**Update on Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation Steering Committee Meeting**

**Lilongwe, Malawi**

**29 February – 1 March 2016**

The TUDCN recently participated in the 9th Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The meeting agenda was organized on three interrelated discussions, all with an undercurrent of how to link the GPEDCs work with the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and SDGs. These were on the Global Monitoring Process, the High Level Meeting in Nairobi and the mandate of the GPEDC.

**The Global Monitoring Process**

The Joint Support Team (OECD/UNDP team which supports the GPEDC) provided an aggregate overview of progress on the Global Monitoring Process, highlighting that 81 countries have signalled that they will take part in the process, with roughly half of those countries already underway in their efforts. The current timeline for the Global Monitoring Report suggests that data collection would take place over the next weeks/months with a view to finalizing a progress report by October 2016 ahead of the High Level Meeting. Unfortunately, at a global level there is not the level of detail on national level efforts to determine which indicators countries will choose to report on (as the process is voluntary there is no guarantee that all countries will report on each of the indicators), or whether the union movement has been consulted to support completion of the surveys associated with the two indicators: Enabling Environment for Civil Society; and the Public Private Dialogue (Private Sector). We had furnished the Joint Support Team with a list of around 40 national trade union centers contact points in the regions.

A second aspect of the monitoring process is an effort underway to re-evaluate the indicators. In January of 2015 a Monitoring Advisory Group (MAG) was established to provide independent advice on how to improve the monitoring framework. The MAG provided a brief overview of their work highlighting some proposed suggestions. Though not part of the presentation in Lilongwe, the MAGs recommendations include things like using the ILOs Sustainable Enterprise Framework as the assessment tool for the indicator on the private sector.

Finally, and directly linked to the Agenda 2030 work on indicators there was confirmation the GPEDC monitoring framework may now be used to monitor SDG 17 Target 17.16 *Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries*. This would be considered a major success of the GPEDC if it makes a final cut.

**Preparations for the High Level meeting in Nairobi**

The discussion on the HLM2 managed to cover both logistical and very political aspects of the preparations. On the practical side the dates for the Nairobi HLM were confirmed for **30 November-1 December, 2016** with pre meetings like the Civil Society Forum scheduled **for 28-29 November, 2016**. The size and character of the meeting will depend on the interest the GPEDC can generate between now and November/December.

The agenda which had been presented in Mexico was confirmed with an additional plenary on the private sector being proposed and agreed over the two days in Malawi. The agenda for Nairobi now looks like:

1. Plenary One: Unfinished Business (Paris, Accra, Busan)
2. Plenary Two: Aid and Development Effectiveness in support of Agenda 2030 and SDG Implementation
3. Plenary 3: South-South and Triangular Cooperation
4. Plenary 4: Economic empowerment of women and youth
5. Plenary 5: Countries in special situation and vulnerable populations
6. Plenary 6: Multi-stakeholder partnerships
7. Plenary 7: The Private Sector

It was also agreed that the Nairobi HLM will produce a negotiated outcome document. To oversee this process, the Kenyan Government has enlisted its Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Macharia Kamau, who served as Co-Chair of the SDG negotiations, to “facilitate” the process of agreeing an outcome. There were already preliminary discussions on the outline of the outcome document, which in general would parallel the HLM agenda. Underlying this seemingly practical approach to the outcome document is the desire to once again have all actors around the table, namely the BRICS, and most importantly China. This discussion coincides also with the discussion on the GPEDC mandate.

**GPEDC Mandate**

The most challenging discussion over the course of the two days of the meeting came on the question of the mandate. The discussion on paper centered upon the need to adapt to the new sustainable development agenda as enshrined in the Agenda 2030. However, underlying this was again the desire to have China around the table. The implications are unfortunately to downplay the previous commitments of the GPEDC and focus on creating an entity focused primarily on sharing experiences, effectively changing the dynamic of the GPEDC from an entity focused on mutual accountability to knowledge hub focussed of mutual learning. Fortunately, many members of the Steering Committee made strong cases against this approach and have temporarily seemed to stall the momentum.

*In addition to these internal views below you have the official reflections from the OECD/UNDP Joint Support Team:*

**Official Takeaways**

Dear Members of the Steering Committee,

We would like to thank you for your participation in last week’s 9th Steering Committee meeting, held in Lilongwe, with another sincere thank you to our generous host for welcoming us to the “warm heart of Africa”.

We will finalise a summary of the proceedings with action points for your review by the end of next week, along with the follow-up items.

For now, we would like to share the following key takeaways the Joint Support Team has identified:

**1)** The value added of the GPEDC lies in its ability to provide dedicated space for all stakeholders to advance the effectiveness of their development co-operation.

**2)** Robust monitoring and concrete and innovative implementation initiatives, paired with structured learning and knowledge sharing, are the key driving forces of the Partnership.

**3)** All principles of effective development co-operation remain relevant to achieve sustainable development results. The Paris and Busan commitments remain central, and areas where progress is lacking require more dedicated attention.

**4)** HLM2 will be an ambitious milestone event for international development co-operation. It will identify global priorities and solutions to realise the 2030 Agenda and the AAAA. Kenya’s leadership is highly appreciated and enjoys the full confidence of the Steering Committee and Co-Chairs.

**5)** To attract global leaders, HLM2 must steer a vibrant, multifaceted debate that showcases the many success stories of effective development co-operation and tangibly improving lives. HLM2 will result in a negotiated outcome document that engages all actors.

**6)** The GPEDC mandate and working arrangements must be adapted to the demands and challenges encapsulated in the global agreements of 2015. While retaining its independent character, the vision is for the GPEDC to serve as a “global multi-stakeholder partnership that drives greater effectiveness, quality and impact of all types of development co-operation to help all actors realise the 2030 Agenda”.

We look forward to working closely on preparations for HLM2 and further sharpening the contributions the Partnership can make to the 2030 Agenda over the coming weeks.

The JST