

HLPF 2021- THEMATIC SESSIONS

ERIC MANZI'S INTERVENTION

- **Session:** “ SDGs in focus: How do we get on track to end poverty and hunger, and transform towards inclusive and sustainable economies? (SDGs 1, 2, 8, 17 and interlinkages with other SDGs)
- **Date and time:** Wednesday, 7 July 2021, 9:00 AM- 12:15 PM NY time

Speaking points for Eric Manzi, Deputy Secretary General, Organization: African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa) :

Thank you Chair,

- Given the dramatic impact of the pandemic, the SDGs are **more relevant today than ever** to build a **human-centred recovery**.
- **SDG 8 is particularly key**. Through its targets on workers protection, decent work, social protection, inclusive growth, and environmental preservation, SDG 8 has a strong **leverage effect** on other goals.
- For example employment levels, wages and social protection coverage are key to fight poverty and hunger, that we also discuss today. SDG 8 also aims at decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, thus fighting climate change.
- That is why we call for an **SDG 8 driven recovery and resilience**:
 - 1) It means first of all **INVESTMENTS IN CLIMATE-FRIENDLY JOBS**, with Just Transition measures negotiated with social partners.
 - 2) Secondly, scaling up **SOCIAL PROTECTION** to reach universal coverage, also by establishing a Social Protection Fund for the least wealthy countries.
 - 3) Thirdly, **EQUALITY**, by promoting employment opportunities for women and youth, investments in care, equal pay for work of equal value, minimum living wages, and eliminating gender-based violence in the world of work.
 - 4) Four, **FINANCING** these policies requires strengthened development cooperation, debt relief, progressive taxation, as well as ending tax evasion and illicit financial flows.
 - 5) Lastly, we need a new model of global **GOVERNANCE**: only an inclusive multilateral system - with social partners on board- will pave the way to global resilience. Right now, the moral imperative of global governance is to ensure universal access to COVID-19 vaccines.

We call on UN Member States to lead the way in making the **NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT** a reality. The international Trade Union movement will keep engaging with you to live up to the challenge.

Thank you,