

SDG Summit - September 25, 2019

Leaders Dialogue 5: Partnerships

**Sharan Burrow – General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation
Workers and Trade Unions Major Group**

The global economic model has failed working people and their families. The world is three times richer than twenty years ago yet 70% of people are denied universal social protection, 84% of people tell us the minimum wage is not enough to live on, 60% of families are living on the edge of despair and too many people work in dehumanizing exploitation in our global supply chains where 94% of the workforce is a hidden workforce for the companies who rely on them for profit.

60% of the world's people are working in informal work with no minimum wage, no rights, no rule of law and without social protection - the global labour force is in crisis! The social contract has broken down.

This is inequality by design and it's time for Goal 8 to be realised.

The world's people need a NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT which has the legal backing of a UN Treaty on Business and Human Rights with mandated due diligence, the implementation of the ILO Centenary Declaration where every worker has the guarantee of a 'Labour Protection Floor' ; a floor of rights, minimum living wages, safety and health and maximum hours of work; a 'Social Protection Floor'; and a transformative agenda for women and young people along with just transition measures for the global shifts of climate action, technology and the displacement of people.

Human and Labour Rights are the core of a civilized, peaceful and prosperous world yet 107 countries deny freedom of association (FOA) and 80% deny some or all workers collective bargaining.

FOA sits at the heart of democratic freedom and when corporate greed or authoritarian governments close democratic space denying rights to organise and bargain collectively for shared prosperity - allowing oppression and exploitation it fuels the age of anger and despair we are living in.

SDG 8 recognizes that 'inclusive' growth starts with compliance with labour rights. This includes fighting discrimination and inequality that create disadvantage based on disability, age, gender, youth and denial of health and education.

It's time for goal 8 - time for all 17 goals and the promise of a zero carbon zero poverty world.

This is the "Partnership" for Sustainable Development that we call for.