal in 2015, taking place both in the private and public sectors. Trade unions note cases of unfair dismissals which remain unchallenged.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The UNSAS calls on the government of Senegal to:

- Adopt a participatory approach to policy making, ensuring the participation of all social partners, both upstream and downstream;
- Focus on enhancing and widening the scope of social programs to achieve real poverty reduction.
- Adapt the SDGs to national realities and needs;
- Prioritise the SDGs in its planning.





# REPUBLIC OF KOREA



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2018



## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

Trade unions report that the government of the Republic of Korea has not taken significant measures to integrate the SDGs into its national planning and programming. While the various activities implemented by the government have an impact on reaching SDG targets, including those prioritised by trade unions, they are not specifically designed to meet the objectives set by the 2030 Agenda.

The lead department charged with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the Ministry of the Environment. With regards to resource allocation, considerable sections of the budget have been allocated to the national action plans for a fair labour market and sustainable development, but these are not being officially linked to the SDG process.

As no regular reporting process has been set up, trade unions have not benefitted from regular and transparent access to information on SDG implementation by the Korean government. In addition, no institutional platform has been set up for Korean civil society, including trade unions, to participate in consultations on the implementation of the SDGs. Subsequently, trade unions have not had any opportunity to input towards the government's strategy to meet the 2030 Agenda. While social dialogue related to labour themes generally exists, it is entirely separate from the SDG implementation process.

### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

### CONSULTATION



There are information sessions but no interaction

### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation





## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Trade unions highlight that certain challenges to reaching the targets set by the SDGs remain to be tackled by the Republic of Korea.

There is a clear need for improvement to achieve progress on **SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)**. 2014 indicators for **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)** show that on average, women dedicate over four times the amount of time to unpaid work per day than men (over 3 hours per day for women compared to 42 minutes for men). Moreover, the gender wage gap of 36.6% is staggering, the worst among all OECD countries. With regards to **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)**, while by 2015 over 88.8% of the female population had achieved at least a secondary level of education, only 0.3% of people in managerial positions were women.

Some challenges remain for Korea to meet the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. Indicators for **target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)** show that in 2016, 23.5% of work was low paid and 19.4% of all employment was precarious. While the overall unemployment rate is low at 3.7%, the youth (15-24) unemployment rate is at a considerably higher (and likely underestimated) at 10.3%, suggesting difficulties in meeting **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)**.

While there are no official NEET indicators for Korea, it is estimated that in 2016, 18.9% of people aged 15 to 29 were not in employment, education or training, suggesting that **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of NEET youth)** remains unmet. Furthermore, indicators for **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** suggest that there is a long way to go to meet this objective, as in 2015, the collective bargaining coverage in the country stood at only 11.8% and trade union density was at a low 10.1%.

Progress remains to be made for Korea to reach **target 10.7 (facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people)**, as Korea lacks an integrated immigration law, and no government agency is charged with coordinating overall migration policy. Trade unions are concerned about the working conditions facing many migrant workers, especially in the farming, agricultural and fishing industries, where they are often forced to live in squalid accommodation, face delays in the payment of wages and seizures of passports.

Korea is committed to meeting **target 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning)** – 30% of its electricity needs are met through nuclear reactors, while coal and renewable energy supplies meet 37.5% and 6.7% of its needs respectively. The government has set its national target for the Paris climate agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 37% from business-as-usual levels by 2030.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The FKTU calls on the Korean government to:

- Integrate the SDGs into government policy, including setting up a system for the implementation and monitoring of the individual goals;
- Upgrade the committee on sustainable development from a consultative committee to a national commission;
- Enhance the inclusiveness, representativeness, accountability, and transparency of participation of civil society in the decision-making process;
- Establish participatory platforms for major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS) for sustainable development at national and local level.



# SPAIN



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2018



### ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

This document refers to the actions of the previous Spanish government (prior to June 2018) and not to those of the current government.

The Spanish government has committed to implementing all the SDGs within its 2017-2018 work plan on SDG implementation. The work plan is, at the beginning of 2018, still in the process of being drafted. It is to be implemented by the High-Level Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Agenda 2030, which is made up of representatives from several ministries.

No additional resources have been allocated to the implementation of activities related to the 2030 Agenda and any decisions agreed upon by the High-Level

Working Group must be implemented using the existing resources of each ministry. The only known alignment of a ministerial work plan with the SDGs process is the Master Plan on Spanish Cooperation for 2018-2021 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; other ministries have so far not integrated 2030 Agenda provisions to their work.

The High-Level Working Group for Agenda 2030 foresees consultations with Spanish regions and possibly with civil society; however, no permanent consultation structure has been established. Some trade union suggestions regarding prioritising Goal 8 have been taken on board in the drafting of the Master Plan on Spanish Cooperation.

#### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

#### CONSULTATION



There is informal or ad hoc consultation

#### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation





## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

While the Spanish government has committed to implementing all of the SDGs, the composition of the High-Level Working Group for Agenda 2030, where the Ministries for Employment, Education, Health, Social Services and Equality are represented at a lower rank, suggests that the focus is on Spain's external rather than domestic policies.

With regard to **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)**, 2014 data indicates that 0.8% of the Spanish population is living in extreme poverty, placing Spain in fourth place among high income countries. Meanwhile, 13.1% of workers were at risk of poverty in 2016.

Indicators on **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** show that while 80.9% of the population is covered by some form of social protection, there were serious shortcomings in coverage for those qualifying for unemployment assistance (46.9%) as well as the most vulnerable dependents of social assistance (45%). Spending on healthcare as a percentage of GDP has further been dropping, with the 2014 expenditure standing at only 5.7%.

There is a need for improvement to achieve progress on **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, where indicators continue to demonstrate a significant discrepancy between daily time spent on unpaid work by women (4h20) and men (2h35). In 2016, **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)**, was far from being reached, as women represented only 30.3% of the individuals occupying the highest posts in government and large enterprises.

There are multiple concerns about Spain meeting the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. Regarding **target 8.3 (promote policies that support productive activities, decent job creation)**, unofficial data suggests that the share of the informal economy constitutes up to 17.2% of GDP. In addition, 12.62% of the population receives the minimum wage (37% of the median wage), with a large gender disparity of 18.19% of women on minimum wage versus 7.36% of men. Finally, 12% of the working population are classified as precarious workers.

Continuing the trend, **target 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value)** fails to be met as the average salary of women is only 77% of that of men, due to women being more represented in employment which is underpaid, part-time or temporary.

Similarly, in the fourth quarter of 2017, unemployment (at an overall 16.6%) affected more women (18.4%) than men (15%); however, it is even worse among young people (37.5%) and people of non-Spanish origin (23.6%). Indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 14.6% for youth aged 15-24 in 2016.

Progress remains to be made for Spain to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as the share of the top 10% of income earners accounts for 26% of overall GDP, while the bottom 20% of income earners account for only 5.7% of GDP. The labour share of GDP (wages and social protection transfers) remains low, at 54.9%.

## WHERE TO NEXT? TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Spanish trade unions call on their government to ensure the effective implementation of its 2017-2018 work plan on SDG implementation by:

- Streamlining the work and improving coordination between different ministries and at different levels of national, territorial and local administration.
- Instituting consultations with civil society, including social partners, allowing them to be informed on the status of implementation of the SDGs and provide input on how to improve performance on individual targets; in this context it is crucial that the government establish and share the indicators applied to measure progress on individual targets.
- Allocating additional and adequate resources to the implementation of the SDGs by individual departments.





# 2017

## COUNTRY PROFILES







# ARGENTINA

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2017



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## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

Up until June 2017, the Argentinian government only took part in one meeting with selected civil society representatives. The meeting was informative rather than consultative in nature. Trade union representatives present at the meeting pointed out its lack of plurality, specifically with regards to representation of the wider workers' movement. A wider national debate on this subject has been scheduled for September 2017.

There is further a lack of communication or ongoing dialogue between the government and trade unions on the SDG implementation. As the government is still in the process of evaluating the cost of SDG implementation, the budget allocated for this purpose has not yet been communicated.



### TRANSPARENCY

access to information  
on the SDGs



### CONSULTATION

existence of an official  
multi-stakeholder platform  
on the SDGs



### SOCIAL DIALOGUE

dialogue between worker, employer  
and government representatives  
on SDG implementation



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

An analysis of the Argentinian government's SDG implementation plan reveals a focus on **SDG 1 (eradicating poverty)** and **SDG 2 (eradicating hunger)** at the expense of other goals. While those areas of action which refer to SDGs 1 and 2 list concrete and detailed goals, others remain vague or generic.

Nonetheless, **indicator 1.1 (eradicating extreme poverty)** demonstrates an increase in poverty levels during 2016. This is due on the one hand to a change in measurement methodology and on the other to government policies such as currency devaluation, a slowdown in the negotiation of collective labour agreements (especially in the public sector and for teachers) and price inflation.

**SDG 5 (gender equality)** is understood to have not been taken up as the government's focus on gender equality centres on developing women's access to IT services and increasing their participation in decision making spaces. While an existing programme aims to eradicate violence against women, its funding was cut in 2016.

The government is not prioritising **SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)** although economic growth is a stated focus. No measures to promote decent work have been outlined and although the government claims to aim to optimise the performance of the public sector, the massive employment cuts in this sector contradict this goal. Furthermore, some instances of trade union persecution in the public sector have been highlighted.

**Indicator 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** demonstrates a 2.5%-point increase in youth unemployment in 2016. This decline,

coming after nearly a decade of employment growth, is due to a change of government priorities following the election in late 2015.

While the government prioritises **SDG 10 (reduced inequalities)** with regards to macroeconomic stability and sustainable development, it fails to recognise the centrality of decent work in reducing inequalities or in establishing policies to address inequalities. There is no fiscal or labour policy aimed at eliminating the gender pay gap, promoting decent work, social dialogue or collective bargaining.

Actions under **indicator 10.7 (facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people)** have been stunted due to the wide-reaching alterations to Argentina's migration policy, made in 2017. These changes were introduced without civil society consultation as, over the past two years there has been a virtual shutting down of the previously vibrant consultation process between the National Directorate for Migration and civil society and religious organisations.

The government has failed to describe any concrete policies it will put in place with regards to **SDG 13 (climate action)**. The measures to compensate carbon emission which have been proposed are not sufficient to be in line with the international agreements made at the COP.

With regards to **SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)**, the Argentinian government fails to recognise that the freedom of association, collective bargaining and social dialogue constitute an inherent part of promoting peaceful and democratic societies.

## WHERE TO NEXT? TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The Argentinian government must prioritise a genuine and effective CSO dialogue, ensure the implementation of human and trade union rights in its public policy and stress the importance of employment and decent work to social inclusion and ensuring the dignity of peoples.

To achieve this, the Argentinian government should:

- Involve a wide range of trade union associations, movements and civil society organisations and ensure their effective participation in the diagnosis of needs and the process of adapting, implementing and evaluating SDGs at national level.
- Prioritise decent work and social protection as key elements to achieving the SDGs. There is a need to overturn those policies pursued by the national and some regional governments that clearly contradict the spirit of the 2030 Agenda (layoffs, budget cuts, criminalisation of protest, limits on parity, etc.).
- Communicate the budgetary allocations and means of financing of each of the selected SDG objectives.







# BELGIUM

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2017



© TUDCN - National protest 29 September

## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

In Belgium, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is undertaken at federal and regional level.

An Inter-Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development (IMCSD) is the central coordination mechanism for SDG implementation. In 2017, the IMCSD approved a National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSSD), which envisions integrating the SDGs into the Belgian context by selecting priority themes for enhanced coordination between public authorities.

Through the Federal Council for Sustainable Development (FRDO-CFDD), civil society - including trade unions - was consulted on the NSSD, through online consultations and sessions organised by the Federal Institute for Sustainable

Development (FIDO). Trade unions note that the input requested by the FRDO-CFDD is required to be brief, not allowing for in-depth analysis; in addition, very few recommendations were felt to have been taken on board.

The Belgian government has granted a big role in the SDG process to *The Shift*, a cross-sectoral platform for dialogue on the SDGs, and leads a communications campaign raising public awareness of the SDGs. However, a number of issues have led the three Belgian trade unions to question *The Shift*'s transparency and commitment to the consultative process.

The Inter-Federal Institute for Statistics is responsible for monitoring progress towards the SDGs; relevant information is made publicly available online.



### TRANSPARENCY

access to key documents on SDGs programming and/or implementation



### CONSULTATION

existence of an official multi-stakeholder platform on the SDGs



### SOCIAL DIALOGUE

dialogue among worker, employer and government representatives on SDG implementation



**ABVV-FGTB**





## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Belgian efforts to achieve **SDG 1 (eradicating poverty)** are channelled through the Third Federal Plan to Combat Poverty (2016-2019). Trade unions highlight that certain government policies prevent progress on this goal. These notably include the suspension of salary indexation, the restriction of access to unemployment benefits, the increased labour market flexibility and raising the age of retirement.

Further progress must be made on reaching **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies)**. While officially all employees are covered by social protection, this protection is low or inexistent for those in part-time employment. As 80% of all part-time workers are women and 41.5% of women work part-time (compared to 10% for men), women are clearly more vulnerable to being left out of social protection policies and their access to employment should be improved.

In addition, while the gender pay gap has dropped by 8% over the past 14 years, more must be done to reach **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men)** as, at the current rate, the gap will only be eradicated by 2051. Furthermore, Belgian workers' purchasing power has been steadily declining since 2009 and is now at 2006 levels. In spite of this, the government refuses to index salaries to match increasing prices.

Legal and political limitations hamper the achievement of **target 8.8 (protecting labour rights and promoting safe and secure working environments)** in Belgium. Cases of judiciary interventions in collective disputes undermine the effective exercise of collective bargaining rights. A trade union complaint to the Council of Europe for non-compliance with the European Social Charter has not yet prompted Belgium to change this practice.

Some progress towards the achievement of **target 10.4 (progressive achievement of greater equality)** is visible. Figures show that income inequality has decreased. Worryingly however, the minimum monthly wage is only 51.1% of the median wage. The country has a persistent problem of poverty linked to long-term unemployment, which disproportionately affects migrants.

Achieving **target 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning)** is stilted as Belgium has yet to adopt an integrated national plan for climate and energy due to protracted political discussions. Trade unions have been able to put climate and energy issues on the agenda at various levels, but have not been invited to participate in discussions on the country's industrial transition. While Belgium profiles itself as a contributor to the Green Climate Fund, trade unions note that the resources provided for the fund do not meet the criteria of being new and additional, as required by the COP 15.

## WHERE TO NEXT? TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Trade unions advise the government of Belgium to prioritise the following objectives: ensure decent work and fight inequalities, especially with regard to working people at risk of poverty; provide greater social protection and improving salaries; promote social dialogue; promote lifelong learning.

To ensure the effective implementation of these objectives, the Belgian government should:

- Engage in a genuine and transparent dialogue with social partners on SDG implementation and follow up.
- Focus on reaching those key transformative goals that have an impact on the realisation of other objectives, and therefore merit particular attention, such as SDGs 8 and 10.
- Specify how the goals and targets selected by the government are to be effectively integrated into national and foreign policy and how they will be implemented, including resource allocation for each of them.





# INDIA

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2017



© Bonded Labour in a Brick Kiln in Uttar Pradesh - by ILO in Asia Pacific (flickr.com creative commons)

## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

India does not yet have a national implementation plan for the 2030 Agenda. An initial proposal for national indicators is currently in being drafted.

The government agency in charge of the implementation of the SDGs is the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) has been charged with streamlining the SDGs into national policies. The ministries in charge of the SDGs relevant to their policy areas are: the Ministry of Rural Development (SDG 1), the Ministry of Women and Child Development (SDG 5), the Ministry of Labour and Employment (SDG 8), the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (SDG 10), the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (SDG 13) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (SDG 16).

The trade unions have addressed the government with a charter of demands, which contains points relevant to the fulfilment of the SDGs; however, these have not yet been taken on board.

The government of India has so far only reported on the implementation of the SDGs to the parliament. Trade unions do not have access to the reporting information, nor are there reporting mechanisms to provide input available to them.

Not enough resources have been allocated to the implementation of the SDGs in India.



### TRANSPARENCY

access to key documents on SDGs programming and/or implementation



### CONSULTATION

existence of an official multi-stakeholder platform on the SDGs



### SOCIAL DIALOGUE

dialogue among worker, employer and government representatives on SDG implementation





## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

The Indian government has committed to working on all SDGs, with a specific focus on implementing **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**.

Trade unions stress that particular challenges exist with regards to achieving **target 1.1 (eradicating extreme poverty)**, as 22% of the Indian population is reported to be living in extreme poverty, of which 80% live in rural areas.

In addition, many workers in the informal economy, who constitute between 92% and 94% of the Indian labour force, continue to live in poverty. This poses challenges to reaching target **1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all)**, as social security coverage in the informal economy is weak. This further compounds issues associated to low government spending on essential services such as education, health and social protection, presenting further obstacles for **target 1.a (ensure significant mobilisation of resources to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions)**.

Women face specific obstacles in this context. Very low social protection coverage of female workers has grave implications for progress on **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies)**.

Regarding **SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)**, performance on **target 8.3 (promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities)** is poor, given that most minimum wages in India do not cover living costs, in breach of ILO Convention 131. What's more, the share of temporary work is on the rise, further increasing the informality and precariousness of the labour market. Achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men)** also appears distant, as the gender pay gap stands at 40-54% according to trade union estimations.

Progress has been achieved on **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour)**, as the government approved the ratification of ILO conventions 138 and 182. However, the definition of forced labour varies across states. In addition, 11.8% of children (31 million) are reported to be working.

Unfortunately, no progress can be noted on **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)**, as India has not reinforced its efforts to adhere to internationally recognised labour standards, nor has it ratified ILO conventions 87 and 98. The number of trained labour inspectors has declined, as the government is promoting a self-assessment of compliance to industry. However, the key components of accountability are not ensured: both collective bargaining coverage and trade union density in the country are low.

Inequality within India remains high, with the top 1% of income earners owning 58% of the wealth and the top 10% of income earners owning 80% of the wealth. A particular challenge to achieving **target 10.4 (progressive achievement of greater equality)** is the lack of a national minimum wage covering the entire country.

There is a lack of an integrated national policy to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, challenging the fulfilment of **SDG 13 (climate action)**. Trade union and civil society involvement in a dialogue on a Just Transition for workers and communities in greenhouse gas-intensive sectors has been limited, and no formal consultations have yet been launched.

Concerningly, challenges to achieving **target 16.3 (promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all)** are on the rise. The Maruti Suzuki case, which has seen workers being held in detention for years without conviction, is a prime illustration of this. While legal aid for workers and labour courts exist, the system is expensive, slow and does not address workers' needs appropriately.

## WHERE TO NEXT? TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The Indian government must prioritise the eradication of poverty, *inter alia* by improving wages, including through the introduction of a national minimum wage; and improving social protection measures, including by enhancing access to healthcare.

To ensure the effective implementation of these objectives, the Indian government should:

- Implement policies that ensure that economic growth is matched by a growth in the number of decent jobs.
- Involve trade unions and other stakeholders in the consultation, monitoring and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Allocate sufficient financial and human resources to the implementation of the SDGs.





# INDONESIA

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2017



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## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Indonesian government established a National SDG Coordination Team under the Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS). Its role is to coordinate the SDG implementation process among the relevant actors.

Trade unions have been consulted on SDG implementation and invited to present their priorities to the government. However, while the government's policy is to incorporate the SDGs into its existing development plan, very few of the priority issues proposed by trade unions were taken on board.

The Indonesian government is reporting on national SDG implementation through various publications which are made publicly available online. As the implementation of the SDG objectives has been incorporated across the different (long, medium, and short-term) stages of the national development plan, financing will be allocated through the state budget annually.



### TRANSPARENCY

access to key documents on SDGs programming and/or implementation



### CONSULTATION

existence of an official multi-stakeholder platform on the SDGs



### SOCIAL DIALOGUE

dialogue among worker, employer and government representatives on SDG implementation



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

The Indonesian government has incorporated the SDGs into the current Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN) 2005-2025, and the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2015-2019. SDG objectives will also be mainstreamed into the 2025-2045 development plan which is currently being drafted. Indonesian trade unions have highlighted the need for the government to have a universal approach to the SDGs and targets to ensure overall progress.

With regards to **SDG 1 (eradicating poverty) target 1.1 (eradicating extreme poverty)** it is particularly concerning that 10.9% of people in employment in Indonesia lived under the poverty line in 2015; in 2014, 8.3% of the population lived in extreme poverty. In the same year, 36.4% of the population lived below the poverty line, although this number has been steadily decreasing. With regards to the UN Human Development Index (HDI), Indonesia's 2015 HDI of 0.689 puts it in the medium human development category, ranking 113<sup>th</sup> out of 188 countries and territories.

**SDG 5 (gender equality)** requires particular attention as gender inequalities are embedded in broader inequalities. Women are overrepresented in vulnerable employment, as illustrated by the fact that only 34.63% of Indonesian women are in formal employment and 41.23% are informally employed (2016 Indonesia Labour Survey). More details below.

With regards to **SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)**, special attention must be paid to vulnerable workers (self-employed or independent, temporary or unpaid workers, and those performing informal labour in the household or for the family), who represent 58.35% of the workers in Indonesia. HDI rates for men and women also show that men and women do not enjoy the same level of human development (0.712 for men and 0.66 for women). In 2012, over 4 million children under 13 were engaged in child labour, half of which worked

in hazardous employment. Only 5.1% of registered companies have collective bargaining agreements and trade union density stands at a 6% of formal workers. Despite a decline in unemployment from 5.81% in 2016 to 5.5% in 2017, youth unemployment remains high, with youth accounting for over half of the unemployed population.

Despite Indonesia's Gini ratio index declining in from 0.408 in 2015 to 0.397 in 2016, the country remains one of the most unequal in the world, demonstrating the importance of prioritising **SDG 10 (reduced inequalities)**. As outlined above, there is an important gender component to these inequalities. Pronounced occupational segregation and women's limited prospects for career progression result in unequal vocational and income opportunities in the labour market. Due to precariousness and informality, many workers are trapped in a permanent state of transition. Again, women are hit particularly hard and regularly fluctuate from economic inactivity to low-paid factory work in home-based settings. Strengthening the position of these workers within global supply chains and improving their working conditions is key to reducing inequalities in the country.

There has been no involvement of trade unions or civil society in the design of the National Action Plan on climate change, which intends to fulfil **SDG 13 (climate action)**, and there is limited information on its implementation.

Challenges to the implementation of **SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)** persist. It is well documented that Indonesia does not provide sufficient protection to trade unionists and journalists. In 2016, the ILO sent a mission to Indonesia in response to a growing number of labour rights violations in the country; at the same time, there has been a decline of labour cases going to court. Indonesia freedom of the press, ranked it 127<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries in 2017 and 74 cases of violations against journalists were reported in 2016 alone.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The Indonesian government must prioritise the following objectives: improve wages and social protection measures to eradicate poverty; ensure gender equality and women's position in the labour market and improve working and living conditions for workers to reduce inequalities; secure the freedom of association to promote peace, justice and strong institutions.

To ensure the effective implementation of these objectives, the Indonesian government should:

- Establish the implementation of the SDGs as a standalone national commitment, rather than simply aligning their implementation with the existing national development plan.
- Ensure budgetary allocations and financing for each of the selected SDG objectives.
- Publish regular updates on the progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.





# ITALY

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2017



© Stop Caporalato march in Bari, photo by FLAI Federazione Nazionale

### ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

In 2017, the Italian government included references to the SDGs in its official budgetary and planning report for the first time. However, until the 2018-2020 budgetary and planning report is released, it is not clear what resources will be allocated to supporting concrete actions targeting the SDGs.

The lead ministry on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the Ministry of the Environment, which will coordinate the work of the other government bodies involved, such as the Ministries for Health, Education, Universities and Research, Labour and Social Affairs, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Economic Development and the Institute of National Statistics.

The Italian government held two consultations, the first one of which focused on each SDG individually and a second one which was more general. In January 2017, the government released a position paper on the SDGs. Trade unions officially complained about their exclusion from the consultations ahead of the drafting of this document. Additionally, trade union requests for establishing social dialogue with the Ministry of the Environment have so far been ignored.

Trade unions can access information on SDG implementation at national level. However, the information mechanisms available have not been adapted to promote a genuine trade union participation in the implementation process.



#### TRANSPARENCY

access to key documents on SDGs programming and/or implementation



#### CONSULTATION

existence of an official multi-stakeholder platform on the SDGs



#### SOCIAL DIALOGUE

dialogue among worker, employer and government representatives on SDG implementation





## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

The Italian government engagement on the SDGs is not always straightforward, nor is it planned in a holistic way. This is particularly true when it comes to the integration of labour rights policies. Trade union analysis reveals that, if the SDGs are to be achieved in Italy, a greater commitment is needed and that more coordination is required at the implementation level in particular.

Currently, achieving **SDG 1 (eradicating poverty)** remains a challenge in Italy. Data from 2014 indicates that 6.8% of the population lives below the nationally defined poverty line, an increase of 3.5% points compared to 2005. The poverty rate in southern Italy is 9%.

The achievement of targets relevant to **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)** poses a challenge in Italy. While indicators for **target 8.3 (policies supporting productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation)** show that between 2000-2013, 1.5% of workers left the informal economy, the overall rates of participation within it remain considerable, with 9.9% of workers remaining informally employed in 2013. Women's labour market participation rate is another concerning factor, with only 50.6% of women in the 20-64 age group being employed, compared to 60.5% of men in the same age group. In addition, unemployment is at 12.1% and the proportion of those in employment for at least five years in 2015 was 19.5%, demonstrating the precariousness of the labour market.

**Target 8b (develop and operationalise a global strategy for youth employment)** remains unmet, as Italy does not have a concrete strategy

for youth employment nor has it made the necessary commitments to meet the priorities set out in the 2009 Global Jobs Pact of the ILO. These could be contributing factors to the country's poor performance on target 8.6 (substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training - NEET), as NEET numbers of the youth population (15-24) grew from 16% in 2004 to 21.4% in 2015, as a direct consequence of the economic crisis.

Concerningly, reaching **target 8.7 (take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour)** poses a challenge in Italy, as a form of forced labour referred to as *caporalato* (informal work primarily in the agricultural sector) remains common. While, following trade union demands, the government approved a law prohibiting this practice, it is on the rise again following recent increases in migration.

Indicators associated to **target 10.4 (progressive achievement of greater equality)** demonstrate that the rate of inequality is on the rise in Italy. In 2015, the ratio of the GDP share held by the highest 20% of income earners and the lowest 20% of income earners was 5.8, against a European average of 5.2.

Progress on **target 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning)** is stilted by the fact that Italy has not approved a new national strategy to achieve the Paris Climate Agreement goals. It is currently implementing a policy from 2014 and the EU 20-20-20 Protocol. However, the country did not manage to reduce its 2015 emissions to the assigned value.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The Italian government must prioritise the following objectives: ensure full employment, fight inequalities and decarbonise its economy.

To ensure the effective implementation of these objectives, the Italian government should:

- Establish social dialogue with the Ministry of the Environment by engaging in a genuine and transparent dialogue with social partners on SDG implementation and follow up.
- Allocate resources to support concrete actions targeting the SDGs.
- Reinforce legal provisions and measures fighting forced labour and the practice of *caporalato* (informal work primarily in the agricultural sector).



# SWEDEN

## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2017



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## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Swedish government agencies responsible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are the Prime Minister's office, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The Minister for Development and the Minister for Public Administration are the responsible ministers.

No national implementation plan for Agenda 2030 has yet been decided by the Swedish government. The government commissioned an independent committee, the Delegation for Agenda 2030. It is tasked with assessing the extent to which Sweden fulfils the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, submitting proposals for an implementation action plan and disseminating information on examples of best practice in the areas of sustainable social, economic and environmental development. In June 2017, the Delegation submitted proposals, based on which the government will formulate a national action plan for the implementation of the SDGs.

Both the government and the Delegation conducted consultations with representatives from the parliament, councils, municipalities and regions, business representatives, trade unions as well as civil society, including academia and youth movements. Trade unions were invited to a round of consultations with the Delegation in early 2017, where they were able to provide input towards the national action plan.

No additional resources have yet been allocated to the implementation of the SDGs. The government's argument is that, by putting the focus on policy coherence, better administration and governance, existing resources will contribute to its implementation.



### TRANSPARENCY

access to key documents on SDGs programming and/or implementation



### CONSULTATION

existence of an official multi-stakeholder platform on the SDGs



### SOCIAL DIALOGUE

dialogue among worker, employer and government representatives on SDG implementation



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

The Swedish Government plans to integrate the Global Deal initiative as an important pillar for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Global Deal aims to develop and support social dialogue, as a tool towards the realisation of **SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)** as well as other goals, including **SDG 10 (reducing inequalities within and among countries)**. The Swedish government plans to focus on two additional areas particularly relevant to trade unions: gender equality, women's rights and a feminist foreign policy (**SDG 5**) and international climate action support (**SDG 13**).

Trade unions highlight that indicators related to **target 1.1 (eradicating extreme poverty)** demonstrate that the number of people at risk of poverty has increased in Sweden over the last few years, growing from 12% in 2008 to 14.5% in 2015.

With regards to **target 5.4 (on unpaid care and domestic work)**, trade unions highlight that women still do a larger part of unpaid domestic work. National statistics from 2010 show that women work 4 hours a week, while men work 3 hours and 15 minutes a week. This has a detrimental effect on women's career opportunities, which has consequences on their pensions and overall welfare.

Progress must still be made on **targets 8.3 (policies supporting productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and**

**innovation)** and **8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men)**. In 2011, Swedish women earned 14% less than men, a slightly lower pay gap than the OECD average (15%), and higher than in many countries with comparable female employment rates. The pay gap is even larger (21%) among parents. Lower pay not only deprives women of higher earnings in the short term but it also exposes them to higher poverty risk after retirement. Due to lower pension contributions over the course of their lives as well as to longer life expectancy, the incidence of poverty among retired women (11%) is much higher than among retired men (5%).

Swedish performance on **target 8.8 (protecting labour rights and promoting safe and secure working environments)** is good, with low numbers of occupational injuries, 0.5 trained labour inspectors per 10,000 employees, complete ratification of ILO conventions, 89% collective bargaining coverage and a trade union density rate of around 70%.

Performance on **target 10.4 (progressive achievement of greater equality)** shows that in 2012, the GDP share held by the highest 10% of income earners was 21.5% while the share held by the lowest 10% of income earners was 3.17%. Economic inequality has been on the rise in Sweden over the last 30 years, and is growing faster than in other OECD countries, leading to poorer health outcomes and social problems.

## WHERE TO NEXT? TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The government of Sweden must prioritise the following objectives: sustainability of the national pension funds, strengthen efforts against tax evasion and ensure the respect of human rights in global supply chains.

To ensure the effective implementation of these objectives, the Swedish Government should:

- Establish a national action plan and ensure political will for its implementation by passing it through parliament.
- Ensure that the action plan indicates how the continued dialogue with different stakeholders should be conducted, and which reference groups should be appointed to the various goals.
- Further formalise the dialogue and cooperation structures with trade unions, with clear communication and timelines to improve planning and transparency.
- Strengthen policy coherence and integration of the SDGs into the work of government agencies.
- Connect the national budget and financial steering mechanisms to a new set of welfare indicators.
- Provide additional resources for a public information campaign on the SDGs.







# ZIMBABWE



## A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2017



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## ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Zimbabwe has integrated the SDGs into its National SDG Position Paper and its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for 2016-2018.

The government agency in charge of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the Ministry of Macroeconomic Planning and Investment Promotion. The ministry has institutionalised multi-stakeholder committees as platforms to consult civil society, including trade unions, as well as other actors on the implementation of the SDGs.

The effective involvement of trade unions only occurred recently through their participating in the VNR consultations and the VNR validation meeting that took place in June 2017.

The government has only recently begun to report on SDGs implementation at the national level. According to Zimbabwean trade unions, the reporting mechanisms in place are not yet adequate and broader inclusion of civil society is needed. In addition, the budget allocated for the implementation of the SDGs is insufficient.



### TRANSPARENCY

access to key documents on SDGs programming and/or implementation



### CONSULTATION

existence of an official multi-stakeholder platform on the SDGs



### SOCIAL DIALOGUE

dialogue among worker, employer and government representatives on SDG implementation



## IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Out of the trade union priority SDGs, the government of Zimbabwe has prioritised implementation of **SDGs 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth) and 13 (climate action)**. Trade unions stress the need to also prioritise **SDGs 1 (eradicating poverty), 10 (reduced inequalities) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)**.

While the Zimbabwean government has succeeded in halving the population living in extreme poverty from 44% in 1995 to 22% in 2012, demonstrating progress on **target 1.1 (eradicating extreme poverty)**, it is concerning that the general poverty rate has remained above 70%. The main contributor to increasing poverty levels has been the deteriorating macro-economic environment resulting in company closures, massive job losses and the informalisation of the economy. Informalisation, which is correlated to high vulnerability to poverty, grew from 84.2% in 2011 to 94.5% in 2014.

Zimbabwean trade unions underscore the importance of **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)** in light of the increasing rate of feminisation of the informal economy, which suggests a deficit in the availability of decent work for women.

According to trade union sources, the official broad unemployment rate of 11.3% (2014) does not reflect the true rate of unemployment, which suggests challenges in fulfilling **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men)**. Unemployment is unofficially estimated to be above

80%. Statistics, including the official data, show that both unemployment and underemployment is higher among women. On average, women earn around two thirds of men's income largely because they are overrepresented in low remuneration sectors and occupations with high levels of precariousness. Moreover, a 2015 trade union study entitled *Wage Theft* revealed that, among 442 companies surveyed, over 82,000 workers were affected by non-payment of wages and salaries. Non-payment of wages and salaries averaged between 3 and 25 months across sectors. This clearly indicates high levels of violation of ILO Conventions.

The Zimbabwean government has passed a number of policies in order to meet **target 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning)**, including a National Response Strategy on Climate Change (2015) and a National Climate Change Policy (2017). However, the insufficient allocation of financial resources is likely to limit the implementation of these policies.

Trade unions report a number of challenges to their work, which suggest that the implementation of **target 16.10 (ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms)** is inadequate. Instances of seizing funds from trade unions, intimidation, violence and arrests of trade union activists and strikers indicate that serious limitations on the freedom of association persist in the country. Freedom of the press is also under attack, as evidenced by an arrest of five journalists reporting on an industrial action by public sector employees in 2016.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The government of Zimbabwe must prioritise the following objectives: remove the salary disparity between women and men; tackle the increasing informalisation of the economy; and secure the freedom of association and collective bargaining and freedom of the press.

To ensure the effective implementation of these objectives, the Zimbabwean government should:

- Ensure the continuous and effective participation of all stakeholders, including labour representatives and national authorities, in the multi-stakeholder SDG platforms. The platform should allow CSOs and trade unions to input into the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDG objectives.
- Ensure adequate resourcing (human and financial) of each of the selected SDG objectives and prioritise the budgetary allocations to relevant ministries, e.g. Ministry of Health and Child Care, Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, among others.
- Ensure the effective implementation of the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper for 2016–2018.
- Commit to implementing the African Instruments to which Zimbabwe is a party, in particular the Maputo Declaration (allocating 10% of the budget towards agriculture and food security), the Abuja Declaration (allocating 15% of the national budget towards the health sector) and the Dakar Declaration (allocating 20% of the national budget towards education).
- Commit to the continuous education and training of all citizens on the SDG process.



