



International Organisation of Employers  
Organisation Internationale des Employeurs  
Organización Internacional de Empleadores  
*The Global Voice of Business*

# OVERVIEW

IOE OVERVIEW ON IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



THE ROLE OF BUSINESS





## The 2030 Agenda: why is this important for business?

IN DECEMBER 2015, THE WORLD SET AN AMBITIOUS AGENDA FOR 2030 THROUGH 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) TO ADDRESS AND TACKLE THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CHALLENGES: PUT AN END TO GLOBAL POVERTY, PROTECT OUR PLANET IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY, AND ENSURE A LIFE OF DIGNITY FOR ALL.

Together with traditional development issues, governance, peace, and stability, the 2030 Agenda recognises economic growth and productive employment, entrepreneurship, sustainable industrialisation, innovation, sustainable consumption and production patterns, among others. In achieving these goals, however, significant challenges remain. These challenges are opportunities to open new markets and to create new business prospects.

The recognition of economic growth and elements of an enabling business environment as goals is a big step forward as development needs to be looked at in an integrated and holistic manner. Only successful and sustainable businesses can contribute to the development and prosperity of nations and the global community.



## Government responsibility and business involvement

ALONGSIDE OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, BUSINESS HAS A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PROCESS OF FULFILLING THESE AMBITIONS.

While, government responsibility is a prerequisite, the achievement of all the goals will not be possible without the participation of the private sector. The IOE's aim is to support its members in implementing the SDGs at the national level.

Representative employers' organisations and business associations should actively engage with relevant line Ministries to inform policy discussions on implementing the 2030 Agenda, and contribute to the national sustainable development strategies that will be planned

accordingly. In addition, business should also participate along with governments and other actors in the process of creating accountability and monitoring mechanisms.

Addressing the complex SDG agenda will require action by all countries. Country circumstances should be taken into account when implementing the SDGs. Pragmatism and flexibility will be important. The next main step is to take a realistic and practical approach to enhance rather than hinder the implementation of the Agenda.

## IOE calls on members to identify current efforts and take further action towards SDGs

SEVERAL EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY UNDERTAKEN SPECIFIC ACTIONS INCLUDING ADVOCACY WITH REGARD TO THE 2030 AGENDA. SOME OF THEM, WHICH MIGHT NOT BE YET FEATURED AS SUCH, SHOULD BE LABELLED AS CONTRIBUTING TO THE 2030 AGENDA.

The SDG Compass provides guidance for companies on how they can align their strategies as well as measure and manage their contribution to reaching the SDGs. More information can be found at <http://sdgcompass.org/>

These actions range from voluntary commitments to help implement the Agenda to specific initiatives towards achieving the SDGs.

Efforts to pool together all of the work that is already going on should also be included. This should be better known and promoted to showcase employer and business contributions to sustainable development, and hence to inspire and broaden the business community's involvement. Annexes I and II provide further information on current business efforts to reach the SDGs.

## Goal 8, the ILO's focus in achieving the SDGs...

ALL THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) CONNECT IN SOME WAY TO THE ILO'S MANDATE AND ITS DECENT WORK AGENDA.

The role of the private sector is distinct in Goal 8, which recognises the priority of sustainable economic growth and links employment and decent work to it, a balance business has been long arguing for. Specific targets have

been defined for each of the SDGs. Several targets under Goal 8 (see Annex III) promote the enabling environment for business needed for sustainable and successful enterprises that create jobs.

## ... But many dimensions of ILO's work are found in other goals and targets

IOE SUGGESTS EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS REFRAIN FROM CONSIDERING GOAL 8 IN ISOLATION BUT RATHER AS A PART OF A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ACHIEVING THE SDGS.

Specific references to ILO areas of competence are also found in several targets under other Goals, implying that ILO constituents are expected to play a significant role in achieving them. ILO constituents will be required to engage in the normative aspects of sustainable development strategies and to participate in related policies or programmes at the national level.

The importance of social protection, including national floors, is a target (1.3) for action under the poverty goal and is mentioned together with wage and fiscal policies as an important means of reducing inequality (10.4). The targets on eradication of extreme poverty (1.1) and reduction of poverty (1.2) will also require ILO follow up.

Other targets relate to rural workers (2.3), workers in the health and education sectors

(3c and 4c), unpaid care and domestic work (5.4), ending discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities (10.3), and migrant workers (10.7).

Even more targets are relevant for business: Technical and vocational skills are the topic of three targets under the education goal (4.3, 4.4, 4.5). Promotion of industrial employment (9.2), integration of small and medium enterprises into value chains (9.3), resilience to climate-related hazards and economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (13.1), and rule of law (16.3).

Goal 17 covers means of implementation and global partnerships. It is intended to facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of all the goals and targets, bringing together governments, civil society, the private sector, the UN system and mobilising all available resources.

## Review of progress of all SDGs at the global level

THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF), UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEWING PROGRESS ON ACHIEVING THE SDGS IN FOUR-YEAR CYCLES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GOAL 17 (CONCERNING "PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS") WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED ANNUALLY.

The themes and sets of goals for the coming years are:

- **2016 THEME:** "Leaving no one behind"  
Review of initial progress on implementation of the 17 SDGs
- **2017 THEME:** "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world"  
Set of focus goals: 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17

- **2018 THEME:** "Transforming toward sustainable and resilient societies"  
Set of focus goals: 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17
- **2019 THEME:** "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality"  
Set of focus goals: 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17

Countries that volunteer to do so will present national reviews of their efforts to achieve the SDGs. Other major stakeholders are also encouraged to report on their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## Measuring progress

ALL GOALS AND TARGETS ARE UNDERPINNED BY A SET OF INDICATORS.

The global indicator framework is designed to measure progress in reaching sustainable development targets. The ILO has supported this effort by coordinating the development of indicators for Goal 8, along with other experts, for targets connected to the Decent Work Agenda (see the forthcoming IOE Fact Sheet on SDGs indicators).

Further details about the monitoring and follow-

up mechanism are to be defined by the first HLPF in July 2016. The implications for national, regional and global follow-up and review are gradually taking shape.

Access to the set of indicators and sufficient capacity to gather data and report progress are required for tracking the extent to which the Goals are being met. This will be a significant challenge for developing countries in particular.

## What is expected from the ILO in supporting national implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

THE REAL WORK STARTS NOW AND MAKING THE GOALS A REALITY WILL DEPEND VERY MUCH ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE AND ON IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY.

Countries are likely to start identifying where they currently stand in relation to the SDGs. They may decide to undertake a broad strategic review of their policy framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development. They could also move directly to programme development to address specific policy priorities such as youth employment or social protection floors.

Some countries are already putting in place national mechanisms to plan and coordinate government-wide efforts to support the implementation of the SDGs. Others are still reflecting on how best to adapt and adopt global goals under the national framework.

The ILO will have to reinforce the capacity of the social partners to fully participate in shaping and implementing national strategies for sustainable development.

It will be important for the social partners to assert themselves in the process. In that respect, the ILO review of its capacity-building work will be fundamental, with the aim of supporting Employers' organisations' engagement in the 2030 Agenda.

The ILO will need to strengthen its capacity to provide timely evidence-based policy advice and technical support. The overall plan for country support should be backed by the ILO's development cooperation strategy and the mobilisation of extra-budgetary resources.

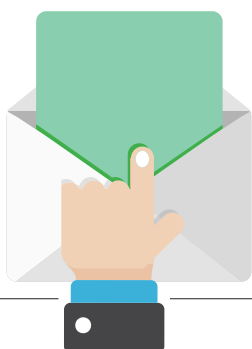
The ILO should also strengthen its capacity to support SDG monitoring, to equip countries for the collection and dissemination of indicators and data, and to support constituents in monitoring and reporting on selected SDGs and targets, particularly developing countries.

## How should the IOE support Employers' Organisations in this context?

THE IOE INFLUENCES DISCUSSIONS IN THE ILO TO SUPPORT ITS CONSTITUENTS, INCLUDING EMPLOYERS, IN SEVERAL WAYS:

- Educate further on the 2030 Agenda and its implications at the global and national level;
- Ensure that the policy responses and services to the constituents reflect the integrated and balanced approach adopted by the SDGs, particularly the recognition of the role of business;
- Develop tools and implement capacity-building programmes to enable constituents to participate in the national dialogue process, by equipping them to make a contribution on behalf of their members;
- Revitalise social dialogue and develop initiatives to link it to national policy dialogues;
- Mobilise resources to support constituents throughout the process.

All in all, the IOE sees the Agenda 2030 implementation as an opportunity to demonstrate leadership of the private sector where appropriate on key issues on the national development agenda. It is also an opportunity to showcase how Employers' Organisations are contributing to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to demonstrate the private sector's ability to deliver solutions, take initiatives and engage in partnerships to scale up progress given its creativity, capacity for innovation and job creation, technical and management skills and financial resources.



The IOE seizes this opportunity to issue a call for **company examples** and **case studies** on how business is contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and **for information on your involvement** in any national strategies for sustainable development.

For more information, please visit the [IOE website](#) pages on Sustainability and Climate Change or contact Mr Pierre Vincensini, IOE Adviser via email ([vincensini@ioe-emp.org](mailto:vincensini@ioe-emp.org))

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# ANNEX I

CASE STUDIES OF BUSINESS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SDGS (FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE "BUSINESS FOR 2030" PORTAL: [www.businessfor2030.org](http://www.businessfor2030.org))

## 7.1) By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services



SolarNow, a Netherlands-based social enterprise operating in Uganda, was launched in 2011 to answer the pressing demand for affordable high quality solar home systems among 4 million off-grid households and entrepreneurs. As of

September 2013, SolarNow is operating 35 shops in Uganda selling solar energy products with a credit facility. Renewable energy solar home systems are now being used by 20,000 people with the aim to reach 200,000 by 2016. SolarNow is providing solar panels that will cut down on energy costs as well as carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 5,000 tonnes per annum. It will also create additional income opportunities for households who can rent out electricity to the surrounding neighbourhood for various purposes.

## 8.2) Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour intensive sectors



The construction of a copper concentrator in Las Bambas, Peru, is opening up a variety of new opportunities to the local population. Las Bambas sits in a remote, mountainous region of

southern Peru where traditional livelihoods centre on subsistence farming. Through this project, Bechtel and partners have injected more than 78 million USD on local goods and services in 16 Peruvian towns. It delivered thousands of training hours to local entrepreneurs, helping

them meaningfully participate in, and benefit from, the construction phase of the project and beyond.

## 8.6) By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

### Gap Inc.

Gap Inc.'s job training and internship programme, This Way Ahead, provides low-income teens and young adults with the skills,

training, and experience to succeed at work. Since launching the programme in 2007, more than 2,000 teens and young adults have received job training through This Way Ahead, and it is now running in major cities in the U.S. as well as in the U.K. Participants are recruited through non-profit partners, and attend workshops led by store volunteers on topics such as decision-making, goal setting, presentations, and conflict resolution. Graduates of the programme can apply for paid internships in GAP stores, where they can apply their skills right away. GAP stores have hired many of the interns who have completed the programme, and this group has stayed on the job twice as long as their peers. 100 per cent of This Way Ahead graduates have reported gains in maturity, conflict resolution and leadership. At the same time, volunteers who have mentored participants have enhanced their own skills and become more motivated to advance their own careers.

## 12.6) Encourage companies, especially large and trans-national companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle



Novozymes has long been a leader in practicing integrated sustainability reporting,



including through the integration of scientific documentation of product sustainability impacts through Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). Novozymes has worked through the Copenhagen Household Care Sustainability Summit, which gathers the industry's top business and sustainability minds to share pragmatic ideas for achieving true, systematic sustainability.

### 16.3) Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all

Baker & McKenzie has been partnering with the UN Global Compact (UNGC) in the development



of the Business for the Rule of Law Framework that was adopted and launched

by the UNGC in June 2015. Thus far, over the past months, Baker & McKenzie has organised 8 workshops around the globe with local business, academics, and government officials to gather input as well as led a team of lawyers in drafting the Framework. Additionally, Baker & McKenzie will be participating in the UN Private Sector Forum and facilitating a Roundtable discussion on the Rule of Law and committing to take further action with key stakeholders to implement the Rule of Law Framework.

## ANNEX II

### RESOURCES TO ASSIST BUSINESS IN ALIGNING WITH THE SDGS

A proliferation of networks, platforms and tools have recently emerged, designed to facilitate business action and partnership, upscale action and support collaboration.

See the [SDG Business hub](#), with special reference to the SDG Compass (joint initiative of the UN Global Compact, the Global Reporting Initiative and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development). The SDG compass presents

five steps that assist companies in maximising their contribution to the SDGs: understanding the SDGs, defining priorities, setting goals, integrating sustainability into the core business and reporting and communicating information. It functions as a user guide that is intended to lead an organisation through a self-assessment process by asking evaluative questions and focusing on systems and processes it has in place.

# ANNEX III

## GOAL 8 TARGETS

8.1	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7% GDP growth per year in the least developed countries
8.2	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour- intensive sectors
8.3	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
8.4	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead
8.5	By 2030, 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
8.6	Reduce substantially the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
8.7	Take immediate action and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2050 end child labour in all its forms
8.8	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants and those in precarious employment
8.9	By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promoted local culture and products
8.10	Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

NB: Means of implementation for SDG 8 include: increasing Aid for Trade support to developing countries (8a) and implementing the ILO Global Jobs Pact and a global strategy for youth employment, by 2020 (8b).



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The IOE is the largest network of the private sector in the world.  
With more than 150 members, it is the global voice of business for  
labour and social policy matters at the international level.

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