

WHERE ARE WE AT?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the United Nations in September 2015, by 193 countries and contains a set of shared objectives, known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to which states have committed. The 17 SDGs cover issues highly relevant to the work of trade unions, including the promotion of decent work, the fight against inequalities and climate change.

UNION FINDINGS ON SDGS IMPLEMENTATION

Trade unions are committed to seeing through the SDGs. **The Trade Union Country Reports on the SDGs** are a concrete example of this commitment. These detailed reports are used to put pressure on governments at national and international level to see through their commitments. **They assess the level of implementation of the SDGs according to three criteria:**

Transparency: The SDGs outline a vision of an inclusive future. Access to information is the first step to ensuring that trade unions can play their role in this realising this vision. However, a number of trade unions experienced significant difficulties on this front.

Consultation: trade unions know that to achieve outcomes that deliver for working people and their families, they need to be involved in the decision-making process. The SDGs aim to do just that and consultation is a must. While governments lack consistency in their approaches, trade unions are working hard and sharing best practice to open up new spaces for meaningful input.

Social dialogue: Social dialogue builds the social consensus and reinforces the institutional stability that is fundamental to achieving sustainable development. While these contributions are well documented, social dialogue is critically under-used in the implementation of the SDGs. In their engagement on the SDGs, trade unions are mobilising to rectify this, a battle which is essential in the context of the UN reform process.

This important body of work is building coordination and common strategies within the trade union movement, which in turn is gaining ground as an indispensable actor of sustainable development.

- » To achieve “**full and productive employment**” the trend of increasing informal work, which is the reality for 60 per cent of workers, most of whom are women, must be reversed.
- » **87% of countries have violated the right to strike.** This must stop if we are to achieve “labour rights and secure working environments”.
- » “**Fiscal, Wage, Social Protection policies**” are not adequate to fight persistent inequalities.
- » **National SDGs plans design by governments are often inadequate** and do not including budgetary allocations needed to achieve the SDGs.
- » **Social dialogue is not sufficiently integrated** as a governance mechanism for SDGs planning and monitoring implementation.