



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Purpose of brief:

- To inform EB-148 of activities on SDGs/FfD since EB-147, 2015; and
- To inform EB-148 of proposed action on SDGs/FfD for 2016;

Relates to:

- ✓ PSI PoA, chapter 10: Playing our part in achieving sustainable development;
- ✓ Brief to EB-147.

Background: One of the main outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference was the agreement by UN member states to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will build upon the Millennium Development Goals and converge with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which also includes Financing for Development (FfD) and Climate Change. The SDGs were adopted in New York on 25-27 September 2015 at a special session of the UN General Assembly, while indicators continue to be negotiated throughout 2016.

Discussion:

SDGs: In addition to actions already reported on, PSI participated in inter-governmental negotiations in May and June 2015 and organised a series of successful official side events at the United Nations on 18 March, 23 April and 20 May 2015, with wide participation of CSOs, but also key negotiators from the EU, G77 and representatives of the Co-Chairs of the negotiation, UN agencies and others, calling for the exclusion of essential public services from the promotion of PPPs. During the July negotiations the final draft was finalised to be adopted during the UN General Assembly on 24 September 2015. PSI participated in a series of events during the 2030 Summit in September 2015. In November 2015, regional training workshops were organised by UNDESA for Latin-America and the Caribbean and the African Region, for which PSI affiliate members were proposed and selected.

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. PSI welcomes 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 related 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). 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 privatisation 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.

Financing for Development: The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) was adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13-16 July 2015. PSI has participated in a joint SDG/FfD civil society dialogue with governments on debt and reform of the

financial structure in April 2015, as well as contributed comments to the draft FfD3 outcome document throughout the six-months negotiation period leading up to the conference. More than 600 civil society organisations and networks from around the world have been engaged in the process leading up to and including the FfD3. In advance of the United Nations Summit on Financing for Development, PSI co-launched a petition that 150 organisations have signed to exclude water and sanitation, healthcare and education from discussions regarding private financing, and private sector financing within the context of financing for development. <http://www.world-psi.org/en/post-2015-development-agenda-statement>

A PSI delegation led by Rosa Pavanelli participated in numerous side events and round tables at the FfD3 conference including the CSO Forum held on 11-12 July prior to the FfD3. The two-day forum produced a joint statement calling for an intergovernmental tax body within the UN system and raising serious concerns about the unconditional support for public-private partnerships (PPPs). PSI also took part in the side event of ICRICT and organised a side event on PPPs – Mission impossible: Development without Public Services - as well as a side event on PPPs in coalition with civil society partners, and another one on the Tax Justice Coalition.

PSI reaction to the outcome document: <http://www.world-psi.org/en/reaction-agreed-addis-ababa-action-agenda-financing-development-psi>.

More on PSI's activities during FfD3: <http://www.world-psi.org/en/financing-development-0>

Budget implications: as per proposed 2016 budget.

Next steps: PSI will continue its actions in coalition with other trade union and civil society organisations, calling for a people-centered, human rights-based approach that can really deliver a transformative agenda within the UN system. UNDESA Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), together with UNDG, UNITAR and selected UN country teams, announced they will provide training in up to nine countries (Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Honduras, Jordan, Togo, Uganda and Vietnam) over the next months on the transition to the 2030 Agenda as part of a project *“Strengthening the Capacity of Select Developing Countries to Mainstream Sustainable Development into National Development Strategies”*. These activities have already started in Jordan and Togo, where PSI affiliates have been invited to take part in this exercise. Further workshops are already planned in Morocco and Belize in April 2016.

In 2016, PSI must ensure that at the national level the review process is genuinely participatory and integrates instruments to hold business accountable at all levels, including through adherence to international labour and environmental standards. PSI will participate in the ECOSOC FfD Forum (18-20 April), UN PGA's High-level Thematic Debate on Achieving the SDGs (21 April), as well as the ECOSOC High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (11-15 July 2016) and the ECOSOC High-level segment *“Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results”* (18-22 July 2016). In 2016, PSI will also prepare a toolkit for affiliates to engage with their governments on the 2030 Agenda.

It is recommended that EB-148:

1. **ENDORSE** the actions taken by PSI;
2. **SUPPORT** the budget proposed.

YES / NO
YES / NO

Related documents:

- PSI page on 2030 Agenda: <http://www.world-psi.org/en/issue/post-2015-development-agenda>
- UN page on 2030 Agenda: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>
- Read the outcome document of FfD3: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.227/L.1

- Trade union reaction to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on Financing for Development: http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/trade_unions_reaction_to_ffd3_action_agenda_final.pdf
- CSO response to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on Financing for Development: <https://csoforffd.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/cso-response-to-ffd-addis-ababa-action-agenda-16-july-2015.pdf>
- Stop the Bleeding, Campaign to End Illicit Financial Flows from Africa – please [sign the petition](#)
- Lima Declaration on Tax Justice and Human Rights – organizations - [please sign on](#)