



IVORY COAST



A TRADE UNION FOCUS ON THE SDGs

#HLPF2019



Photo: UTT

ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Planning and Development are the main bodies in charge of implementing Agenda 2030 in the Ivory Coast. The government is working on some of the SDGs prioritised by trade unions (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 16) and has specifically integrated SDG targets into its education and healthcare policies. SDGs 10 (reducing inequalities within and between countries) and 13 (combatting climate change) are not currently prioritised due to the overall scope of the challenges faced by the Ivory Coast.

Trade unions are informed about the implementation of Agenda 2030 by government representatives through their participation in colloquia of reflections on the SDG process. However, these sessions are intended to be informative rather

than consultative in nature, as the government reserves a primary responsibility for the process for itself. Nevertheless, some of the contributions made by trade unions that are in line with Agenda 2030 goals have been taken on board by the government.

While social dialogue bodies such as the National Commission for Social Dialogue and the Youth Employment Agency exist in the Ivory Coast, their discussions do not touch upon Agenda 2030 nor the implementation of the SDGs.

Trade unions report that the budgetary allocation towards the implementation of the SDGs by the government of Ivory Coast is not sufficient.

TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

CONSULTATION



information sessions but no consultation

SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There are individual contributions from social partners to the national government



IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

Given its placement as one of the countries with the lowest human development index in the world (HDI of 0.492 in 2017, 170th place), enormous challenges remain for the Ivory Coast to reach the SDG objectives.

28.2 per cent of the Ivorian population was living under the international poverty threshold in 2015. In addition, in 2018, 25.5 per cent of the employed population was under this threshold, indicating that **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)** was far from being reached. While poverty in rural areas is diminishing (from 62.5 per cent in 2008 to 56.8 per cent in 2015), it has increased in urban settings (from 29.5 per cent in 2008 to 35.9 per cent in 2015), where it primarily affects men. In addition, levels of social protection coverage are very low, with only 5 per cent of the population covered by some form of social security, suggesting that the achievement of **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** is still far off. 2018 budgetary allocations on essential services such as social protection, health and education accounted for 8.8 per cent of the country's GDP.

Some progress has been made on **target 5.5 (ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life)**, as in 2015, there were 94 girls per 100 boys in primary schools, an improvement from 88 per 100 in 2008. In secondary schools, the proportion was 80 girls per 100 boys in the first cycle and 68 girls per 100 boys in the second cycle in 2015. However, women's representation in the Ivorian parliament remains very low, at 9.8 per cent, far from the 30 per cent objective.

There are serious concerns about Ivory Coast being able to meet the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. **Target 8.3 (support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalisation and growth of MSMEs)**

is particularly worrying, as nearly all employment in the country (93.6 per cent) is informal. In addition, between 70 to 90 per cent of workers are classified as vulnerable. Achieving **target 8.5 (full and productive employment and decent work for all)** is still far off with an underemployment rate of 11.4 per cent in 2016, which disproportionately affects those living in rural areas (15.9 per cent), women (19.3 per cent) and youth (17 per cent). NEET indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 36 per cent in 2016 and were particularly high for young women (46.5 per cent). Indicators for **target 8.7 (eradicate forced labour and the worst forms of child labour)** show that 29.9 per cent of children were engaged in child labour in 2011, with girls more likely to be affected (30.6 per cent) than boys (26.9 per cent). Performance on **target 8.8 (protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers)** is worrying, as the number of fatal workplace accidents has been steadily increasing between 2014 and 2016. In 2016, seven violations of labour laws were recorded, including of the right to establish and join trade unions, the right to strike and to collective bargaining.

Wide disparities in wealth distribution are a challenge to reaching **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as in 2015, the share of the top 10 per cent of income earners in the Ivory Coast accounted for 31.9 per cent of overall GDP, while the bottom 20 per cent of income earners accounted for 5.7 per cent of GDP.

The Ivorian government is addressing **target 13.2 (integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning)** through its 2012 National Programme for Combatting Climate Change and its National Strategy for 2015-2020, which was approved in 2014 and foresees addressing climate change through sustainable socio-economic development that contributes to improving people's living conditions and their resilience to the effects of climate change, but trade unions have not been included in dialogue around these processes.

WHERE TO NEXT?

TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The Union Générale des Travailleurs de Côte d'Ivoire calls on the government of the Ivory Coast to create joint monitoring committees composed of government representatives and social partners in order to better involve trade unions in the SDG implementation and monitoring process.



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of TUDCN/ITUC and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.