

Joint STATEMENT on Somalia VNR, read by a representative of the Workers & Trade Unions Major Group:

Somalia is facing many challenges for the implementation of the SDGs. Political instability and persistent terrorism are seriously putting sustainable development at stake, and additional efforts need to be made in the areas of peace, stability, and good governance, while moving away from the continued abuse and misuse of rule of law and security forces to curtail the rights to freedoms of association and expression including endangerment of journalists' safety.

The country suffers from incredibly high levels of poverty and informality, poverty wages and unsustainable unemployment. Minority clan members, women, and people with disability continue to face extreme marginalization in terms of access to health, education, work opportunities or emergency relief. The social protection system is very precarious and needs to be strengthened. Gender equality is an endemic challenge and child labour is vastly extended.

Although the government has advanced in engaging and consulting with CSOs, commitments to leave no one behind are still missing, and measures to address inequalities, remove discrimination and protect vulnerable populations such as internally displaced persons living in camps, minority groups, women, youth, and elderly persons need to be put in place.

The government must take steps to implement a one person one vote electoral system.

- How will the Government of Somalia work to strengthen peacebuilding, justice, and state-building efforts to nurture a conducive environment for the implementation of national policies aligned with the SDGs, specially SDG16?
- How can the government strengthen meaningful consultations with workers, trade unions, and other civil society organisations to generate and implement pro-poor policies that can improve the well-being of Somalis including the full realisation of SDG8?
- How will the government respond to the challenges around disaggregated data to allow for more targeted responses to poverty and inequalities?