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**TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION NETWORK**

**GENERAL MEETING**

Sao Paulo, 18th -20th March 2014

**Tuesday 18th of March**

The General Meeting was opened by Victor Baez (General Secretary of the TUCA) and Wellington Chibebe (Deputy General Secretary of the ITUC) who highlighted the importance of this first meeting in a Southern region and the relevance of the matters that were to be treated in the light of the current development debates and the forthcoming ITUC Congress.

**During the first day,** the sessions were centred on the current development model and on **alternative development models in Latin America**, followed by an analysis of global and regional development policies.

* **Daniel Olesker** (Minister of Social Development of Uruguay) stated that economic growth is necessary for development but, in order to contribute adequately, it needs to be accompanied by redistribution policies based on job creation with wage increases and social protection. The model presented was based on the example of Uruguay and showed the improvements made in the last few years in reducing inequality and poverty.
* **Luiz Dulci** (Director of the Lula Institute) gave an overview of the building of alternatives all over Latin America, with a background on how this process evolved throughout the years and what the development of different alternatives represents.

The two presentations were followed by the presentations of representatives of the World Bank, the CEPAL (UN Economic Commission for Latin America) and the European Commission.

* **Boris Utria** (Country operations advisor of the World Bank in Brazil) made a presentation on the evolution of the World Bank and its approach to development throughout the years.
* **Carlos Mussi** (Director of CEPAL Brazil) made a regional analysis showing the evolution of economic and social indicators and presenting the challenges in the present Latin American context.
* **Pedro Santos** (European Commission delegation in Brazil) gave a brief outlook on the European Commission’s perspective and agenda with respect to development cooperation.

The afternoon sessions started with a presentation by Victor Baez (Secretary General of TUCA) on the development model of the TUCA based on the launch of the regional TUDCN for Latin America. He exposed the [creation and objectives of the PLADA](http://www.ituc-csi.org/let-the-peoples-decide-their) (**Development Platform for the Americas**). This was followed by an exposition by Kwasi Adu-Amankwah (Secretary General of ITUC Africa) on the consequences of the IMF and World Bank policies and the role of trade unions in development.

On the basis of those inputs, working groups discussed the development model as proposed by the trade union movement.

The main conclusions were:

* In Latin America, now, the State has an increasing regulatory capacity, which did not exist before. The opposite is happening in Europe.
* General critique of the World Bank presentation and its approach to development.

The key elements to be considered in the **trade union development model** are:

* Global inclusion which has to take into account the division of labour, the distribution of knowledge, the power-relations, income and promotion of collective bargaining, unionisation, freedom of association and fiscal policy. A debate on natural resources and their exploitation has to take place.
* Good governance has to be opposed to multinational corporate driven governance. The international financial system has to be regulated. Fight against corruption.
* We have to demand the public sector to stand up to control the intervention of the private sector.
* Rehabilitation of the role of public services (free and quality education, healthcare)
* Social dialogue, collective bargaining rights, social protection, social security, peace and stability.
* Treating migrant workers as an equal part of the workforce.
* Promotion of employment, including skills development, technology, financing (cooperatives).
* Job insecurity has to be addressed.
* Stronger global partnerships are needed. Regional alliances have to be strengthened.
* Building trade union power. A strengthening of trade union organisations: more professional organisations and promotion of trade union training.
* Stronger collective action of trade unions at the national and international levels is needed.

**Wednesday 19th March**

The discussions of the second day of the General Meeting started with the presentation of Gerardo Bracho (from the Development Cooperation Directorate of the DAC) who introduced the current situation and the debates in view of the [**1st Ministerial meeting on Development Effectiveness**](http://effectivecooperation.org/) to be held in Mexico in April.

Pierre Habbard (TUAC) presented the draft position paper on [**the private sector in development**](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/private_sector-7.pdf), outlining the different roles that it plays and the increase of official development assistance allocated to this sector. He concluded with policy priorities.

Matt Simonds (ITUC/TUDCN) introduced the debates on [**the post 2015 agenda**](http://www.ituc-csi.org/post-2015-development-framework) and the processes in place, giving special attention to the Open Working Group and the included and missing focus areas. He emphasised that the final decision will be made by the UN General Assembly in September 2014.

Kjeld Jacobsen (TUCA) gave an overview of the situation concerning **south-south and triangular cooperation** in Latin America. He emphasised the lack of strategies and a legal framework for this kind of cooperation, in which labour related themes are often absent, as well as the lack of participation of Civil Society in the definition and management of the projects.

The debates of the afternoon session were organised in working groups in which the four subjects treated in the morning presentations were discussed.

The main conclusions of the different working groups were:

* With respect to **the high level meeting in Mexico,** we need to focus on few objectives: taxation floors, accountability and transparency, including fiscal clauses when contracting with multinational companies.
* We should make a road map to Mexico. Focus on highlighting social dialogue. Keep documents simple. Put a big emphasis on the role of the private sector, which has to be countered with trade union arguments.
* We want a strengthening of the role of the state. The Human Rights Based Approach is not just for Civil Society Organisations but for the whole development agenda.
* If the **private sector** contributes to growth, it does not necessarily contribute to the distribution of wealth.
* We have to question the legitimacy of the private sector as a beneficiary of cooperation policies. The role of the private sector as a donor also has to be questioned.
* The basic services (water, health, education…) have to be provided by the public sector. The introduction of the private sector cannot lessen the quality of good public services. We need a stricter framework for the private sector: fair tax system, based on decent work, support for informal sector and small companies, support for a human rights based approach.
* Standards and criteria have to be set for the participation of the private sector in development cooperation. These conditions have to apply to all companies.
* The question of “entrepreneurship” should be debated in depth.
* We have to relate the Millennium Development Goals to **the post-2015 debate**. Lobbying of the respective governments has to be done.
* In the post-2015 process, we have to influence the objectives, indicators and monitoring systems.
* In the post-2015 process, the environment is important. We have to make an assessment of the results from Busan till now. Support the global governance framework, based on rights, we need accountability.
* The ITUC needs an in-depth debate on the development model we want, in order to develop an alternative model reflected in a document and a strategy.
* We need good strong local policies to determine boundaries of **south-south and triangular cooperation.** New emerging economies should obey to the same development effectiveness rules and criteria as other donors.
* A seminar, a document and strategy of the TUDCN with respect to south-south and triangular cooperation has to be produced.

**Thursday 20th March**

The third day, chaired by Maurice Bossuat (CFDT), started with the presentations of the regional organisations of the ITUC in Latin America, Africa, MENA and Asia-Pacific, in which the different activities undertaken in each region were put forward by their representatives.

The report of activities and results for 2013-2014 and the action plan for 2014-2015, as well as the strategy documents were presented by Paola Simonetti (ITUC/TUDCN). The proposal on adapted governance mechanisms was introduced by Jan Dereymaeker (ITUC/TUDCN).

The approved governance mechanisms are the following:

* Hold one General meeting every year instead of two
* Have a yearly Open Coordination Meeting (OCM) in between the yearly General Meeting, which would bring together 3 people per region, financially supported by the TUDCN and would be open for those interested on a self-paying basis.
* Create a small Governance Group (GG)of 5 people (4 regions + 1 GUF) that can meet with the secretariat through conference call or f2f.

The chair concluded the work and thanked the TUCA leadership and staff for hosting the meeting as well as the rest of the team for the excellent conditions of work and for their hospitality.

The meeting ended at lunch time.