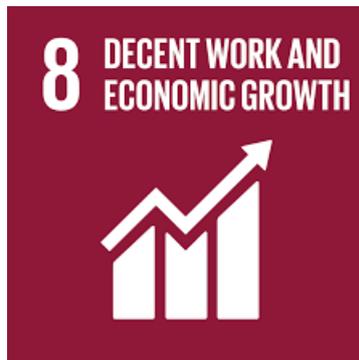




## Congress input to DCCAIE SDG Stakeholder Compendium



“Decent work sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men”.

### **What are you/your organisation/your sector doing to support achieving the SDGs?**

Congress works to raise awareness and to integrate the set of [17 Sustainable Development Goals](#), including [Goal 8](#) on Decent Work and Economic Growth into the work of Irish Trade Unions.

This has included:

A [conference](#) in November 2016 on implementation of Goal 8 and a [paper](#) entitled "The SDGs as a transformative development agenda for workers in the era of Global Supply Chains?";

Session at our 2017 Global Solidarity [Summer School](#)

Integration of the relevant goals into the agenda for our June 2018 Women's Conference;

Congress is a founding member of **Coalition 2030** an alliance of over 100 leading civil society organisations working in Ireland and across the developing world. The coalition was formed on the basis that Ireland is in a unique position to play a leadership role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Our President participated in the launch in March 2017 at which we stressed the importance of getting the foundations right and called for:

- 1) A National Action Plan with a strong commitment from every Government Department to cooperate in reporting to achieve the SDGs.
- 2) An inclusive SDG Monitoring Forum in which civil society, and those vulnerable groups – who stand to gain or lose most from Ireland's work on the Goals, are fully represented. We look forward to participating in the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the forum in June 2018.
- 3) Increased financing for Development to support delivery of the SDGs in Ireland and internationally – a demand that is currently outstanding.

We sent in a [submission](#) to Government on its draft implementation plan and attended the launch, stressing that Ireland has the potential to be the best performer on every single goal, showing that it's possible to combine economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

In relation to the Irish Government's report to the UN at the High Level Political Forum in July 2018, we participated in the composition of

Coalition 2030's shadow report and are also working on an SDG factsheet to summarise the trade union position on the implementation of the SDGs here.

We are participants internationally within the trade union movement's work on Agenda 2030, including liaison with the ITUC trade union development cooperation network and are also members of the ETUC ad hoc group on Agenda 2030 which

We have a page on our website that seeks to keep trade unions updated on SDG developments - <https://www.ictu.ie/globalsolidarity/agenda-2030/>

### **What are your/your organisations key observations related to Ireland's SDG implementation?**

Trade unions are concerned about the government's lack of progress on meeting some key SDG targets. The recently published "Sustainable Progress index<sup>i</sup>" on how Ireland is doing at meeting her commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals places Ireland's overall ranking in the Sustainable Progress Index at 11th out of 15 countries analysed (EU-15). The report highlights Ireland's particularly poor performance on low pay and we also believe there are a number of decent work deficits in Ireland including:

- According to Eurostat, 22% of workers in Ireland, 6 percentage points above the euro area average, fall into the category of being low paid. Congress has repeatedly contended that over time the Low Pay Commission should seek to narrow the percentage gap between the Living Wage and the National Minimum Wage by ensuring the minimum wage is growing faster in real terms than the living wage.

- The growth in precarious work practices across the island of Ireland illustrated by a 2018 Congress survey and confirmed in Eurofound's 6<sup>th</sup> European Working Conditions Survey. The Employment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2017 presents a real opportunity to deliver improved employment rights for some of the most vulnerable and exploited workers in Ireland;
- A persistent gender pay gap of 14%;
- The lack of any substantial implementation of a "Just transition" towards a carbon free future;
- People with disabilities are only half as likely to be in employment as others of working age
- Fundamentally, Workers in Ireland are still denied their fundamental right to bargain collectively with their employer and the right to be represented by their trade union

**What would you/your organisation suggest Ireland do to further enhance SDG implementation?**

Congress looks forward to actively participating in the stakeholder forum where we will bring forward suggestions to tackle decent work deficits outlined above and will also seek to discuss the indicators used to assess our performance. Currently, for Goal 8 they are general labour market indicators with little reference to decent work. (We understand that there is a lack of consensus/ clarity on how to measure labour rights and freedom of association in particular) The EU list of indicators doesn't even mention Freedom of Association or collective bargaining rights - or any rights measures for that matter.

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