

MGOS OFFICIAL SESSION – HLPF 2023

**Perspectives from Major Groups and Other Stakeholders at the Mid-point of the SDGs:
Towards Inclusive Transformation (Official session of HLPF)**

14 July, 9-11am, Conference Room 4

Intervention by Paola Simonetti, Director Equality Department, International Trade Union Confederation

Distinguished Chair, distinguished delegates,

I represent the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the global trade union body representing the voice of 190 million workers in 167 countries, and today I speak on behalf of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders' Coordination Mechanism.

The 2023 High-Level Political Forum is taking place amidst a convergence of interconnected global crises that are taking a devastating toll on people and the planet, and turning decent work into an illusion for the majority of workers.

The global jobs gap stood at 473 million people in 2022, and most of the world's population lacks social protection. Women workers are particularly affected, facing structural challenges with the global gender pay gap still above 20 percent.

As the UN Secretary General pointed out "A fundamental shift is needed – in commitment, solidarity, financing and action - to put the world on a better path. And it is needed now."

From the perspective of the world of work, the shift should be to embrace a "New Social Contract", as the commitment to:

1. The creation of decent and climate-friendly jobs with just transition. The care economy is key for women participation to the labour market and for fairer and more inclusive societies.
2. Rights for all workers, regardless of their employment arrangements or migration status.
3. Minimum living wages and equal pay policies.
4. Two billion people are trapped in the informal economy, we need Universal social protection, including the establishment of a Social Protection Fund for the least wealthy countries.
5. Equality: ending all discrimination, such as by race or gender and discrimination

against LGBTQIA+ workers, fighting gender based violence and harassment, promoting inclusive labour market policies and collective bargaining.

6. Inclusion: ensuring a truly inclusive multilateral system, redressing the current imbalance of power and wealth, and where developing countries have the policy space to define their development model in line with the SDGs.

A New Social Contract is also financially feasible, based on: shared prosperity rather than austerity, with strengthened development cooperation, with a transparent and multilateral debt relief architecture, with debt restructuring and cancellations and the expansion of the support and eligibility to vulnerable countries, with fair taxation and trade rules that allow policy space for industrial policy, along with due diligence laws for business accountability and the alignment of all investments with SDGs.

We look forward to the set-up this year of a UN inter-governmental body aimed at strengthening the inclusiveness and effectiveness of international tax cooperation.

National governments urgently need to step up their political and financial commitments to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

The current HLPF and the upcoming SDG Summit must provide both inspiration and concrete solutions, while more inclusive multilateral frameworks with stronger accountability mechanisms will be key for any future agenda on sustainability.

The centrality of the UN will certainly need to be reinforced to deliver on existing and new commitments for a renewed global sustainable development agenda beyond 2030. Upcoming appointments, such as the 4th Financing for Development Conference and the World Social Summit, will be key in this respect.

Current UN initiatives, such as the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the Global Care Alliance, also provide concrete opportunities for action.

Last but not least, the recognition of the role of social dialogue in the HLPF 2022 and in the Commission on Social Development 2023 is an important step forwards to improve the governance and accountability on the SDGs.

The Major Groups and Other Stakeholders will keep engaging in SDGs monitoring and implementation to build up a truly inclusive multilateral system where social partners and organized civil society are on board and have a say in paving the way to global resilience.

Thank you for your attention.

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