

Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond

High-Level Event on Jobs and Social Protection for Poverty Eradication

28 September 2021- 3:00 – 6:00 PM (EDT)

Intervention by Sharan Burrow, General-Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Question: The ITUC has been advocating for a New Social Contract to help build recovery and resilience by putting people and the environment at the centre of response measures. Where will the money come from to pay for this new package of jobs and social protection and what roles do you see for public and private sectors to ensure that rights are respected?

Intervention [3 minutes]

In line with our call for a New Social Contract we need:

- **INVESTMENTS IN QUALITY CLIMATE-FRIENDLY JOBS:** Millions of new jobs can be created in the care economy, renewable energy and industrial transformations. This cannot happen without having workers on board. Labour rights and Just Transition measures negotiated with social partners through social dialogue must be at the centre.
- Scaling up **SOCIAL PROTECTION** to reach universal coverage This is socially just but also builds resilience. It will require a Global Social Protection Fund for the least wealthy countries.
- Fostering **EQUALITY and INCLUSION** by creating employment opportunities for women and youth, equal pay for work of equal value, minimum living wages, and eliminating gender-based violence in the world of work.

The SDGs are showing us the way forward and SDG 8 has a leading role in boosting recovery and resilience

The financing sources to turn these priorities into reality are available. We need more multilateral cooperation to push back austerity:

- The reallocation of **Special Drawing Rights** is paramount, if we think that out of the 650 billion in SDRs issued by the IMF, only about \$275 billion will go to emerging and developing countries, and only \$21 billion will go to low-income countries. Rich countries must support equity swaps.
- Transparent **debt relief architecture** with debt restructuring and cancellations, including middle-income countries and “positive conditionalities” based on the SDGs to IFIs lending policies, must be put in place and the private sector must accept this is in their interest through stability and inclusive growth.

- With current liquidity injections in the developed world, **ODA** can and should be increased to help developing countries in restoring public goods. We need to scale up and meet the ODA 0.7% commitment, with 0.15 to 0.20% of GNI for least-developed countries. Equally the percentage of ODA dedicated to support social protection with a Global Fund for Social Protection is central to resilience.
- Stronger **multilateral coordination** on taxation – an initial positive step by the G7 on elimination of tax evasion and a minimum global tax rate on multinational corporations is fundamental – together with national progressive taxation systems and wealth taxes.
- And all **investments** should have an ESG lens if we are to deal with the convergence of crisis threatening our people and the planet

We need business to play its part:

- We want to see workers to be paid just wages through minimum living wages and collective bargaining for shared prosperity, plus their health and safety to be protected as well as the health of our planet. We want to see women back to their workplaces. This means that business and private investments comply with ILO standards, responsible business-conduct and mandated due diligence for human and labour rights compliance, in line with SDG 8.

Finally, the current moral imperative is to ensure **universal access to COVID-19 vaccines**, by financing expanded production, patent and knowledge sharing equitable rollouts.

The world needs a new vision to fund inclusive economic and societal models, and this requires commitments from all economic, social and political forces. We applaud the UNSG for being so vocal about this through the launch of the **Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection**. The priorities mentioned are at the heart of trade unions demands for a **NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT** to ensure a human-centred recovery and resilience and trade unions are ready to engage with governments and business to pave the way to resilience.

Thank you.

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