

# SPAIN



## TRADE UNION TAKE ON SDG IMPLEMENTATION

#HLPF2018



### ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

This document refers to the actions of the previous Spanish government (prior to June 2018) and not to those of the current government.

The Spanish government has committed to implementing all the SDGs within its 2017-2018 work plan on SDG implementation. The work plan is, at the beginning of 2018, still in the process of being drafted. It is to be implemented by the High-Level Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Agenda 2030, which is made up of representatives from several ministries.

No additional resources have been allocated to the implementation of activities related to the 2030 Agenda and any decisions agreed upon by the High-Level

Working Group must be implemented using the existing resources of each ministry. The only known alignment of a ministerial work plan with the SDGs process is the Master Plan on Spanish Cooperation for 2018-2021 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; other ministries have so far not integrated 2030 Agenda provisions to their work.

The High-Level Working Group for Agenda 2030 foresees consultations with Spanish regions and possibly with civil society; however, no permanent consultation structure has been established. Some trade union suggestions regarding prioritising Goal 8 have been taken on board in the drafting of the Master Plan on Spanish Cooperation.

#### TRANSPARENCY



Irregular access to limited information

#### CONSULTATION



There is informal or ad hoc consultation

#### SOCIAL DIALOGUE



There is no involvement of social partners by the national government on an SDG national plan definition and implementation



# IS THE (DECENT) WORK BEING DONE?

While the Spanish government has committed to implementing all of the SDGs, the composition of the High-Level Working Group for Agenda 2030, where the Ministries for Employment, Education, Health, Social Services and Equality are represented at a lower rank, suggests that the focus is on Spain's external rather than domestic policies.

With regard to **target 1.1 (eradicate extreme poverty for all people)**, 2014 data indicates that 0.8% of the Spanish population is living in extreme poverty, placing Spain in fourth place among high income countries. Meanwhile, 13.1% of workers were at risk of poverty in 2016.

Indicators on **target 1.3 (implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures)** show that while 80.9% of the population is covered by some form of social protection, there were serious shortcomings in coverage for those qualifying for unemployment assistance (46.9%) as well as the most vulnerable dependents of social assistance (45%). Spending on healthcare as a percentage of GDP has further been dropping, with the 2014 expenditure standing at only 5.7%.

There is a need for improvement to achieve progress on **target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work)**, where indicators continue to demonstrate a significant discrepancy between daily time spent on unpaid work by women (4h20) and men (2h35). In 2016, **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)**, was far from being reached, as women represented only 30.3% of the individuals occupying the highest posts in government and large enterprises.

There are multiple concerns about Spain meeting the targets set by **SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all)**. Regarding **target 8.3 (promote policies that support productive activities, decent job creation)**, unofficial data suggests that the share of the informal economy constitutes up to 17.2% of GDP. In addition, 12.62% of the population receives the minimum wage (37% of the median wage), with a large gender disparity of 18.19% of women on minimum wage versus 7.36% of men. Finally, 12% of the working population are classified as precarious workers.

Continuing the trend, **target 8.5 (achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value)** fails to be met as the average salary of women is only 77% of that of men, due to women being more represented in employment which is underpaid, part-time or temporary.

Similarly, in the fourth quarter of 2017, unemployment (at an overall 16.6%) affected more women (18.4%) than men (15%); however, it is even worse among young people (37.5%) and people of non-Spanish origin (23.6%). Indicators for **target 8.6 (reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training)** stood at 14.6% for youth aged 15-24 in 2016.

Progress remains to be made for Spain to reach **target 10.4 (adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality)**, as the share of the top 10% of income earners accounts for 26% of overall GDP, while the bottom 20% of income earners account for only 5.7% of GDP. The labour share of GDP (wages and social protection transfers) remains low, at 54.9%.

## WHERE TO NEXT?

### TRADE UNION RECIPE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Spanish trade unions call on their government to ensure the effective implementation of its 2017-2018 work plan on SDG implementation by:

- Streamlining the work and improving coordination between different ministries and at different levels of national, territorial and local administration.
- Instituting consultations with civil society, including social partners, allowing them to be informed on the status of implementation of the SDGs and provide input on how to improve performance on individual targets; in this context it is crucial that the government establish and share the indicators applied to measure progress on individual targets.
- Allocating additional and adequate resources to the implementation of the SDGs by individual departments.



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