

HLPF 2024

BOOSTING THE 2030 AGENDA: DECENT WORK AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AS DRIVERS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONS MAJOR GROUP
SECTORAL POSITION PAPER TO THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

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A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT



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A.

**The SDGs under review:
Between stagnation
and regression**

Year after year, on reviewing the progress towards the sustainable development goals (SDGs), we find ourselves farther away from achieving the targets.

While the progress up until 2019 was modest and insufficient, the combined impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, old and new conflicts, the cost of living crisis and the increasingly severe effects of climate change have led to a stagnation or reversal in the progress towards many of the goals¹. Inequalities have grown and some of the main problems affecting a significant part of humanity are persisting or worsening: the percentage of the population affected by extreme poverty (SDG 1) is above pre-pandemic levels, and hunger has returned to 2005 levels, with almost a third of the global population lacking access to healthy, nutritious and sufficient food (SDG 2).

Meanwhile, greenhouse gas emissions are far from being reduced to the levels needed to mitigate global warming, increasing the risk and vulnerability of communities to the impacts of climate change (SDG 13). And all this is taking place against a backdrop of weakening institutions and threats to democracy in many parts of the world (SDG 16), which makes the search for solutions to the severe and multiple crises around the world even more complex².

SDG 1: End poverty

The combined effects of the health crisis, the cost of living crisis and the climate crisis have destroyed years of progress in the fight against poverty. In 2023, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty returned to dramatic pre-pandemic levels: 8.7 per cent³. If current trends continue, far from the aspiration to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere”, around 7 per cent of the world’s population will still be living in extreme poverty by 2030⁴.

And despite repeated calls to extend **social protection** and the temporary progress made during the pandemic, more than half of the world’s population now lacks any form of coverage at all, with **the young and the elderly** disproportionately affected⁵.

Access to land continues to be a widespread problem in much of the world. Although there are significant data gaps, in the countries where data is available, it appears that less than half of the people working in agriculture have ownership or tenure rights to the land they work, and they are overwhelmingly male. In 60 per cent of the countries presenting data on this subject, women have no or very low levels of protection of their land rights (agricultural or otherwise) under the law⁶.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

SDG 2 aims to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” by 2030. Achieving this goal, however, appears increasingly difficult as, in 2023, the number of people **facing high levels of food insecurity had increased for the fourth year in a row**⁷. The rates of **chronic hunger** and **food insecurity** (9.2 and 29.6 per cent of the world’s population respectively) are above pre-pandemic levels. **Very young children are the most affected**: almost a quarter of under-fives have stunted growth; almost 7 per cent are underweight; and 5.6 per cent are overweight⁸.

1 United Nations, 2023b.

2 UN DESA, 2023a.

3 United Nations, 2023e.

4 UN DESA, 2023a.

5 ILO, 2023a.

6 FAO, 2023.

7 FSIN and GNAFC, 2023.

8 FAO, 2023 and UN DESA, 2024a.

One of the reasons for the persistence of hunger is the increase in **food prices** as a result of the string of multiple crises, in a context of falling purchasing power. While the proportion of countries facing high prices declined significantly from the historical peak in 2020, there are now more countries in this situation than there were in the period from 2015 to 2019⁹.

Despite these alarming figures, after the peak reached during the pandemic, **official development assistance** (ODA) allocated to agriculture fell by 15 per cent in 2021¹⁰. In addition, with the exception of North America and Europe, the share of **public spending** on the sector relative to agricultural GDP also declined¹¹.

Finally, as regards the **surface area devoted to sustainable agriculture**, the FAO warns of a lack of sufficient quality data to be able to assess this target. It notes, however, that various indicators measuring the environmental dimension of food and agriculture show very slow and uneven progress across geographical regions¹².

SDG 13: Climate action

According to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global average temperature will exceed the agreed threshold of 1.5°C by 2035. Sea levels will continue to rise and extreme events, the impacts of which are already being felt around the world, are expected to become more frequent and more intense, with the consequent social, economic and ecological repercussions¹³, including direct effects on poverty and hunger¹⁴.

Despite the consensus on the need to drastically and urgently reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, they continue to rise, and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) fall far short of the ambition needed. If current policies remain unchanged, the average temperature is set to rise to between 2.5 and 2.9°C by the end of the century, with consequences that are forecast to be catastrophic¹⁵.

Nor has the commitment to mobilise US\$100 billion a year been met: in 2021, the funding reached US\$83.3 billion, and was largely spent on mitigation. Adaptation financing remains inadequate, and international financial flows to developing countries are 5 to 10 times less than what is deemed necessary¹⁶.

Lastly, there is still a significant gap in education and awareness raising on climate change¹⁷.

SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

Today, it is more urgent than ever to make progress towards achieving this goal and its targets. With 56 active conflicts around the world¹⁸, 2022 was the year with the highest number of violent conflicts since the Second World War¹⁹, resulting in nearly 17,000 civilian deaths, 9 out of 10 of which were in sub-Saharan Africa and Ukraine. This represents an increase of more than 50 per cent on 2021²⁰. This number has grown significantly in recent months as a result of Israel's war in the Gaza Strip in response to the Hamas attack of 7 October 2023. As at 24 April 2024, more than 34,000 Palestinian civilian deaths had been reported, mostly women and children, and around 1,200 Israeli²¹.

9 United Nations, 2023b.

10 FAO, 2023.

11 UN DESA, 2024a.

12 FAO, 2023.

13 IPCC, 2023.

14 UN DESA, 2024b.

15 United Nations, 2023b.

16 United Nations, 2023b.

17 UN DESA, 2024b.

18 UN DESA, 2023b.

19 UN DESA, 2022.

20 UN DESA, 2023a.

21 [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - reported impact | Day 201 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory \(ochaopt.org\)](#)

The **forced displacement** of persons due to conflict, persecution or instability also reached a record 108.4 million in 2022, more than twice the number recorded in 2012²². The number of **intentional killings** was also the highest in 20 years, including the murder of 320 human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists²³.

In this context, there is an increase in the **violation of human rights** and the failure to respect international humanitarian standards, including fundamental labour rights²⁴, coupled with a **significant loss of trust in democracy and institutions**, particularly among young people²⁵.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

SDG 17 is about strengthening partnerships, globally and within countries, to implement the 2030 Agenda. It involves dialogue and the participation of all stakeholders – governments, the private sector, social organisations such as those bringing together smallholder farmers, women, young people, workers, minorities, etc. – and requires broad international cooperation, including the mobilisation of resources to enable a sustainable future for humankind and the planet. The assessment conducted every year by the United Nations²⁶ shows that progress is needed on many fronts.

The funds available for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, for example, fall short of what is needed²⁷. While the **flow of official development assistance (ODA)** increased by 15.3 per cent between 2021 and 2022, the volume of funds was only a little over half of the 0.7 per cent pledged by Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donor countries. In addition, the increase was driven by the response to the refugee crisis in donor countries and by aid to Ukraine (14.2 per cent and 7.8 per cent of ODA flows respectively), while flows to Africa declined by 7.4 per cent²⁸.

At the same time, the need to increase funding in light of the health and economic crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic led to an unprecedented hike in already worrying **external debt** burdens, reaching levels that are unsustainable for low- and middle-income countries in all regions. Many of these countries are on the brink of fiscal crises and face serious overhang problems, underscoring the urgent call for debt relief and financial assistance²⁹.

The **development of data and statistics** is key to monitoring the 2030 Agenda, which is essential to ensuring transparency and accountability. Yet between 2018 and 2020, international funding for this item fell by 20 per cent, and has since stagnated. Currently, 6 out of 10 countries have national statistical plans and a third of these have insufficient funding to implement the³⁰.

22 UN DESA, 2023a.

23 UN DESA, 2022.

24 UN DESA, 2023a.

25 ITUC, 2024c.

26 UN DESA, 2023a.

27 United Nations, 2023b.

28 UN DESA, 2023a.

29 ITUC, 2024d and United Nations, 2023b.

30 UN DESA, 2023a.

B.

**Reversing the trend:
The importance of SDG 8
and trade unions**

We agree with the declaration of the SDG Summit, held under the auspices of the UN General Assembly in September 2023, when it warns that, “without immediate course correction and acceleration of progress toward achieving the SDGs, our world is destined to face continued poverty, prolonged periods of crisis and growing uncertainty”³¹.

In this respect, SDG 8, especially its decent work dimension, is a key driver for progress across all the other SDGs. With regard to the SDGs under review by the 2024 HLPF, achieving decent work through a just transition to sustainable economies and societies would generate and redistribute income, improve people’s safety and security, reduce environmental impacts and facilitate adaptation to change. And workers whose labour rights are respected, including the right to organise and to social dialogue, will be able to contribute directly to the strengthening of institutions and democracy, which are so seriously under threat in many parts of the world.

SDG 8 as a driver for sustainable development

While all 17 goals that make up the 2030 Agenda are equally important, from a trade union perspective, SDG 8 plays a particularly prominent role given its multidimensional nature and its catalytic effect on progress across the other SDGs.

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) – the world’s largest trade union organisation, with 338 national affiliates representing 191 million working people in 169 countries and territories – designed the **Global Monitor on SDG 8**, based on a composite indicator to assess progress or setbacks across the various dimensions of SDG 8, to establish comparisons between regions and countries, and to identify correlations with other indicators under the 2030 Agenda.

What is the ITUC’s composite indicator on SDG 8?³²

- The composite indicator on SDG 8 shows the centrality of the social and labour dimension within the 2030 Agenda.
- It covers 150 countries, representing more than 98 per cent of the world’s population.
- It is built on a selection of indicators based on reliable, relevant and available statistical data collected from official international sources.
- It is calculated on the basis of four sub-domains or composite indicators:
 1. Economic wellbeing, including indicators on economic performance, financial markers of development, living standards and inequality.
 2. Employment quality, which includes indicators on labour market performance, labour income share and working poverty.
 3. Labour vulnerability, which includes indicators on exposure of workers to risks, under-protection and exclusion.
 4. Labour rights, which includes indicators on violations of fundamental rights at work.

³¹ United Nations, 2023a.

³² For details of the methodology, see ITUC (2020b).

The 2024 version of the SDG 8 indicator covers 150 countries, corresponding to more than 98 per cent of the world's population. It is based on the average of four composite indicators: economic wellbeing, employment quality, labour vulnerability and labour rights. Its value ranges from 70 to 130, with 100 being the global average. Its distribution by geographical region and by global income level is presented in the table below:

Composite indicator by region and income. Year 2024

	No. of countries	Economic wellbeing	Employment quality	Labour vulnerability	Labour rights	SDG 8 Composite Indicator
UN Region						
Asia	22	100.5	97.7	98.2	85	95.3
Europe	36	109.1	106.3	116.8	118.6	112.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	23	95.3	99.9	98.2	104.1	99.4
Northern Africa	6	92.8	80.9	95.4	80.6	87.4
North America	2	113.4	109.4	118.8	102	110.9
Oceania	3	115.3	105.4	98.9	109.8	107.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	42	83.7	91.8	76.5	96.8	87.2
Western Asia	16	102.6	87.3	101.1	86.5	94.4
Income group						
Low	26	79.4	83	71.8	92.1	81.6
Lower Middle	40	91.6	94.3	87.8	89.8	90.9
Upper Middle	39	97.5	98.8	102.1	98	99.1
High	45	113	105.9	115.5	115.3	112.4

Source: ITUC

As shown, sub-Saharan Africa (87.2) and northern Africa (87.4) are the lowest scoring regions, with a difference of around 25 points compared to Europe and northern America. Asia and western Asia also score below average (94.4 and 95.3 respectively) and their performance is particularly poor in the area of labour rights, and employment quality in the case of western Asia. Latin America and the Caribbean is slightly below average (99.4); in this case, the lowest-rated dimension is economic wellbeing, as it includes indicators relating to the highly unequal distribution of wealth in the region, while labour rights score above average. Looking at the breakdown by country income level, the only group that scores above the average is the high-income group.

On comparing successive measurements of the indicator, it can be seen that upper middle-income countries have improved their overall rating relative to 2023, from 98.4 to 99.1, while upper middle-income and lower middle-income countries have remained almost the same (from 112.6 to 112.4 and from 90.8 to 90.9 respectively). Low-income countries, however, have worsened their performance, falling from 83.2 to 81.6. This shows a progressive widening of the gaps between low-income and high-income countries, from 29.4 points in 2023 to 30.8 in 2024³³.

³³ The comparison of the Composite Indicator for the years 2020-2024 should be approached purely at an explanatory level. Each dimension comprising the Composite Indicator has been constructed using consistent definitions and statistical methodologies over time. However, it is essential to understand that the data collected to construct each dimension should be viewed as cross-sectional, regularly updated, and gathered from a sample of country data that may not always correspond to the reference year.

Composite indicator by region and income (2020 - 2024)

	2020	2022	2023	2024
UN Region				
Asia	97.18	95.7	96.2	95.3
Europe	108.38	112.55	112.7	112.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	99.18	96.86	99.3	99.4
Northern Africa	91.26	87.53	85.6	87.4
North America	107.35	110.04	110.1	110.9
Oceania	106.25	104.4	106.7	107.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	92.8	86.93	87.5	87.2
Western Asia	94.38	94.49	94.6	94.4
Income group				
Low	90.7	83.7	83.2	81.6
Lower Middle	94.35	90.05	90.8	90.9
Upper Middle	98.28	96.96	98.4	99.1
High	107.39	111.65	112.6	112.4

Source: ITUC

Despite a clear North-South divide, this does not necessarily mean that high-income countries have full employment or decent work. ITUC monitoring of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national level shows that economic growth alone does not prevent inequalities; a lack of adequate wages and labour inclusion are still major obstacles to employment quality in many countries, even in high-income countries, as are workers' exposure to risks and the lack of protection³⁴.

The latest data from the ILO, the United Nations³⁵ and that of the ITUC provide **strong evidence of the enormous distance still to go to achieve SDG 8**: persistent labour rights violations, more than half of the world's population without social protection coverage, close to two billion people in informal jobs, inequality gaps – including gender inequality – that are not being closed.

At the same time, **with its targets on worker protection, decent work, social protection, gender equality at work, inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth, SDG 8 is key to addressing the structural social and economic challenges at the root of the multiple crises humanity is facing**, as well as to advancing the 2030 Agenda and acting as a catalyst for progress on the achievement of the other SDGs.

For all these reasons, **it is essential that SDG 8 play a central role in the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs**³⁶, as well as in key events on the UN agenda, such as the Summit of the Future³⁷, scheduled for September 2024, and the Second World Summit for Social Development³⁸, in 2025.

³⁴ ITUC, 2024a.

³⁵ United Nations, 2023b and ILO, 2024.

³⁶ Decade of Action - Sustainable Development (un.org)

³⁷ Summit of the Future | United Nations

³⁸ Second World Summit for Social Development 2025 | Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD) (un.org)

SDG 1: The inextricable link between the decent work deficit, poverty and vulnerability

After the sharp downturn caused by the pandemic, a gradual **recovery of the global economy and a return of global employment to 2019 levels was observed in 2023**. The recovery has, however, been uneven, with unemployment rates in low-income countries, Africa and Arab states remaining above 2019 levels. **Decent work deficits continue to prevail across the board**³⁹.

In almost all countries, the cost of living crisis weakened the purchasing power of working people and, in 2023, the percentage of the global working population living in extreme poverty (6.9 per cent) was higher than in 2019 (6.7 per cent). An additional 12.2 per cent of the working population lives in moderate poverty⁴⁰. In other words, **despite being in work, two out of ten people do not have sufficient income to escape poverty**⁴¹. Low-paid work and the number of working poor are also relatively high in high-income countries. In Canada, for example, almost 8 per cent of workers are poor, and the proportions are particularly high among ethnic minorities and migrants⁴².

Establishing **minimum living wages**⁴³ is a way to ensure that all working people, regardless of their employment status, gender, migration status or ethno-racial identity, have sufficient income to be able to fully exercise their rights and not be poor. Ensuring equal pay for work of equal value, as set out in the ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, is also essential⁴⁴. Reducing the gender pay gap would improve women's economic security and reduce their risk of poverty⁴⁵.

Persons in **informal work** tend to have lower incomes than those in registered work, and are over-represented among the groups most affected by poverty. In Africa, eight out of ten workers are in informal employment, while in the Asia-Pacific region, the figure is two-thirds, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is almost half of the working population⁴⁶. The fight against informal work requires action to formalise the **informal economy**. This entails strengthening governmental monitoring and auditing mechanisms, as well as addressing the situation of **micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)**, which employ around 80 per cent of the labour force and overwhelmingly operate in the informal economy⁴⁷.

In many cases, people who been in informal employment throughout their working lives will find it difficult to access **retirement pensions**. In low-income countries, where informal work is highly prevalent, less than a quarter of people of pensionable age receive retirement pensions. According to ILO estimates, universalising retirement pensions in developing countries would reduce the proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by 6 percentage points⁴⁸.

Social protection is one of the targets of SDG 1, and is one of the pillars of decent work. Ensuring **social protection as a right** for all people, including the establishment of **universal protection floors** in line with ILO standards, is fundamental. This will require **mobilising a range of resources** over and above national budgets alone, such as development assistance funds and others that should be developed for this specific purpose. With this in mind, the ITUC supports the idea of a Global Fund for Social Protection and that donor countries should allocate at least 7 per cent of official development assistance (ODA) to it

³⁹ ILO, 2023a.

⁴⁰ Extreme poverty corresponds to an income of less than US\$2.15 a day per person, and moderate poverty corresponds to less than US\$3.65 per day per person.

⁴¹ ILO, 2024 and UN DESA, 2022.

⁴² ITUC, 2023b.

⁴³ According to the ILO definition, the living wage is "the wage level that is necessary to afford a decent standard of living for workers and their families, taking into account the country circumstances and calculated for the work performed during the normal hours of work". [Wage policies: ILO reaches agreement on the issue of living wages \(ilo.org\)](#)

⁴⁴ [Convention C100 - Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 \(No. 100\) \(ilo.org\)](#)

⁴⁵ ITUC, 2023a.

⁴⁶ ILO, 2024.

⁴⁷ ILO, 2015b.

⁴⁸ ILO, 2023a.

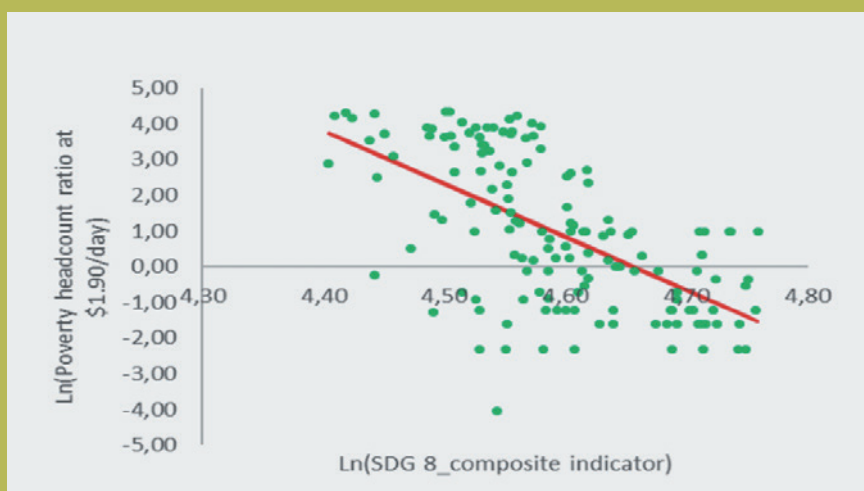
by 2030, progressively increasing it to 14 per cent⁴⁹. The ITUC also supports the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions⁵⁰, the objectives of which include extending the coverage of a social protection floor to all persons currently without any form of protection.

It should be noted that **persistent inequalities** are not exclusive to lower-income countries. The ITUC’s monitoring of the SDGs at country level, for example, shows that in a high-income country such as Belgium, almost one fifth of the population is at risk of poverty⁵¹. Moreover, in all countries, regardless of income level, inequalities persist with regard to **young people, women, migrants and other traditionally discriminated groups, such as Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ people, etcetera**. Globally, these groups are over-represented among the unemployed and poor populations, and among those lacking social protection, access to pensions, land, housing and essential services⁵².

Decent work deficits increase exposure to crises, including the climate crisis, and reduce people’s resilience and capacity to adapt to them. It also affects their prospects for **democratic participation**, from the negotiation of working conditions to participation in political life. Persons whose labour rights are not duly protected and who do not have a sufficient, secure and stable income are unlikely to have the time and resources to become actively involved in other matters that are not directly related to the need to secure income to support their families.

As shown in Figure 1, there is a clear **correlation between the SDG 8 composite indicator and lower poverty rates**. There is no doubt that decent work, and above all the dimensions ensuring decent, secure and stable wages and social protection, is a key component in the fight against poverty and the achievement of the various targets under SDG 1. Implementing **active employment policies that promote decent work in line with the labour protection floor** defined by the ILO’s Centenary Declaration is therefore essential to combating poverty⁵³, taking into account the persistent inequalities affecting **young people, women and other traditionally excluded groups**.

Figure 1: Correlation between the SDG 8 composite indicator and the rate of extreme poverty (US\$1.90/day)



49 ITUC, 2024e.

50 [Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions | UN Global Accelerator](#)

51 ITUC, 2024a.

52 UN DESA, 2022 and 2023a; ILO, 2023a.

53 ILO, 2019a.

Trade union contributions towards progress on the targets under SDG 1

One of the main raisons d'être of trade unions is to improve and protect the income, social security and social protection of working people and their families. Unions around the world are continuously working towards the achievement of these goals, which are directly linked to the targets under SDG 1.

Box 1. ARGENTINA: Defence of the rights and living standards of the working class

Since the new government took office in December 2023, Argentina has been in the grips of a brutal adjustment programme that has pushed inflation to record levels and has significantly worsened living conditions. Health and social protection systems are being stripped of funding and many key programmes for the support and assistance of vulnerable sectors are being dismantled. Wages have also significantly deteriorated and unemployment is on the rise. During the first quarter of 2024, the proportion of people living in poverty reached almost 50 per cent, and the population living in extreme poverty reached 11.9 per cent.

The trade unions are taking a three-pronged approach to tackling this drastic situation:

1. Legal: Judicial action was taken that succeeded in securing the temporary suspension of the measures affecting labour rights; the urgent intervention of the ILO was requested and a complaint was submitted to the Committee on Freedom of Association over the measures that restrict the right to protest; appeals were filed against the mass dismissals in the public sector.
2. Social support: Given the increase in hunger and homelessness, actions such as the distribution of food and clothing are carried out; health services are supported with trade unions' own funds; assistance is provided to people made redundant from the private and public sector.
3. Union demands and action plan: The demands for wage updates in collective bargaining were stepped up; a union action plan was launched with a first national strike and mobilisation in January 2024, bringing together the various trade union confederations, including the organisations representing the informal economy. A call was also made to commemorate May Day with a nationwide mobilisation of all the country's trade union centres to express their position on the government's policy of reducing the incomes of the most vulnerable population groups, the brutal recession unleashed by the indiscriminate adjustment of the public accounts and the insistent promotion of instruments that aim to restrict labour, social and trade union rights.

The actions of the Argentine trade union movement, in conjunction with a growing network of grassroots organisations and movements, are crucial in this context and in response to a government that has made explicit its strong denial of the United Nations multilateral system and its disregard for the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Source: information provided by the CGT-RA trade union confederation of Argentina.

Box 2. PAKISTAN: Trade union action to promote decent work and end poverty

Securing livelihoods and safeguarding workers' rights is a key commitment of the Pakistan Workers' Federation (PWF). The federation advocates for fair wages and job security, and plays a vital role in ensuring stable sources of income for workers. The PWF also advocates for social security measures, including healthcare benefits, retirement pensions and support systems.

The PWF emphasises the importance of affording all individuals, regardless of gender, the chance to escape poverty through decent work. To achieve this, it works to strengthen the skills and employability of workers, to enable them to access better employment opportunities.

In spite of a very difficult sociopolitical context, the PWF has secured significant victories. The federation, for instance, supported the Forward Gear union in securing the reinstatement of 1,400 workers who had been laid off during the Covid pandemic and negotiating a 10 per cent pay increase that benefited over 7,500 people. Another example is the initiative of the PWF to form the Green Clean Union of Sanitation Workers to promote decent work and protect the rights of the 19,000 workers employed by Lahore Waste Management.

Source: [PWF contributes to advancing the 2030 Agenda in Pakistan through its promotion of decent work and poverty eradication - International Trade Union Confederation \(ituc-csi.org\)](#)

Box 3. SENEGAL: Improving the social and health protection of women in precarious employments

Through a cooperation project with the Belleville Institute of the CFDT confederation of France and NGO Essentiel, UNSAS (National Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Senegal) is working to improve the incomes, social security and health protection of a group of 250 women UNSAS members who are informally employed in the fish processing sector in the towns of Yenne and Mbao.

For most of these women, their work is the main source of income for their families. It is work that is often carried out in precarious conditions, with very low incomes, and a high exposure to a range of occupational diseases and health risks. Although the Senegalese government is trying to establish a universal social protection system, these women still face many difficulties in accessing it.

The UNSAS project seeks to improve these women's working conditions through various initiatives. In the area of social and health protection, the following activities have been carried out: studies to identify existing capacities and needs, to address the specific occupational risks faced by this group of women, training of the women workers on the workings of the health and social protection systems in place, agreements with local mutual societies to provide membership for the women workers and their families, training and the development of occupational health and safety action plans.

Sources: [Project "Promoting decent work for people in precarious situations" \(Senegal, France\) - CFDT](#) and information provided by UNSAS.

Box 4. BULGARIA: Contribution to setting minimum wages and the basic goods basket

In Bulgaria, the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CITUB) has established its own research institute, crucial for economic analysis and advocacy. The institute conducts regular surveys to gauge economic indicators, with a particular focus on tracking price fluctuations in a carefully curated basket of essential goods and services needed to live a decent life. The resulting quarterly analyses offer comprehensive insights into the cost of living, providing invaluable data for policymakers, as well as for union advocacy.

Over time, the methodology used by the CITUB has gained legitimacy throughout the country and is now widely accepted as a reference by policymakers working on wages and is used in the National Tripartite Council discussions on pay.

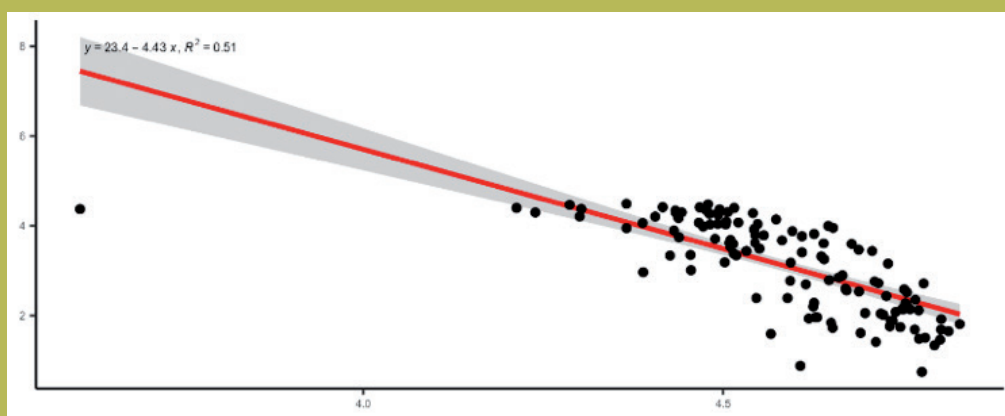
Source: information provided by CITUB Bulgaria

SDG 2: Decent work, hunger and food production

Decent work, hunger and poverty issues are strongly interconnected. As noted under SDG 1 (poverty), working people's incomes have lost **purchasing power** due to the cost of living and food price crisis. This translates as greater difficulties in accessing safe, nutritious and sufficient food, particularly in Africa, the Caribbean and East Asian countries, where hunger and food insecurity continue to rise⁵⁴.

The establishment of **minimum living wages** and the promotion of decent work, in particular through the guarantee of **secure, stable and sufficient wages**, is one way to directly tackle hunger and food insecurity, as can be seen in Figure 2: better performance on the SDG 8 composite indicator corresponds to lower rates of undernutrition. Similarly, social protection, such as **retirement pensions and family transfers**, are an effective way of protecting the right to food for some of the most vulnerable groups.

Figure 2: Correlation between the SDG 8 composite indicator (X-axis) and the prevalence of undernutrition (% of population, Y-axis)



Source: ITUC. SDG 8 composite indicator data, 2024.

54 UN DESA, 2023a.

A key aspect of the fight against hunger is the situation of people working in **small-scale agriculture, family and peasant farming, pastoralism and artisanal fishing**, who represent almost 70 per cent of the population affected by **extreme poverty**, and more than 80 per cent of those affected by **multidimensional poverty**⁵⁵. Despite producing food, these workers often struggle to secure adequate nutrition. They also often **lack social protection**, and are among the groups most affected by increasingly severe and frequent **extreme weather events**. The level of exclusion and vulnerability is generally more pronounced in the case of women, and is exacerbated when other **intersectionalities** come into play, such as Indigenous identity or migrant status⁵⁶.

As seen in the analysis of SDG 1, **access to land** remains one of the unresolved challenges around the world. According to FAO data (2023) less than 50 per cent of people working in agriculture have secure tenure or ownership rights over agricultural land, and they are overwhelmingly male.

It is important to note that the current food production system not only fails to ensure food security for the population and is unfair to many of the people working in the sector, but it is also one of the **main causes of the ecological crisis**: it pollutes the soil, air and water; it is responsible for around 80 per cent of global biodiversity loss and more than a third of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as well as causing soil degradation and declining soil fertility. All these factors reduce productivity, increase vulnerability and undermine the sector's adaptive capacity and resilience⁵⁷. A decisive increase in efforts and investments for the transformation of the sector towards more **sustainable modes of production** is therefore essential.

The transformation of the food system should be an **opportunity to improve working conditions** in the sector, as well as to ensure **access to basic services** such as water, sanitation, energy and education, and protection from increasingly frequent **extreme weather events**. This transformation must take place through a process of just transition, under the terms set out in the **ILO Guidelines**⁵⁸ and the **Resolution adopted at the 111th International Labour Conference on a just transition**⁵⁹.

Decent work, in particular through improved wages, social protection and dignified working and living conditions for people working in the sector, is undoubtedly a very effective way of contributing to the achievement of the targets under SDG 2 and thus guaranteeing the human right to food, as established in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (1948) and the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** (1966).

55 UN DESA, 2024a.

56 ILO, 2021.

57 ILO, 2021 and UN DESA, 2024a.

58 ILO, 2015a.

59 ILO, 2023b.

Trade union contributions towards progress on the targets under SDG 2

Trade unions seek, through a variety of actions, to improve the incomes of working people, contributing to the fight against poverty and facilitating access to healthy, nutritious and sufficient food. Trade unions also promote various initiatives to contribute to transforming the food production sector by improving the working conditions in the sector and its capacity to adapt.

Box 5. INDIA: Community and education centres for the inclusion of informal women workers

Around 93 per cent of India's workforce is in informal employment and half of these are women. SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association), with almost three million members, is the largest trade union organisation for women in the informal economy.

SEWA Community and Education Centres operate in 18 states in India. During 2023, with the support of Swedish organisations Unionen and Union to Union, a variety of initiatives were undertaken that contributed to building the capacities of thousands of women and improving their incomes and social protection. More than 10,000 women received training and skills development in information technology, sewing, farming and health, among other relevant subjects, as well as trade union training and workshops to prepare for job interviews and to develop communication skills. Also, more than 30,000 women received help to register in the social security system and 80 were able to access retirement pensions. The SEWA centres also serve as spaces for pre-school and after-school care, with recreational and educational activities for children and young people aged between 3 and 18 years old.

Sources: <https://www.sewa.org/> and <https://www.uniontounion.org/projekt/strengthening-organising-women-workers-informal-sector>

Box 6. VENEZUELA: Establishing a national minimum wage

In 2023, a tripartite technical body was set up in Venezuela to establish a method for setting the minimum wage. In view of the opacity of the official data, the trade union centre ASI highlighted the need to develop its own indicators, enabling it to establish a basic basket of goods and a set of indicators. ASI established an alliance with the Civic Forum, an independent meeting, coordination and activity space, bringing together people and social organisations from a range of fields to provide financial and specialised technical assistance.

As a result of this work, in January 2024, ASI Central presented its indicators to be taken into account in the drafting of a proposal for a National Minimum Wage, to be agreed by tripartite consensus and the approval of which, by the national government, would benefit more than 12 million working people, including active workers, retired workers and workers receiving benefits or pensions, in the public and private sectors.

ASI also presented its proposal for a basket of basic goods to the UN Special Envoy on the right to food during his visit to the country in February 2024. In his end of mission statement, the UN Special Envoy included observations on the relationship between the food insecurity in the country and the fact that the vast majority of the population's incomes are insufficient to purchase a basket of basic goods⁶⁰.

Source: information provided by ASI.

⁶⁰ End of mission statement. UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, by Michael Fakhri. Visit to Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), 1-14 February 2024 [20240214-eom-statement-venezuela-sr-food-en.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press/media/doc/20240214-eom-statement-venezuela-sr-food-en.pdf) (ohchr.org)

Box 7. SOUTH AFRICA: Transition to sustainable agriculture with decent work and food security for working people

In South Africa, the Confederation of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) developed a “Just Transition Blueprint for Workers” that covers agriculture, among other sectors. The blueprint includes support to enable trade unions to play an active part in the design of policies and in the use of collective bargaining to promote a radical transformation of the sector, ensuring more environmentally sustainable production, with decent work and food security in the country.

Agriculture is a source of employment for three million people, about two thirds of whom work in subsistence farming. It is characterised by precarious working conditions: temporary, low-wage and risky work, with a very low level of unionisation (less than 5 per cent). It is a highly concentrated and unequal sector, where 72 per cent of private land is owned by whites, only 13 per cent by women, and black people benefit from only four per cent of the profits. Furthermore, despite South Africa being a major food exporter, COSATU estimates that 20 per cent of households struggle to access sufficient food.

To bring about its transformation, COSATU has identified five priorities: a) land reform to redress inequalities in land distribution; b) training and reskilling of agricultural workers; c) insurance and social support mechanisms to deal with the impacts of climate change; d) water equity, efficiency and conservation; e) monitoring of working conditions.

Source: COSATU, 2022.

Box 8. COSTA RICA: The protection of sugarcane workers

In Costa Rica, people working in agriculture are often affected by poor working conditions, including long hours in direct sunlight and intense heat. Exposure to the sun and heat are among the causes of the chronic kidney disease epidemic in some parts of the country, especially among sugarcane harvesters, many of whom are migrants from Nicaragua.

In 2015, to tackle this situation, national trade union organisations pushed for the issue to be addressed in the Occupational Health Council (CSO), a specialist tripartite social dialogue body, highlighting the importance of dealing with the issue across the board, going beyond the sugarcane sector and the regions affected at the time. As a result of this process, the Costa Rican government approved the “Regulation on prevention and protections for workers exposed to heat stress” and the “Protocol for hydration, shade, rest and protection”, which are rules that apply throughout the whole country.

The unions also endeavour to protect the people who come from other countries to work during the cane harvesting season. The measures implemented by the union include information and dissemination activities at the border posts about the migrant workers’ labour rights and the opportunity for migrants to join a union on a temporary basis (from 5 months to one year), which entails their registration as workers and access to the protection of their rights.

Source: ILO, 2024. Case study on high-level social dialogue and heat stress: Costa Rica, Spain and Mexico, soon to be published.

SDG 13: Decent work in the fight against climate and environmental change

The impacts of climate change extend to the world of work in the form of income losses, the emergence of new occupational hazards, and the effects on the production system as a whole. Meanwhile, mitigation and adaptation policies can represent significant **opportunities for generating more and better jobs, but they will also lead to job losses in some sectors where activity will be reduced**. According to the ILO (2019), the transformation to a low-carbon and more natural resource-efficient economy could create 100 million jobs globally by 2030, in sectors such as clean energy, green infrastructure, waste management, sustainable construction, transport, agriculture, etc., but it will also jeopardise some 78 million jobs in sectors that will shrink, such as the fossil fuels sector⁶¹.

Furthermore, there will be gaps in terms of skills, geography and time: skills and professional training will not necessarily be interchangeable nor occur in the same region, nor at the same time. Therefore, as postulated in the **preamble to the Paris Agreement**, climate change policies must take on board the need for “a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs”⁶².

Such a transition must take place under the terms of the previously mentioned **ILO Policy Guidelines for a Just Transition** and the **111th ILC Resolution on Just Transition**. These includes the implementation of active policies for the creation of decent work, in a process that must be centred on full **respect for human and labour rights**, with special attention to the sectors that will be most affected and to **traditionally excluded groups**, such as women, young people, migrants, persons from Indigenous peoples or the LGBTQI+ population.

Despite these commitments, first made in 2015, **just transition policies are still few and far between in climate change strategies**. An analysis by UNDP (2022) found that just transition principles are explicitly cited in 38 per cent of NDCs and 56 per cent of long-term strategies (LTs), but only 17 per cent of NDCs and 55 per cent of LTs have sections dedicated to just transition matters⁶³.

To enable a just transition, consideration needs to be given to a number of policies related to the protection of working people, as well as policies aimed at greening and formalising the economy, while ensuring coherence between the policies adopted. Essential in this regard is continuous knowledge generation about the impacts of climate change on the world of work and actions to address them, so that policies can be anticipated and designed accordingly, such as **social protection** policies to deal with catastrophic events or possible labour displacement needs; health protection policies to deal with the emergence of new risks, such as heat stress; and **training and reskilling policies** to fill potential skills gaps.

It is important to bear in mind that many of the sectors that will undergo change or are expected to grow are characterised by **high rates of informal and precarious work**, as well as being high-risk in terms of human health and safety, such as the construction, agriculture or waste management sectors. Policies aimed at developing and greening these sectors should also aim to **transform these precarious jobs into decent work**.

Social dialogue between stakeholders in the world of work is key to enabling the transition, as addressing labour challenges is central to the shift towards more sustainable economies and resilient societies⁶⁴. The **ILO Guidelines identify social dialogue as one of the guiding principles of a just transition**. Yet, ITUC research⁶⁵ from 2020 found that reference to social dialogue was only made in 15 out of the 52 NDCs examined.

⁶¹ United Nations, 2023d.

⁶² UNFCCC, 2015.

⁶³ UNDP, 2022.

⁶⁴ ITUC, 2020a.

⁶⁵ ITUC, 2020a.

More broadly, **democratic dialogue with all stakeholders**, from the local level to the highest spheres, is the only way to build the consensus needed to generate legitimacy and a sense of commitment, which is the only way to ensure the viability and sustainability of transformative policies. Workers and their communities need to be able to see that the policies to combat climate change will not necessarily be detrimental, that they can contribute to improving their working and living conditions, and provide an opportunity to make structural changes capable of reversing historical relations of inequality and social and environmental injustices.

The implementation of all these measures requires the **mobilisation of significant funding**. Currently, the largest volume of environmental funds available is devoted to global warming mitigation, which is essential to slowing down the process, but many more resources than those presently available must also be allocated to adapting to and anticipating the present and future impacts of climate change, as well as to greening the economy. **Eliminating subsidies for fossil fuels** and activities that pollute or degrade the environment would promote their transformation, since many of them only remain viable thanks to the numerous incentives and subsidies they receive. And these funds could be redirected towards tackling climate change and the transition to more sustainable economies.

Similarly, **financial funds**, including funds earmarked for climate change, official development assistance or any other funds for greening the economy and environmental restoration, must incorporate the principles of a just transition for the workforce and their communities. Future reviews of **the NDCs, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Long Term Strategies (LTSs)** should also include just transition measures in line with the ILO Guidelines.

The transition towards more sustainable economies and societies cannot be postponed, for ecological, social and economic reasons; it is also a matter of **social and environmental justice**. The dominant forms of production are responsible for global warming and generate a multitude of ecological, economic and social impacts that undermine the adaptive capacities and resilience of ecosystems and societies, **reinforcing exclusion, poverty and hunger, and giving rise to socioenvironmental conflicts**⁶⁶.

Promoting decent work, within the framework of a just transition, is essential to ensuring that the workforce is protected and that the costs of the transition are not placed on the shoulders of working people and their communities.

Trade union contributions towards progress on the targets under SDG 13

The trade union movement is one of the actors most committed to climate action. In addition to taking part in discussions on climate change at local, national and international level, trade unions play a key role in raising awareness, disseminating information and educating their members on environmental and climate change issues. They undertake a variety of research activities, strategies for the introduction of clauses in collective bargaining agreements, proposals for the amendment of regulations, etc., through a multitude of projects around the world aimed at building trade union capacities to ensure that labour issues are better incorporated into national adaptation and mitigation policies.

⁶⁶ ILO, 2021.

Box 9. BANGLADESH: Trade union contribution to the implementation of climate policies and ensuring a just transition

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts, which are unevenly distributed across the nation. The working poor are the most affected, particularly those in the informal economy, seasonal and casual workers, the self-employed, micro and small-sized enterprises, and sectors most dependent on natural resources. In this context, trade unions in Bangladesh are strong advocates for promoting SDG 13 and demanding effective climate policies, programmes and a just transition at national and industrial sector levels through social dialogue.

In 2020, the Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress (BFTUC), in partnership with the OSHE Foundation (a foundation established by trade unions), successfully launched the Just Transition Bangladesh Campaign. The aim is to raise awareness and sensitize workers, develop the engagement of trade unions on climate change and environmental issues, and foster dialogue and partnerships between employers and workers at enterprise and sector levels in key industries such as readymade garments, shipbreaking, leather, and footwear.

Trade unions in Bangladesh are also actively engaging with the National Ministry of Environment and are contributing to the inclusion of just transition issues in national level climate policy discussions and programmes aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plans (MCP), a national comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing Bangladesh's resilience to climate change impacts by implementing adaptation measures to minimise the vulnerability of communities, ecosystems and critical infrastructure to climate-related risks. They also engage in dialogue to ensure the inclusion of just transition and decent work commitments in Bangladesh's NDC to the UNFCCC.

Source: <http://justtransition-bangladesh.net/>

Box 10. BRAZIL: Trade union involvement in the analysis and review of energy transition projects and regulations

Sustainability and climate change are central themes in the work of the Central Única dos Trabalhadores (CUT Brazil). Through an international cooperation project with the ITUC's Just Transition Centre, CUT Brazil is undertaking a series of initiatives aimed at influencing energy transition policies in the country.

These initiatives include an analysis of wind and solar energy investments, focusing on their environmental and social impacts, in light of evidence of some significant adverse effects on people living in areas close to wind farms. CUT has also focused on reviewing grassroots participation and social dialogue in processes to regulate the energy sector, such as the regulation of the Brazilian Carbon Market; projects to decarbonise the energy system; the National Hydrogen Programme; and the regulation of offshore wind energy. These initiatives all converge in the demand for the establishment of a National Just Transition Plan, which is essential to ensuring the promotion of and respect for the rights of the working class in the context of the inevitable decarbonisation of the economy.

CUT, like other Brazilian trade unions, also plays an active role in international forums for discussion on climate change and just transition, such as, for example, the debates held by the ILO at its 2023 International Labour Conference. It is currently working intensively towards the COP 30 on climate change, to be held in Belém do Pará, with the expectation that it will be a COP with grassroots participation that will bring about substantial and tangible progress.

Source: [CUT-Brazil-International-cooperation-sustainable-development-and-just-transition \(ituc-csi.org\)](https://ituc-csi.org)

Box 11. KENYA: Trade union awareness-raising and training to help the transition to sustainability and the fight against climate change

In Kenya, COTU-K (Central Organization of Trade Unions - Kenya) is working to build the capacity of its leaders and members to contribute to a better understanding of the labour and socioeconomic impacts of climate change, as well as the importance of building an environmentally sustainable economy. The aim is to have an informed trade union membership base with strengthened capacities to drive change and influence the transition to sustainability.

The organisation set up groups of “green” shop stewards with the aim of taking a structured approach to climate and environmental issues in trade union activities. These groups are tasked with raising awareness, implementing projects and ensuring that environmental considerations are integrated into union strategies and negotiations.

Awareness-raising campaigns are promoted among affiliated organisations to help identify the needs of people working in different sectors affected by climate change. COTU-K also takes part in national and international events to make the voice of workers heard, such as International Labour Day, climate COPs and World Environment Day.

Source: information provided by COTU-K (April 2024)

SDG 16: Decent work, peace, democracy and social justice

The persistence of structural inequalities and injustices, the growing insecurity and the uncertainty caused by the multiple global crises are driving public discontent and a loss of confidence in democracy and institutions, providing fertile ground for the **emergence of radicalised narratives that foment intolerance and violence**. These negative trends are accompanied by **attacks on trade union organisations and violations of workers' rights**⁶⁷. According to data collected by the ITUC through the Global Rights Index, the period between 2014 and 2023 saw a deterioration in almost all indicators, including an unprecedented increase in attacks on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. Such attacks, experienced in 26 per cent of the countries surveyed in 2014, took place in 42 per cent of the countries surveyed in 2023⁶⁸.

Trade unions are the largest voluntary membership organisations that exist, representing more than 251 million workers worldwide, in the private and public sector, and a growing number of self-employed workers⁶⁹. Thanks to their structure and their *raison d'être*, trade unions are **very well placed**

67 ITUC, 2024c.

68 ITUC, 2024b.

69 ILO, 2022.

to contribute to the building of strong institutions and democracies. Union organisations promote collective deliberation and action, and contribute to strengthening the capacities of working people to assert and defend their rights and interests.

Trade union collective action goes far beyond corporate interests. Trade unions the world over have always been important actors in the defence of human rights and equality, such as in the struggles for the restoration of democracy in Latin America or against apartheid in South Africa. The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) sets out the commitment, in its constitution, to “act for the protection of democracy everywhere, so that the conditions for the full exercise of all human rights, universal, indivisible and inalienable, may be enjoyed by all”⁷⁰, and it has just launched its global campaign “For Democracy”, at work, in society and globally⁷¹.

As highlighted by the ILO Recommendation on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience (No. 205), **decent work, as a guarantee of respect for labour rights**, is essential to promoting peace and preventing conflict⁷².

Social dialogue is one of the strategic pillars of the decent work agenda. The ILO defines social dialogue as any kind of negotiation, consultation or exchange of information between government, worker and employer representatives on matters of common interest⁷³. Genuine social dialogue is an expression of democracy in labour relations and contributes to institutional stability, peace and social justice by facilitating consensus building among the various actors in the world of work.

Similarly, healthy social dialogue is crucial to tackling the multiplicity of crises we are currently facing and to developing alternatives for a just transition. During the Covid-19 crisis, for example, social dialogue was a key tool for mitigating its social and economic impacts. The stakeholders in the world of work, through various tripartite and bipartite dialogue mechanisms, agreed on measures to sustain employment and to extend social protection coverage, designed safety protocols for essential sectors and for people returning to work⁷⁴.

Despite widespread recognition of the importance of social dialogue in achieving the SDGs, the monitoring conducted since 2017 by the **ITUC’s Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN)** reveals that social dialogue is not sufficiently integrated into national processes linked to the 2030 Agenda⁷⁵.

It should also be borne in mind that social dialogue can only make such a contribution in a context of full respect for **fundamental principles and rights at work**⁷⁶. Freedom of association, the right to organise and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining are particularly fundamental to enabling social dialogue. Yet, as shown by the 2023 **ITUC Global Rights Index**⁷⁷, 77 per cent of countries systematically excluded workers from the right to form or join a trade union, 73 per cent prevented the registration of trade unions and 79 per cent violated the right to collective bargaining.

70 [ITUC Constitution and Standing Orders - International Trade Union Confederation \(ituc-csi.org\)](#)

71 [For Democracy: ITUC launches new campaign in crucial election year - International Trade Union Confederation \(ituc-csi.org\)](#)

72 ILO, 2017.

73 <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/dw4sd/themes/s-dialogue-tripartism/lang--es/index.htm>

74 ILO, 2022.

75 ITUC, 2024a.

76 The ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work is an expression of commitment by governments, employers' and workers' organizations to uphold basic human values. It affirms the obligations and commitments that are inherent in membership of the ILO, namely: a) freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; b) the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; c) the effective abolition of child labour; d) the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; and e) a safe and healthy working environment. <https://www.ilo.org/ilo-declaration-fundamental-principles-and-rights-work>

77 ITUC, 2024b.

A **criminalisation of protest, inadequate legal protection and the persecution, arbitrary arrest and even the assassination of trade union representatives** was also noted in many countries. In 2023, the right to strike was violated in 89 per cent of countries and in 65 per cent of countries workers were denied full or partial access to justice. Cases of workers being arrested and detained for exercising their right to strike were reported in 69 countries, violence against workers was reported in 44 countries, and murders of trade union representatives were reported in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eswatini, Guatemala, Peru and Sierra Leone. In Colombia alone, the most dangerous country in the world for trade unionists, 15 people were murdered in 2022 on account of their trade union work.

A look at the trends highlighted in the Global Rights Index reveals that, over the past 10 years, performance has worsened in all regions, with the Middle East and North Africa faring the worst, and Europe the best.

In short, the foundations of freedom and democracy are being systematically destroyed through continuous attacks on workers' rights and democracy in the workplace. **Achieving the SDG 8 targets related to decent work is essential and urgently needed to reverse the current weakening of institutions and to ensure social justice, which is the only way of achieving lasting peace.**

Trade union contributions towards progress on the targets under SDG 16

The full participation of trade unions is crucial to building trust and developing transformative policies and actions, contributing to the rule of law and democracy.

Box 14. PHILIPPINES: Protecting trade unionists' human rights, physical integrity and lives

In the Philippines, trade unions and their representatives have been encountering significant challenges to the exercise of their trade union activities for many years, including physical attacks, repression and murder.

In 2019, the killing of trade unionists during the International Labour Conference in Geneva led to joint action by trade unions, who lobbied and advocated for the government of the Philippines to accept an ILO High-Level Tripartite Mission to examine the situation.

Trade unions in the Philippines produced a joint report for the visit of the High-Level Mission, detailing human and labour rights violations, including the murders of 68 trade union leaders (now 72). The report produced by the Tripartite Mission incorporated the vast majority of the trade union recommendations, including the establishment of a tripartite commission of inquiry and a "truth commission" comprising key members of Filipino society. The government responded by creating an inter-institutional body, but did not include social partner participation, an issue on which trade unions continue to insist.

Trade union organisations continue to work actively on this issue, in constant liaison with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and have succeeded in including trade union demands in the UN recommendations to the government. They have also managed to ensure that freedom of association and other trade union concerns are included in the UN priorities for the country.

Source: information provided by the Federation of Free Workers (FFW) of the Philippines.

Box 15. ZIMBABWE: Protecting workers

For years, repressive laws have been used as a tool for repressing workers' rights in Zimbabwe. In a bid to help foster change, Swedish trade union federations, in collaboration with the ITUC and solidarity support organisation Union to Union, ran a project over many years involving several countries, including Zimbabwe and the ZCTU trade union confederation.

Following extensive research into the alignment of the country's labour standards with ILO standards, alongside the ZCTU's lobbying of the government, employers' organisations and parliamentarians, a Labour Amendment Act was passed in July 2023 that improved the provisions on dispute resolution and the protection of workers against dismissal. The legislation also incorporated the provisions of ILO Convention 190 regarding violence and harassment at work and established harsher penalties for labour rights violations and child labour. There was a fall in the number of trade unionists arbitrarily arrested, detained and prosecuted in 2023. The last arrest and prosecution was in June 2022. The new law applies to the approximately 300,000 people working in the private sector.

Source: information provided by solidarity support organisation Union to Union

Box 16: Somalia: Unions' contribution to building peace and justice

In Somalia, the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU) and its affiliates stand as a beacon for peace, justice and accountability.

FESTU, along with the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), has focused on addressing the issue of impunity of crimes against journalists. With funding from UNESCO, they prepared a comprehensive report highlighting the challenges journalists face in Somalia, calling for action against impunity and for criminal justice reform, while spotlighting the dire situations media workers face and calling for an end of impunity. This effort gained significant attention in 2022, when Somalia showcased its Voluntary National Review at the High-Level Political Forum and the report was presented, earning a commitment from the government to implement SDG16 recommendations thoroughly.

FESTU has actively employed SDG 16 to advocate for labour rights across the country. It has consistently advocated for the appointment of judges specialized in labour issues within the judiciary of Somalia and has contributed to the Somalia reconciliation process, employing social dialogue as a key tool to bridge divides, encourage mutual understanding and support the national efforts towards reconciliation and peacebuilding.

FESTU has also led a campaign for the right to information as a fundamental right for all citizens. With relentless advocacy and strategic efforts by FESTU and its affiliates, they are nearing the enactment of an Access to Information Law as dictated by SDG16.

Furthermore, as the Federal Government of Somalia sought to lift the decades-old UN Security Council's arms embargo on Somalia, FESTU advocated for a legislation that meets international standards to regulate arms control, especially for non-state armed actors. This law's development before the embargo's lifting represents a notable success in promoting responsible governance and peace

Source: information provided by FESTU

SDG 17: Trade union contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

As discussed in the analysis of SDG 16, trade unions, as an organised expression of working people, are key to enabling the implementation of all the SDGs. The importance of including trade unions in the formulation of labour, social, economic and development policies is articulated in the various international labour standards as well as in the tripartite structure of the International Labour Organization (ILO) itself, and is also clearly demonstrated in the various international negotiating spaces where trade unions are involved as interested parties in a variety of fields that go beyond labour issues.

Yet, although target 16 of SDG 17 establishes the need for countries to establish multi-stakeholder partnerships to monitor progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) has found that, in many countries⁷⁸, there is a **persistent lack of transparency and mechanisms for consultation and dialogue with the social partners**.

And in cases where consultation or dialogue spaces do exist, **trade unions are often convened as part of a broad group of social organisations**, disregarding the specific nature of their contributions⁷⁹. This constitutes a missed opportunity to properly integrate the decent work agenda, which, as we have seen, in addition to being part of SDG 8, is strategically important for achieving the other SDGs.

Trade unions are able to contribute at local and national level to the formulation, monitoring and early correction of measures linked to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Many trade unions have tools that can contribute first-hand data and provide relevant information for decision-making processes.

The national trade union reports on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which are compiled and systematised by the ITUC through the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN), are one example. Trade unions also have the potential to be very proactive in weaving and strengthening alliances within their own countries, establishing their own monitoring mechanisms in coordination with other social actors.

Globally, trade unions are important cooperation actors, helping to mobilise resources, providing mutual support and assistance, and articulating collective positions and strategies to help bring coherence and ambition to regional and international processes. One of the repeated demands of trade unions for improved policy coherence and integration, for example, is the need to take on board SDG 8 and the ILO's Just Transition Guidelines in the criteria for allocating ODA and other financial flows.

⁷⁸ Based on trade union reports from 24 countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Maldives, Mali, Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Uruguay and Venezuela (ITUC, 2022b and 2023).

⁷⁹ ILO, 2021.

Box 18. The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

The Global Accelerator, launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2021, is the leading global multi-stakeholder initiative at UN level to promote the creation of decent jobs and social protection to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda. It brings together UN member states and agencies, international financial institutions, public development banks, civil society, trade union and employer organisations, to facilitate the transition towards a resilient, sustainable and inclusive world. The initiative is coordinated by the ILO as a specialised tripartite agency – governments, worker and employer organisations.

The aim of the Global Accelerator is to boost progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to secure the political support and financing needed to create 400 million jobs by 2030, mainly in the environmentally sustainable, digital and care economy, and to extend social protection floor coverage to the four billion people currently not covered.

The priorities of the Global Accelerator are central to the achievement of the SDGs and are in line with the trade union demands set out in the New Social Contract proposed by the ITUC, as well as in the Accelerator Implementation Strategy (2023-2026), which includes the relevant demands made by the ITUC.

The ITUC plays a crucial role in the strategy for the implementation of the Accelerator, both as a constituent member of the ILO and as part of the global coalition that provides oversight and strategic guidance for the Accelerator's operations, as well as by advocating for more sustainable investments in social protection and jobs for just transitions. Trade unions also have a key role to play at national level, as part of the National Advisory Committees provided for in the Global Accelerator Implementation Strategy.

Source: [The Global Accelerator Implementation Strategy.pdf \(unglobalaccelerator.org\)](https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/)

Box 19. Global Coalition for Social Justice

Since February 2024, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) has been a member of the Global Coalition for Social Justice, an International Labour Organization (ILO) initiative created at the end of 2023. This initiative serves as a platform to forge alliances and political commitments from the global to the national level, aimed at promoting social justice and decent work.

The Coalition's work is anchored in the ILO's principal founding texts which, for over a century, have highlighted the transformative power of social justice in fostering cohesive and productive societies, reducing poverty and hunger, as well as inequalities and social tensions.

The Coalition's priority areas of action include promoting job creation and universal social protection, reducing inequalities, raising the profile of social justice and decent work on the agendas of other multinational organisations, and promoting social dialogue.

Participation in the Coalition is voluntary and open to a diverse range of members, including governments, workers' and employers' organisations, international institutions, businesses, non-governmental organisations, and academic institutions. Regarding trade union participation, in addition to the ITUC, the Coalition includes over 60 trade union organisations from around the world.

Source: [Global Coalition for Social Justice](https://ilo.org/global-coalition-for-social-justice) (ilo.org) and [ITUC joins ILO Global Coalition for Social Justice](https://ituc-csi.org/ituc-joins-ilo-global-coalition-for-social-justice) (ituc-csi.org)

C.

Conclusions and recommendations

A sustainable future for people and the planet can only be achieved with decent work and social justice.

As demonstrated, decent work (SDG 8), as a guarantee of rights, decent incomes and social protection, is key to the eradication of poverty and hunger (SDGs 1 and 2). Moreover, decent work implies democracy at work and strong institutions with the capacity to help build democratic, peaceful and just societies (SDGs 16 and 17) that are equipped to meet the immense challenges posed by climate and environmental change (SDG 13), ensuring a just transition to sustainability.

Trade unions are equipped with their own tools to contribute to this process, and are already doing so in their various fields of action. The contributions made by trade unions have been instrumental in ensuring the inclusion of policies that are fundamental to achieving sustainability, such as the very concept of a just transition. The international trade union movement is committed to contributing to initiatives such as the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions⁸⁰ or the preparatory discussions for the forthcoming Summit of the Future⁸¹ (September 2024) and the Second World Summit for Social Development (2025).

The trade union movement's call for a New Social Contract, reflected in the statement of the ITUC's last World Congress⁸², clearly sets out the priorities for making progress on achieving SDG 8 and thereby contributing to the other goals of the 2030 Agenda:

- a) **Creation of decent and climate-friendly jobs** to reach full employment worldwide through investment in care, green jobs and infrastructure and formalising informal sector employment.
- b) **Living wages** to reverse the decades-long decline in the share of prosperity going to working people, to ensure a dignified life for all and to revitalise economies.
- c) **Labour protection floor for all workers, regardless of their employment status**, to guarantee workers' organising and bargaining rights, ensure safe and healthy work, safeguard against discrimination, forced labour and child labour, and build a sustainable world through a just transition.
- d) **Equality**, guaranteeing equal pay for work of equal value and ending all discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, migration status, ideology, religion, social status, or any other type, both in the workplace and in society.
- e) **Universal Social Protection**, to invest in coverage for the three-quarters of the world's people who are fully or partly denied this basic human right, starting with a global social protection fund.
- f) **Inclusion** through the promotion of social justice, democracy, and social dialogue at the national and international levels, and the construction of a multilateral system based on rights and democracy.

Within this framework, the 2024 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development should be an

⁸⁰ [Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions | UN Global Accelerator](#)

⁸¹ [Summit of the Future | United Nations](#)

⁸² <https://congress2022.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/5co-final-statement-en.pdf>

opportunity for UN member states to:

1. Put **decent work at the centre of the United Nations development processes**, such as the Summit of the Future in September 2024 and the Second World Summit for Social Development in 2025.
2. Ensure a **universal, rights-based agenda for 2030 and beyond** by placing decent work and equality at the very core of the Second Summit on Social Development in 2025.
3. Support the implementation of the UN **Global Accelerator** on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.
4. Defend the role of **social dialogue and democracy** as key tools for achieving the SDGs. Recognise freedom of association, collective bargaining and the right to strike as essential prerequisites of social dialogue and democracy.
5. Lastly, link financing and policy discussions, at the Second World Summit for Social Development, for example, and in the other UN processes referred to above, with **clear commitments to financing the SDGs** and reforming the international financial architecture to make it truly democratic.

D.

Summary of trade union messages to the HLPF 2024⁸³

⁸³ See full detail in Annex 1

SDG 1

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

SDG 2

- Recognise the right to food as a human right.
- Ensure decent work, lifelong learning and minimum living wages for all workers in the agriculture sector and throughout the food supply chain, including migrant workers.
- Implement just transition policies based on social dialogue in sustainable agriculture.
- Support Indigenous communities' land rights in line with ILO Convention 169.

SDG 13

- Introduce just transition measures based on social dialogue in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- Implement the Work Programme on Just Transition Pathways adopted at COP 28.
- Deliver on adaptation needs through robust social protection plans.
- Step up international climate finance for developing countries, with accountability mechanisms that ensure sustainable and green investments.
- Promote social dialogue to align the new collective quantified goal (NCQG) with just transition principles.

SDG 16

- Uphold labour rights and social dialogue as pillars for peace and democratic processes.
- Engage the social partners in all sustainable development policy-making processes.
- Advocate for labour courts and access to legal aid on labour matters.
- Set a 50 per cent goal for women's participation at all levels of international peace and security initiatives.
- Enhance international law on disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation and the arms trade.

SDG 17

- Build renewed multilateralism based on social dialogue and democracy to promote social justice.

E.

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F.
**Annex 1: Detail of
the trade union
messages to
the HLPF 2024**

ITUC - KEY MESSAGES ON SDGS UNDER REVIEW AT [HLPF 2024](#)

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

ITUC messages:

1. **Invest in Decent and Climate-Friendly Jobs:** Decent and climate-friendly jobs are key to eradicating poverty. Full employment must be a core policy objective for all governments and international financial institutions. Public investments in jobs must increase, especially in climate-friendly sectors including sustainable infrastructure, the care economy, and the green economy, as part of comprehensive just transition programmes.
2. **Extend Social Protection:** Extend social protection to achieve universal coverage in line with ILO standards, given that more than half of the global population lacks any social protection coverage. It is necessary to remove barriers to migrants' access to social security and to facilitate the portability of contributions and entitlements, as migrants are disproportionately excluded from social protection, heightening their risk of falling into poverty.
3. **Support Countries with Insufficient Resources:** Support countries that lack sufficient domestic resources to finance social protection by 1) allocating at least 7 per cent of Official Development Assistance towards social protection, 2) establishing a Global Social Protection Fund to kickstart national social protection systems, and 3) complementing the efforts of the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.
4. **Tackle Working Poverty:** Establish statutory or negotiated minimum living wages through statutory processes or collective bargaining. Minimum living wages should apply to all workers, including youth, migrant workers, informal workers, domestic workers, the self-employed, undeclared workers, and home-based workers. These policies must be accompanied by the promotion of equal pay for work of equal value, through inclusive labour market policies, formalisation processes, and measures tackling occupational segregation and discrimination.
5. **Respect Workers' Rights:** Respect workers' rights, including freedom of association, collective bargaining, and the right to strike, regardless of workers' contractual or migration status and for all sectors. The erosion of workers' rights drives poverty and exclusion. In line with the ILO Centenary Declaration, job creation strategies should guarantee the application of a labour protection floor to ensure that fundamental workers' rights are respected, an adequate minimum wage is applied, maximum limits on working time are guaranteed, and safety and health at work are upheld.
6. **Recognise Universal Access to Social Services:** Recognise universal access to social services linked to basic needs and common goods such as food, shelter, drinking water, education, health, and social protection, which are essential to eradicate multidimensional poverty. Particular attention should be paid to women's access to these services.
7. **Tackle Precarious and Informal Work:** Tackle precarious and informal work and promote the registration of non-declared workers, as well as the formalisation of the informal economy. This includes adequately financed and staffed labour inspection to improve working conditions and increase social and economic inclusion, in line with ILO Recommendation 204.

8. **Advance Gender Equality and Inclusion:** Advance gender equality, equality of treatment and opportunity for all, non-discrimination, and inclusion as key elements to elevate women out of poverty and advance social justice. This includes women's income security and equal opportunities to access paid, decent, and formalised work, closing the gender pay gap, promoting decent work, including in care, and ending gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work. This also includes support for the rights of migrant workers, indigenous peoples, people who identify as LGBTQIA+, people living with disabilities, and all those who face racism and discrimination.
9. **Establish Tripartite Social Dialogue Mechanisms:** Establish institutionalised tripartite social dialogue mechanisms on poverty and inequalities eradication policies, as part of broader sustainable development policies.
10. **Support the UN Global Accelerator:** Support the implementation of the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, a key UN-led initiative to promote integrated national employment and social protection strategies to boost just digital and climate transitions.
11. **Implement Progressive Taxation Systems:** Put in place progressive taxation systems at the country level and support UN-led global governance on taxation to address inequalities between countries and to tackle tax evasion, tax avoidance, and illicit financial flows. This should include a multilateral reform of the current corporate tax architecture, a minimum tax floor of 25% for all corporations, a switch to unitary taxation with fair allocation factors, a billionaire's or wealth tax, and a financial transactions tax. Adequate measures should also be taken to stop speculation and crack down on tax havens and tax avoidance by corporations and the wealthy.
12. **Recognise the Role of Trade Unions:** Recognise the role of trade unions at local, national, sectoral, and global levels as actors at the forefront of the fight against poverty, including in-work poverty, and in the effort to create a fairer society.

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

ITUC messages:

1. **Recognise Access to Safe, Nutritious, and Sufficient Food as a Human Right:** Implement inclusive and gender-responsive policies tackling malnutrition that respect and promote human and labour rights.
2. **Define Food Security as a Strategic Policy Objective:** Protect food supply from speculative global markets and artificial fluctuations.
3. **Implement Just Transition Policies:** Develop investment plans based on social dialogue to promote decent job creation in sustainable agriculture. These plans should decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and include gender-responsive measures, ensuring women farmers have equal access to land and resources.

4. **Ensure Decent Working Conditions:** Guarantee minimum living wages for workers throughout the food system. Invest in training and skills development that integrates training, field practice, and environmental awareness to support workers in sustainable agriculture, including migrant workers in temporary labour migration programmes.
5. **Move Away from Temporary Labour Migration Schemes:** In the agriculture and food processing sectors, these schemes often limit migrant workers' ability to exercise their labour and human rights. Ensure equal treatment for all workers regardless of migrant status and prioritise long-term or permanent, rights-based pathways for migrant workers in food systems.
6. **Cover All Agricultural Workers with Labour Protections:** Ensure proper formalisation of the informal economy in agriculture and food production. Eradicate all forms of labour exploitation, including child and forced labour in agriculture and food systems, and ensure an adequate system of labour inspections.
7. **Promote Sustainable Farming Practices:** These practices can improve the quality and quantity of food supplies and create millions of jobs⁸⁴. Enforce policies on pesticide use, reducing and banning the most toxic pesticides in the transition to organic farming.
8. **Restore Government Capacity for Strategic Food Reserves:** This will limit price volatility, ensure adequate returns to small producers, and provide a living wage for workers. Adopt an international regulatory framework to ensure fair functioning of food commodity markets, avoiding financial speculation and extreme food price volatility.
9. **Increase International Finance for Sustainable Agriculture:** Support sustainable agriculture in developing countries, where the majority of the world's hungry people live. Establish accountability mechanisms for sustainable and "green" investments in agriculture, ensuring compliance with labour, environmental, and fiscal standards.
10. **Support Indigenous Communities:** Provide the necessary means for indigenous communities to assert their human and land rights by aligning national legislation with ILO Convention No. 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
11. **Implement the Doha Development Agenda:** Ensure that the WTO Agreement on Agriculture guarantees food security, improves the incomes and livelihoods of small producers and workers along the value chains, and does not discriminate against developing countries.

⁸⁴ ITUC, Just Jobs Campaign, 2021, https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/just_jobs_campaign_brief.pdf

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

ITUC messages:

1. **Introduce Just Transition Measures:** Include just transition measures in countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with the effective participation of social partners, as established by the ILO principles for a just transition.
2. **Implement the Just Transition Work Programme Adopted at COP28:** ensure that the focus on labour rights becomes central to climate policy discussions.
3. **Develop Just Transition Industrial Policies:** Create investment plans based on social dialogue and the protection of labour rights to promote the creation of decent climate-friendly jobs.
4. **Open Permanent, Rights-Based Pathways for Climate Migration:** Establish gender-responsive regular pathways for climate-driven migration that ensure access to decent job opportunities in line with international labour standards. Most legal pathways available for climate-affected populations are temporary, increasing the risk of exploitation and limiting access to rights.
5. **Accelerate Decarbonisation Processes:** Use sustainable solutions that provide decent work and contribute to formalisation, negotiated with social partners.
6. **Manage Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels:** Guarantee this by 1) making investments conditional on just transition with employment guarantees, 2) ending wasteful government subsidies to fossil fuel companies, 3) preventing their profiteering, and 4) protecting households against energy poverty.
7. **Invest in Social Protection and Lifelong Learning:** Ensure the necessary levels of investment needed for just transition, while reversing the trend towards privatisation and outsourcing, and investing in quality public services at all levels.
8. **Uphold Human and Labour Rights:** Ensure the full involvement of trade unions in climate policy formulation.
9. **Enhance Mitigation Ambitions:** Create quality jobs backed by just transition measures.
10. **Deliver on Adaptation Needs:** Use robust social protection plans and public funding mechanisms that recognise the centrality of decent work opportunities and social protection, not only as measures that enhance community resilience to future shocks but also as means to address drivers of climate displacement.
11. **Recognise the Mandate of UN Processes on Just Transition:** Highlight the role of the ILO as the recognised tripartite body and the ILO Guidelines on Just Transition.
12. **Increase International Climate Finance:** Step up for developing countries and establish regulatory frameworks and accountability mechanisms for sustainable and "green" investments to avoid greenwashing and ensure that all labour rights are respected and all investments are genuinely climate-friendly.

13. **Finance the Loss and Damage Facility:** Provide investment for just transition.
14. **Align the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) with Just Transition Principles:** Promote social dialogue and sufficient public funding throughout the climate finance cycle, including feasibility, implementation, and evaluation.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

ITUC messages:

1. **Respect Rights to Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining:** Ensure the respect of the rights to freedom of association, collective bargaining, and the right to strike (ILO Conventions 87 and 98). Labour rights, combined with social dialogue, are pillars for building peace and democratic processes, which are cornerstones of sustainable development. Universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice.
2. **Guarantee Participation of Social Partners:** Ensure the informed and meaningful participation of social partners in all stages of decision-making processes on sustainable development policies to ensure good governance, transparency, and accountability.
3. **Recognise Trade Unionists as Human Rights Defenders:** Recognise the role of trade unionists as both human rights defenders and peace builders. Adopt effective regulations and policies to prevent and sanction the cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and torture of trade unionists.
4. **Promote Labour Courts and Legal Aid:** Promote the creation of labour courts and guarantee access to legal aid on labour-related matters.
5. **Develop a Framework for Common Security:** Promote a framework for common security based on United Nations principles that address the ideological, social, and economic causes of conflicts and hold accountable those responsible for initiating and sustaining wars and committing war crimes and terrorist attacks.
6. **Tackle Root Causes of Conflict:** Promote actions to tackle the root causes of conflict and generate employment and decent work for prevention, recovery, peace, and resilience in crisis situations arising from conflicts and disasters. This aligns with the ILO Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation (No. 205) and includes advancing economic security for working people and combating extremism that promotes hatred and exclusion.
7. **Commit to a World Free of Nuclear Weapons:** Commit to a world free of nuclear weapons through the universalisation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Convert current investments in weapons, including nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, into investments in social infrastructure to safeguard peace and stability.

8. **Strengthen the Agenda for Women, Peace, and Security:** Set a 50 per cent goal for women's participation at all levels of international peace and security undertakings to strengthen the international agenda for Women, Peace, and Security.
9. **Establish Regular UN Peace Conferences:** Establish regular UN Peace Conferences based on the UN report "Our Common Agenda," following the model of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP).
10. **Eliminate Weapons of Mass Destruction:** Strengthen international law and revitalise treaties in disarmament, arms control, non-proliferation, and the arms trade, particularly the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction.

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

ITUC messages:

1. **Reinforce the Role of Social Dialogue:** Reinforce the role of social dialogue as a key means of implementing the 2030 Agenda and in strategies to build recovery and resilience from converging crises. To be sustainable, crisis response measures must engage social partners. Social dialogue and industrial relations help rebuild trust in institutions and contribute to crafting equitable and sustainable policies.
2. **Establish a New Model of Global Governance:** Develop a new model of global governance to address the current imbalance of power and uneven distribution of wealth at the international level. Create a truly inclusive multilateral system where social partners are involved and have a say.
3. **Ensure Adequate Financing Strategies:** Implement adequate financing strategies that include increasing the quantity and quality of Official Development Assistance (ODA); debt relief, restructuring, and cancellation; implementing progressive taxation systems and a multilateral reform of the current corporate tax architecture, including a minimum tax floor of 25 per cent for all corporations, a billionaire's or wealth tax, and a financial transactions tax; tackling tax evasion, tax avoidance, and illicit financial flows; reallocating Special Drawing Rights; and ensuring business accountability.
4. **Improve Data Quality and Quantity:** Improve the quantity and quality of data to inform national policy-making processes.
5. **Implement Digitalisation Strategies:** Develop and implement digitalisation strategies that promote just transitions and lifelong learning.

