

The centrality of decent work in achieving the SDGs: it empowers, ensures inclusiveness and fosters equality.

Organisers African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-AFRICA): *a pan-African trade union organisation with 16 million declared members and 101 affiliated trade union centres in 51 African countries.*

Partners Africa SDGs Centre, Union to Union, EATUC, SATUCC, ILO-ACTRAV Association.

Panellists/Speakers

Name	Gender		Region	Organisation
	Male	Female		
Hilma Mote			West Africa	Africa Labour Research and Education Institute
Tendai Makanza			Southern Africa	IndustriALL
Caroline Mugala			East Africa	East Africa Trade Union Confederation
Dr. Hod Anyigba			West Africa	Academician, Ghana
Dr. Belay Begashaw			East Africa	Africa Centre for SDGs

Description of the event: ITUC-Africa, with the support from EU has been working on the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs and by extension, the AU Agenda 2063. In this endeavour we have worked with UNECA, AU, Africa Centre for SDGs, CSOs and many more stakeholders. As a workers movement, the goals under review in 2019 sums up all the issues that trade unions work for. Central to all the goals, is goal 8 that espouses the decent work agenda. As unions, we believe that decent work is the driver of sustainable development. As the ILO (2016) exhorts, “More people in decent jobs means stronger and more inclusive economic growth. Improved growth means more resources to create decent jobs. Decent work puts money in the pockets of individuals and families that they can spend in the local economy. Promoting jobs and enterprise, guaranteeing rights at work, extending social protection and promoting social dialogue are the four pillars of the ILO Decent Work Agenda, with gender as a cross-cutting theme. These are crucial to advancing the entire sustainable development agenda. Decent work for all reduces inequality and increases resilience”. The side event will thus accord ITUC-Africa and its partners, an opportunity to share its experiences on how decent work can indeed be used as a tool to attain the SDGs.

Objective and contribution to discussions on the main theme: The objective of the side event is to share insights on how decent work is central to the attainment of the SDGs. The theme of our side event factors in the centrality of decent work in empowering people/workers and by extension ensuring inclusivity and equality. This theme is in consonance with the official theme for ARFSD 5: “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality.”

Methodology: The side event shall take approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. A key speaker shall deliver a presentation for 20 minutes; this shall be followed by a 20 minutes panel discussion involving 4 speakers – with each speaker having 5 minutes. The rest of the 50 minutes will be dedicated for the interaction between the panel and the participants/audience. A report for the activity will be submitted to the ARFSD and disseminated to participants and public using appropriate technologies.

Participants: All the major groups, government representatives, representatives from national and sub-regional African trade union organisations, CSOs, representatives of the Private Sector, UN agencies and other development institutions.

Languages: The meeting will be held in English and French with help of interpreters in both languages.