

TIME FOR

**THE CLOCK IS TICKING
FOR A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT**



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The adoption of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) marks a historic opportunity to change the way the world currently functions.

For trade unions, the social, economic and environmental rights at the heart of the SDGs are key to the labour agenda.

And through our everyday work – upholding freedom of association and social dialogue, collective bargaining, and protecting the rights of working people – trade unions are instrumental to accomplishing the SDGs.


SDG 8 focuses on the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, as well as employment and decent work for all. It's key to the 2030 Agenda framework, and it's fundamental to our call for a New Social Contract between governments, business and workers.

It's time for 8. The clock is ticking for a New Social Contract.




A woman with dark hair, wearing a white lab coat over a dark blue top, stands with her arms crossed in a hospital hallway. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background features a window on the left and two round wall clocks on the right. A wooden handrail is visible in the foreground.

**BEING FREE TO JOIN A
UNION PUTS YOU IN A
BETTER POSITION TO
DEFEND YOUR RIGHT TO A
DECENT WAGE AND DECENT
WORKING CONDITIONS.**



The key to making sure that **decent work** becomes the rule and that millions of working families escape poverty and exploitation lies in giving working people the power to influence the decisions that shape their lives. People must be able to organise themselves (freedom of association) through trade unions to negotiate a living wage and defend decent working conditions on an equal footing with their employer (collective bargaining).

There are two major, legally binding international rules on this issue – International Labour Organization Conventions 87 and 98. Unfortunately, many countries and employers fail to respect these rules, which helps drive inequality, while imposing unnecessary suffering on workers.



SDG 8 is all about making sure that no one is left behind as the world transitions to more sustainable ways of living and working.



**CORPORATE GREED WON'T
BE STOPPED WITHOUT CLEAR
RULES FOR MULTINATIONALS
TO ABIDE BY AND STRONG
UNIONS TO ENFORCE THEM.**



Where **decent work is the norm**, working people are treated with dignity. But today, millions of workers suffer from rampant abuse and injustice because of corporate greed. Multinationals continue to accumulate massive wealth fuelled by an economic model that pushes for ever-increasing production at an ever-decreasing cost at the expense of exploited workers.

Corporations have a responsibility to ensure the well-being of both the workers making their products and the people consuming them. Companies have a responsibility to know what is happening in their supply chains (due diligence), while governments have to make sure corporations abide by the rules. Trade unions play a central role in holding both parties accountable.



SDG 8 is all about making sure that corporations, governments and trade unions work together to forge a sustainable world where no one is left behind.

**GETTING BACK ON
YOUR FEET AFTER AN
ILLNESS, KNOWING
YOUR LOVED ONES
ARE WELL CARED
FOR WHILE YOU'RE
WORKING, ENJOYING
YOUR LATER YEARS –
THERE ARE MANY
REASONS TO SUPPORT
UNIVERSAL SOCIAL
PROTECTION.**






We all have moments in our lives when we require extra support. But most people do not have access to proper social protection. **Decent work** is about more than just our working life. At retirement, we expect to receive a pension to enjoy our later years. If we have children, we want to be able to continue working safe in the knowledge that our loved ones are well taken care of. And in the event of an accident or illness, we still need to pay our bills; we also want to receive good healthcare regardless of the size of our wallet.



SDG 8 is all about providing everyone with access to universal and quality social services.

A man wearing a yellow hard hat and a dark, stained work shirt is looking directly at the camera in a factory setting. The background is blurred, showing industrial equipment and lights. A clock is visible on the wall behind him.

**TRADE UNIONS ARE KEY TO
ENSURING THAT NO WORKER
IS LEFT BEHIND IN THE
TRANSITION TOWARDS
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.**



The world simply cannot go on as it does today. The lethal fixation multinationals have with ever-increasing economic growth motored by unlimited consumption is driving humanity towards a terrible dead end. It's time for a new paradigm that will allow us to enjoy a sustainable future with **decent work** at its core. As many jobs will have to evolve or be replaced by new ones, workers must be given the skills and support they will need in this new world of work.



SDG 8 is all about changing our way of living, working and producing to ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

**INFORMAL WORKERS
PRODUCE WEALTH OUT OF
POVERTY. THEY DESERVE
FORMAL JOBS WITH THE
SAME RIGHTS AS ALL
OTHER WORKERS.**





For the millions of people around the world working in the informal economy, **decent work** amounts to hope for a better future. Despite their daily struggle to make ends meet, too many informal workers have no stable income, no regulated working hours, no pension, no social security, no health coverage and no way out of their situation. Yet they produce wealth out of poverty and are the motor of the real economy in many places in the world.



SDG 8 is all about making sure that workers have formal employment and full access to their rights.

**IF YOU HAVE
A JOB, YOUR
INCOME SHOULD
BE ENOUGH TO
PROVIDE YOU
WITH A DECENT
STANDARD OF
LIVING.**



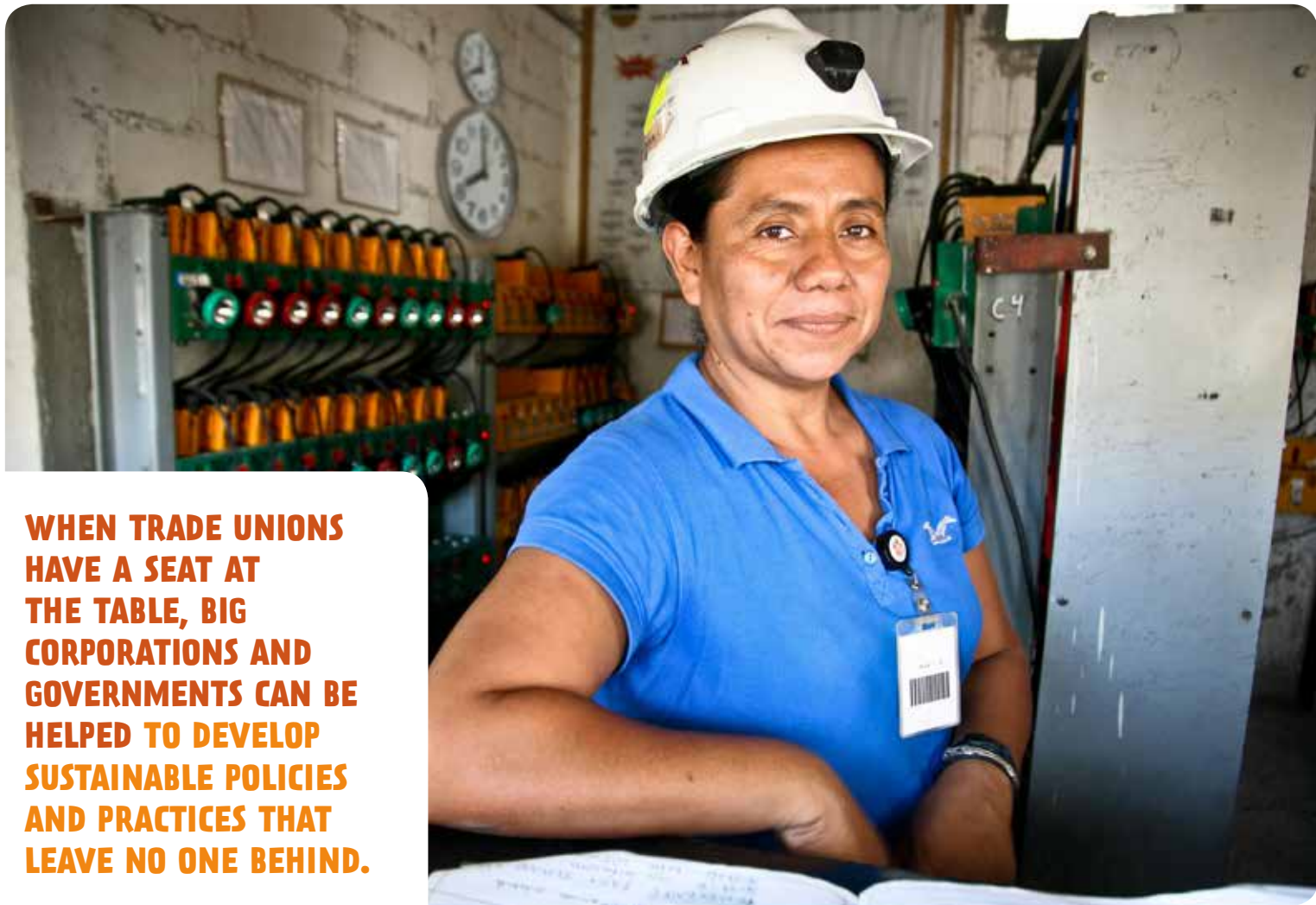


In an unsustainable world order where **decent work** is scarce, having a job doesn't always equate to making a decent living. On the contrary, the number of those unable to make ends meet despite holding one or several jobs is on the rise.

A minimum living wage provides millions of workers and their families with the opportunity to get out of poverty. We need to regain control over our lives, to thrive in our jobs and in our communities. Strong trade unions and enabling legislation are crucial to make this happen.



SDG 8 is all about ensuring that having a job means earning a decent wage in order to live a decent life.



**WHEN TRADE UNIONS
HAVE A SEAT AT
THE TABLE, BIG
CORPORATIONS AND
GOVERNMENTS CAN BE
HELPED TO DEVELOP
SUSTAINABLE POLICIES
AND PRACTICES THAT
LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND.**




Discussions between governments, employers and trade unions have traditionally revolved around salaries and working conditions. With the effects of climate change and technology, these discussions are now beginning to include strategic conversations on what measures need to be taken to ensure that no one is left behind as our society transitions towards a sustainable future. As the champions of **decent work**, trade unions are the first and last line of defence in protecting the rights and dignity of working people.




SDG 8 is all about enabling workers to have a say in the decisions that will shape their life.

**GREED HAS BROUGHT
THE WORLD TO
THE VERGE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
SOCIAL COLLAPSE.
WE URGENTLY NEED A
NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT
TO ENSURE THAT RIGHTS
ARE RESPECTED AND
CORPORATIONS ARE
HELD TO ACCOUNT.**





The key pillars of a sustainable world, such as **decent work**, must be enduring. That's why we are proposing the creation of a **New Social Contract**. This framework will clearly state the responsibilities of all key actors in society, such as governments, employers and workers, as well as their rights. For workers, this includes the fundamental labour rights comprised in a universal labour guarantee: unionising; engaging in negotiations with employers (collective bargaining); ensuring living wages; preventing discrimination and exploitation; enjoying healthy and safe working places; and having a fair amount of control over working time.



SDG 8 is all about enabling the world to start a fresh new sustainable way of living, protected from the greed that is leading us to the verge of collapse, which we are facing today.



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support of
the European
Union

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#Timefor8 is a
campaign of
the International
Trade Union
Confederation