

**Trade union
strategy
meeting, New
York, 5-6
November 2018**



**FRIEDRICH
EBERT** 
STIFTUNG
NEW YORK OFFICE





Luise Rürup, Executive Director, FES New York

Sandra Vermuyten, Head of Campaigns, PSI New York

Nerea Craviotto, Advocacy Officer, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC/Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN)

Antonia Wulff, Coordinator, Education International

Presentation of participants

10:00 – 10:30 | Opening Session

**10:30 – 11:45 |
Setting the
stage for trade
union action at
the United
Nations in
2019 – the
Road Ahead**

**UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD),
February**

Sandra Vermuyten

UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), March

Veronica Montufar, PSI (Skype) and Vicky Smallman,
Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)

**Financing for Sustainable Development Forum (FSDF),
April**

Nerea Craviotto, Sandra Vermuyten

**UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in ECOSOC,
July**

Nerea Craviotto, Antonia Wulff

**UN HLPF in UN General Assembly United Nations
General Assembly (UNGA), September**

Nerea Craviotto, Antonia Wulff

Others

Fragmented world – fragmented policy

Human rights and international labour standards are “soft” law and cannot be enforced

Trade rules are hard and enforceable – with ISDS and other systems to back it up

Tax regulation is national and international tax rules are not in line with 21st century, global supply chains, increasing role of multinationals

Growing competition between global institutions and multiplication of players – G7, OECD, WTO, EU, WB, IMF, IFC, Regional investment banks, foundations

Corporate take-over of the global institutions – making it matter

Neo-liberalism on a crash course

5

Representation of the trade union movement at the United Nations and ECOSOC

According to the UN Charter, the participation of NGOs in the UN is limited to ECOSOC, which is the governing body that also establishes procedures of accreditation and suspension for NGOs.

Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council provides NGOs with access not only to ECOSOC, but also to its many subsidiary bodies, the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, ad-hoc processes on small arms, and special events organized by the President of the General Assembly.

Several global and national trade union organizations have Consultative Status with the United Nations, including ITUC, PSI, EI, CLC, CGIL and others.





Throughout 2018, we have prepared for a series of important thematic discussions/negotiations in 2019 – the UN Committee on Social Development will address wages and inequality, the United Nations Committee on the Status of Women will address access to public services and social protection, and the HLPF will focus on Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality, including Decent Work, and the importance of strong institutions and peace. At the same time, Global Compact on Migration and Refugees has been negotiated, global tax policy is on top of the agenda of Financing for Development and other platforms, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN WATER, UN HABITAT.

2019 is also the Centenary of the ILO, with numerous events during the General Assembly of in September 2019 that present the trade union movement with a major political opportunity to put labour issues on the table.

Challenging WB and IMF policies requires a new approach – also based on global resistance movements, as well as evidence-based research

CIVIL SOCIETY



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



PSI's and the trade union movement's broad objectives going into this process, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for all and Universal Social Protection, Human Right to Water and Sanitation, Universal Free Quality Education, Health care for all, Gender Equality and reducing Income Inequality, are by and large reflected across the declaration and in the SDGs and Targets.

We welcome in particular the target on social protection (1.3); to ensure quality education (SDG 4) and all of the corresponding targets; to achieve gender equality (SDG 5) and in particular targets to unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies (5.4) and women's leadership (5.5); to promote decent work for all (SDG 8) and all of the corresponding targets; to reduce inequality (SDG 10), with particular emphasis on the target focused on fiscal, wage and social protection policies (10.4); and to ensure access to justice and rule of law (SDG 16) in particular the target to protect fundamental freedoms (16.10).

Financing development?

PSI remains very critical when it comes to the SDGs supporting framework, which is the means to implement and effectively monitor them. Throughout the SDG and FFD3 negotiations, PSI has held the opinion that this agenda could end up being a vehicle for privatization and maintaining the status quo. Unconditional criteria are needed to ensure that private sector intervention is in line with the public interest, especially where public resources are used to support the private sector.

Further, it is the first time that UN policy has officially promoted public-private partnerships (PPPs) in a desperate dash for funding... and a neo-liberal discourse.

In addition, it is the WB and IMF that define financial architecture and are a driving force behind de-regulation and promoting PPPs.

**MISSION:
IMPOSSIBLE**

Development without public services



www.world-psi.org



An Alternative?

The 2030 Agenda does provide a strong alternative narrative to neo-liberal policies that drive a race to the bottom and exploitative trade agreements that favour multinationals over the public interest. It is up to the trade union movement and progressive organizations around the world to keep the pressure on governments to fulfil their commitments in terms of implementing policies to achieve economic, social and ecological sustainability.

And to change the rules wherever possible. To oppose signing trade agreements that do not benefit working people, to stand up against privatization, to build strong alliances and a counter-narrative.

Actively opposing the corporate take-over of UN institutions and attacks on the human rights agenda are central to this work. PSI will continue its actions in coalition with other trade unions and civil society organizations, calling for a people-centered, human-rights based approach that can really deliver a transformative agenda within the UN system. PSI's campaigns for the human right to water and to health are strongly linked to the 2030 Agenda, representation in high level UN Panels and a strong voice for public service delivery.

A background illustration of a diverse group of children of various ethnicities and ages, some wearing backpacks, standing in a line. The text is overlaid on this illustration.

UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD), 11- 22 February

Social pillar of sustainable development

No Major Group system

NGO Committee coordinates CSO input

People with Disabilities, Youth and Women

Hardly any participation of trade union
movement

No focus on labour/employment issues

Last year, PSI participated for the first
time and organized a side event

2019 Session: Wages and inequality

Resolution on Inequality – to feed into
HLPF

Privatization / PPPs

UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 11-22 March



Priority theme: Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development

Expert Group Meeting: Social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality

ITUC - EI - PSI, joint statement and actions

Close cooperation with Women's rights Caucus

More than 100 Trade Union women participate every year

Establishment of Trade Union Advisory Group



Financing for Sustainable Development Forum (FSDF), 15- 18 April

Global Financial
architecture

Trade / Tax / Debt /
Private Finance /
Systemic Issues

Strong cooperation with
CSO FFD Group

Yearly forum that tracks
implementation on AAAA

UNCTAD, IMF, WB, UN and
others

Emerging issues? Debt,
climate change, PPPs,
Financialization

UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in ECOSOC, 9-18 July

Major Groups

ITUC, EI, PSI

Thematic Discussion

Voluntary National Reviews

No alternative forum

Financing for Development

HLPF 2019 will address the theme, 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'. It will conduct an in-depth review of SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), in addition to SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals) which is reviewed each year.

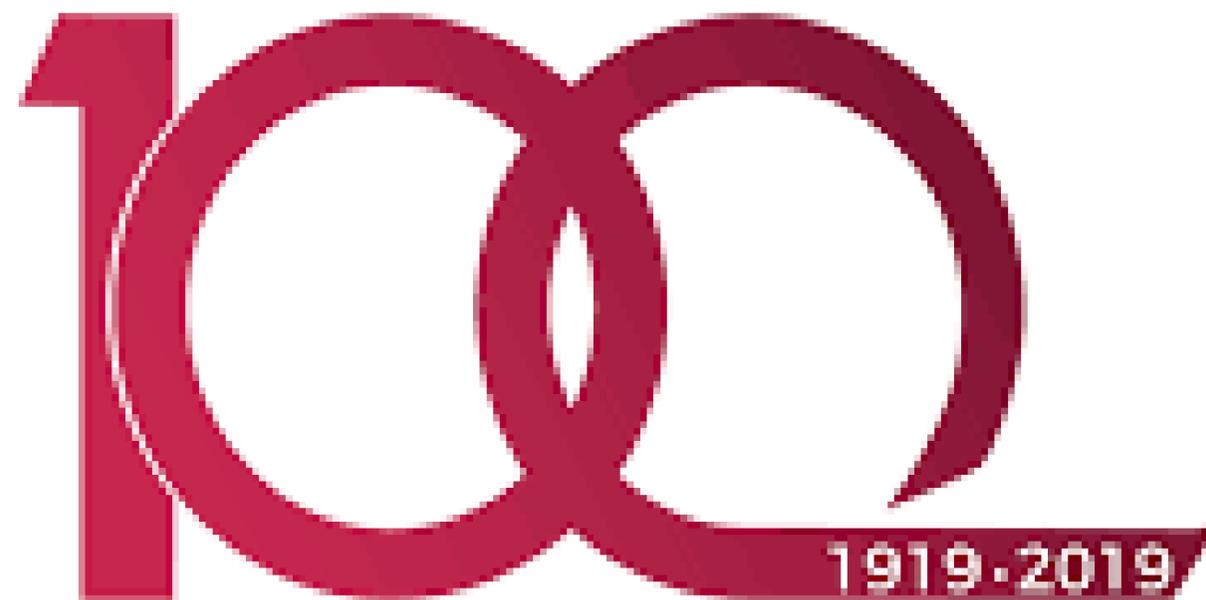


Moderated by Nerea Craviotto

Leo Baunach Research Officer, ITUC Washington DC

Discussion

12:00 – 13:00 | Labour issues at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund: Recent developments



S O C I A L J U S T I C E
D E C E N T W O R K

Moderated by Vicky
Smallman, CLC

Vinicius Pinheiro,
Special UN
Representative to the
UN and Director
International Labour
Organization (ILO)
New York Office for
the UN

**14:30 – 15:30 | ILO's Centenary
and the Future of Work**



**15:30 – 16:45 | Reflecting on
trade union action at the
United Nations, SDGs and
other processes**

Moderated by Antonia Wulff

Jolanda van Gool, Executive
Board Member, Network Roze FNV,
Netherlands

Group discussion

17:00 – 18:00 | Regional UN processes, making the link with affiliates, and on-going campaigns

Moderated by Sandra Massiah,
PSI Sub-Regional Secretary
Caribbean

Presentation by Najwa Hanna,
PSI Sub-Regional Secretary,
MENA region

Group discussion



**09:30 – 10:30 | Building coalitions
with other global trade union
campaigns and networks**

Moderated by Sean Sweeney,
Director, International Program
for Labour, Climate and
Environment Trade Unions of
Energy Democracy (TUED)

**Presentation by Moradeke Abiodun-
Badru,** Gender Officer and
Migration Coordinator Nigerian
National Union of Midwives and
Nurses (NNUMN)

Group Discussion



**10:45 – 13:00 |
The way forward
– How can we
strengthen trade
union action at
the UN and
beyond?**

Moderated by Gemma Adaba, UN
Representative Global Compact for
Migration, Council of Global Unions
(CGU) and Solidarity Center

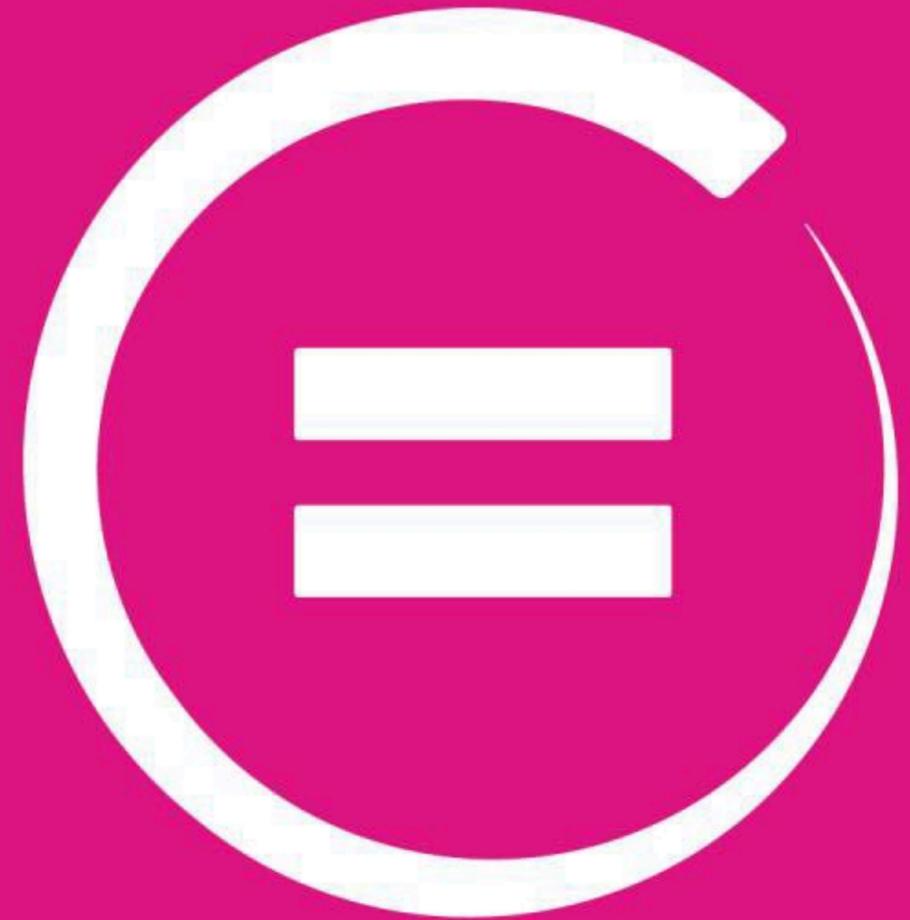
Presentation by Kate Lappin, PSI
Regional Secretary, Asia Pacific
Region (Skype)

Group Work

13:00 – 14:30 | Lunch

Discussion with Ignacio Saiz,
Executive Director, Center for
Economic and Social Rights,
Collaboration between the human
rights and trade union movements
on issues of economic
inequality.

**10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES**





**14:30 – 15:30 | Meeting CSO
representatives**

**Moderated by Florian
Lascroux**, Coordinator
Solidarity and
Development Education
International (EI)

Jeffrey Huffines UN
Representative CIVICUS

Daniel Perell, UN
Representative at
Bahai International
Community (BIC)

Jordan Chiara,
Stakeholder Group of
Persons with
Disabilities



15:45 – 17:00 | Meeting representatives of UN Agencies and Divisions

Moderated by Winnie Lago, Communication Officer Union of Kenya Civil Servants (UKCS)

Johannes P. Lang, Advanced and Knowledge Management Specialist, and **Vivek Rai**, Gender and Humanitarian Action Analyst, UN WOMEN, CSW 63 and preparations for the Beijing+25 process

Peter Chowla, Economic Affairs Officer, UN Financing for Sustainable Development Office

Makiko Tagashira Social Affairs Officer, Social Policy Analysis Section, Global Dialogue for Social Development Branch, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA and **Amine Lamrabet** Public Information Officer, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

Chantal Line Carpentier, Director NYC Office, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

#TAX4DEV



**17:00 – 18:00 | Wrap-up
session**

Moderated by Sandra Vermuyten

**Wrap-up: Gloria Mills, National Secretary
UNISON**

Closing remarks: Luise Rürup