

WORKERS AND TRADE UNION MAJOR GROUP Inputs on the ZERO DRAFT Political Declaration SDGs Summit

To face the current interconnected challenges, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)¹ has been calling for a **New Social Contract** rooted in a gender transformative agenda for recovery and resilience. This New Social Contract embodies demands on the creation of 575 million new and decent jobs by 2030 and the formalisation of at least one billion informal workers, on rights and fair wages, on universal social protection, and on equality and inclusion. These are crucial if we want to move towards the realisation of the **SDGs**. Our success will also depend on the governance of financing global recovery. We need an **inclusive multilateral system** with a strong and effective ILO and with social partners on board at global, regional and national levels, able to establish policy priorities and sound financing strategies

Amendments proposals on the text of the Zero Draft of the 8th of May:

Para 11: we strongly suggest adding reference to full employment and to the international labour standards. Therefore: “We also remain resolved to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity, full and productive employment and decent work for all, in line with international labour standards ~~taking into account different levels of national development and capacities~~”.

Para 13: we stress the need for universal access to education, therefore: “We resolve to realize our vision of a world with universal access to inclusive and equitable quality education, universal health coverage and quality health care, food security and improved nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy and quality and resilient infrastructure for all.

Para 14: we strongly suggest to include labour market institutions and social dialogue that are fundamental to social cohesion. Therefore: “Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. We reaffirm the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights including the right to development, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions, including labour market institutions and social dialogue.”

Para 20: the huge impact of these multiple crises on the world of work cannot be missed, therefore: “We are concerned about the persistent impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and the multiple interlinked crises that are pushing our world to the brink, particularly developing countries. The triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution threaten planet and people. The crises of migration and forced displacement, the cost-of-living crisis, the water, food, financial and energy crises, and the growing impact of disasters are derailing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, impacting drastically on the world of work”.

Para 27: we strongly suggest to insert the reference to the UN Accelerator on jobs, social protection and just transitions as it is central to the SDGs achievement. Therefore: “We are deeply concerned by the marked increase of the SDG financing gap and recognize the urgency of providing sufficient development finance to developing countries. We are equally concerned by the unmet commitments for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Efforts should be made to support the policies promoted by the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions will be key to foster SDGs ambitions”.

Para 35: decent jobs creation and universal social protection systems are key to fight inequalities. “We will leave no one behind by focusing our policies and actions on the poorest and most vulnerable. We will endeavour to identify those who are being left behind and reach those who are the furthest behind first. People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda include all children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living

¹ The [International Trade Union Confederation \(ITUC\)](#) represents 200 million workers in 168 countries and territories and has 338 national affiliates

with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants. We intend to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. We will take action to combat inequalities within and between countries and pursue policies that stem the tide of rising inequality, including through decent jobs creation and extending social protection systems and universal health coverage".

Para 36: women economic integration and inclusion into the labour market need to be added. Pay equity needs also to be stressed along with addressing the gender gap in education. Therefore:

"a) We commit to targeted and accelerated action to remove all legal, social, and economic barriers to achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls, and the realization and enjoyment of their human rights, their economic integration and participation into the labour market, addressing the employment and gender pay gap."

For technological change to serve the common good, investments and regulatory frameworks must be designed and implemented in order to ensure access to technology for all, including addressing global digital divide, and reinforce fundamental ILO standards and other internationally recognised human rights in a rapidly changing world. Therefore:

"c) We will take action to spread the benefits of digitalization. We will expand participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy. We will leverage digital technology to expand the foundations on which to build more comprehensive, dynamic and adaptive social protection systems. We will implement policies and regulations governing technology, data and deployment of algorithms that are employment- and worker-friendly and ensure privacy and people's control over and ownership of their own data, including through promotion of collective bargaining. We commit to building capacities for inclusive participation in the digital economy and to bridge the digital divide, including through strong partnerships to bring technological innovations to all countries. We look forward to the elaboration of a Global Digital Compact.

Investments for Just Transitions are essential transformative actions to the SDG. Therefore:

"e) Recognizing the need to increase the share of renewable and clean energy, we will take steps to provide access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, we will increase investments for just transitions to net-zero carbon economies,..... including through enhanced international cooperation to assist developing countries.

"m) We will strengthen the integration of the SDGs into our national policy frameworks and develop national plans for transformative and accelerated action. We will make achieving the SDGs a central focus in national planning and oversight mechanisms. We will further localize the SDGs and advance integrated planning at local and sub-national levels. We recognize the importance of policy frameworks that enable inclusive and sustainable growth, such as the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions".

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