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About TUDCN

Trade Union Development Cooperation Network is an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) that brings together affiliated trade union organisations, the solidarity support organisations (SSO), the representatives of the ITUC regional organisations, the Global Union Federations (GUFs), European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC). The network’s objective is to bring the trade union perspective into the international development policy debates and improve the coordination and effectiveness of trade union development cooperation activities.

The ITUC represents 175 million workers in 153 countries and territories and has 308 national affiliates.

Introduction

In 2015 Millennium Development Goals will expire. UN has launched a process of elaborating the post-2015 development framework that will replace the MDGs. The new framework is likely to be a new set of development goals, but their focus, scope and accountability mechanisms are still to be defined. In August 2012 the UN High Level Panel on Post-2015 started its work that will result in a report (expected in February 2013), leading to the UN MDG Summit in September 2013. During this time, the UN, as well as some of the governments and CSO platforms will organise wide range of consultations that will feed in various ways into the official process. In parallel, the intergovernmental Open Working Group will prepare a proposal of the Sustainable Development Goals that have been agreed at the UN CSD “Rio+20”. Both processes are expected to be closely coordinated and integrated.

Despite being widely criticised for their narrow focus and most of all – failure to mobilise the global community to actually deliver them, the MDGs have been one of the most important global development frameworks, serving as a reference for almost all other global and national policies and agreements. That is why the new framework is in the centre of interest of all UN agencies, many governments, multilateral institutions, civil society organisations and other development stakeholders.

The second ITUC Congress (Vancouver 2010) called for the promotion of a new sustainable and more just development paradigm¹ and a model of globalisation that works for the people². The TUDCN has since actively promoted the trade union agenda on decent work, social protection, and democratic ownership of development policies into the main international policy debates (incl. *Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation* 2011; OECD/DAC 2012; the UN LDC IV conference 2011; UNCTAD XIII 2012; Rio+20 2012; the G20 development agenda and other platforms and processes).

The new framework is for us an opportunity and a to rethink and reframe the global development paradigm to a more comprehensive approach of a human rights-based, equity and well-being-oriented framework.

The purpose of this guide

This guide is meant to support an active engagement of the labour movement in the UN post-2015 development framework with the aim of ensuring that the new framework properly reflects the perspectives and addresses the concerns of workers worldwide.

The target group of this guide are primarily the ITUC affiliated and regional organisations as well as their partner institutions, including the European Trade Union Confederation, Trade Union Committee to OECD, Global Union Federations and Solidarity Support Organisations.

¹ [Resolution on a sustainable and just development model for the 21st century](#), 2nd ITUC Congress, Vancouver 2010

² [Resolution on changing globalisation](#), 2nd ITUC Congress, Vancouver 2010

Background

Shortcomings of the MDGs

The Millennium Development Goals have helped to focus world-wide development efforts and have achieved significant progress in a number of areas. They have however failed to address some of the key challenges faced by workers and their families. The target of “full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people” came too late to the agenda and didn’t receive sufficient attention and prominence. Comprehensive action is required to overcome the failures and ensure gender equality and women’s rights. The three health-related MDGs, including on HIV/AIDS still remain alarmingly short of established targets and the promise of ‘education for all’ has not been realised.

Even at the current rate of progress, estimates indicate that about 1 billion people will still be living on less than \$1.25 a day in 2015, corresponding to an extreme poverty rate of just below 16% globally.³

Environmental destruction is displacing families and communities from their lands and productive livelihoods. Climate change threatens the sustainability of the planet itself. 1.8 billion people are expected to face water scarcity by 2025. 180 million will be affected by food shortages. There will be 200 million climate migrants by 2050. We will also need 50% more food, 45% more energy and 30% more water by 2050. Our planet and people are at risk.

ILO estimates based on a new methodology show that there were 456 million **workers in the world living below the \$1.25 a day** poverty line in 2011

- A reduction of 233 million since 2000 and of 38 million since 2007
- Influenced by dramatic reduction in Eastern Asia – overall decline between 2000 and 2011 from 26.4 to 14.8% workers living below poverty line; if exclude Eastern Asia, the decrease is only from 25% to 17.4%

Even though working poverty is decreasing, progress has slowed markedly since 2008.

- A projection of pre-crisis (2002-07) trends in the incidence of working poverty shows a difference of 1.6 percentage points between what was expected and the actual 2011 figure – this corresponds to 50 million more working poor in 2011 than was projected by pre-crisis trends.

Vulnerable employment has decreased only marginally over 20 years.

- Vulnerable employment (defined as the share of unpaid family workers and own-account workers in total employment) accounted for an estimated 58% of all employment in developing regions in 2011, down only moderate from 67% to decades earlier
- This moderate decline in proportion was not sufficient to prevent the absolute number of workers in vulnerable employment from increasing by 136 million since 2000, bringing the global number to 1.52 billion

³ [UN Millennium Development Goals Report 2012](#)

- A high share of workers in vulnerable employment indicates the widespread prevalence of informal work arrangements – under these conditions, workers typically lack adequate social protection and suffer from low pay and from difficult working conditions in which their fundamental rights may be violated or undermined
- Women and youth are more likely to find themselves in such insecure and poorly remunerated positions than the rest of the employed population

The shortcomings of the MDGs do not end there. It is widely agreed that gender equality was not sufficiently addressed and global targets based on national averages allowed for concealing and perpetuating inequalities within countries. The MDGs have been also criticised for being largely a developed countries-led ‘recipe’ for developing countries.

But perhaps the most important criticism towards the MDGs comes from the approach to the implementation of the MDGs that focused strongly on the traditional aid and development cooperation model, without addressing the underlying systemic causes of poverty and other challenges. The lack of reference to Policy Coherence for Development in the MDG framework has, in opinion of many, been one of the major causes of the failure to deliver them.

Read more in the [TU Statement to the 2010 Summit of the General Assembly on the MDGs](#).

A new framework – a new approach

The new framework offers the opportunity to redefine global development and the approach to development policy and practice and create a joint, democratically elaborated development framework for all – in developing, emerging and developed countries. Democratic ownership, built on strong democratic structures and processes (including social dialogue structures), should become the fundamental principle of the new framework.

From the labour perspective, a stronger focus can now be put on social equality, employment and social protection, implementing the Human Rights Based Approach. You can find more details about the trade union perspective in the *Key trade union priorities chapter*.

Some governments, international institutions, think tanks and non-governmental organisation have already outlined first proposals on the possible scope and shape of the new agenda. You can find references to the proposals in the *Additional resources chapter*.

Outline of the UN process

The first proposal of the new framework will be debated at the UN MDG Summit at the UN General Assembly in September 2013, after which an intergovernmental negotiations process will start. The process of UN deliberations and wide consultations, leading up to the Summit, includes a number of components:

Secretary General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning.

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed from Nigeria has been appointed SG's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning.

UN System Task Team

The inter-agency [Task Team](#), co-chaired by UNDP and UNDESA is coordinating the process within the UN system. In May 2012 the Task Team published its report to the Secretary General: [Realizing the Future We Want for All](#), setting grounds for the work of the High Level Panel.

UN High Level Panel on Post-2015

The HLP, co-chaired by President Yudoyono of Indonesia, President Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Prime Minister Cameron of the United Kingdom includes [23 high-level representatives](#) and was announced in August 2012. The panel's discussions will result in a report, to be published in May 2013, which is expected to outline the first proposal of the new framework and pave the way towards the UN MDG Summit in September 2013.

UNDG 'Building the post-2015 agenda' initiative

> Global Conversation

A set of online tools, including an interactive website, will be set up under the lead of the UN Millennium Campaign in order to allow individuals all around the world to learn about the process and offer their feedback and perspective on the new framework. The website - www.worldwewant2015.org has been launched in September 2012.

> 50 South Country consultations

UNDP committed to organise national consultations in 50 countries of the South. The [guide to the consultations](#) was published in July 2012. The consultations are expected to finish in the first quarter of 2013.

Consultations will be coordinated at national level by the [UN Resident Coordinators](#), who will oversee the process. The consultations are expected to include a representative sample of participants, including civil society representatives.

First countries where the consultations will take place are listed below, but the list is not considered final and consultations might also be organised in other countries.

AFRICA (S, E & W)	ASIA & PACIFIC	LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN	ARAB STATES	EASTERN EUROPE & CIS
Angola	Bangladesh	Brazil	Djibouti	Armenia
Burkina Faso	China	Costa Rica	Egypt	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CAR	India	Colombia	Jordan	Kazakhstan
DRC	Indonesia	Peru	Morocco	Moldova
Ethiopia	Lao PDR	Guatemala	Sudan	Tajikistan
Ghana	Pakistan	Bolivia	Algeria	Turkey
Kenya	PNG	El Salvador		
Mali	Solomon Islands	Honduras		
Malawi	Timor-Leste	Santa Lucia		
Mauritius	Vietnam			
Mozambique				
Niger				
Nigeria				
Senegal				
South Africa				
Tanzania				
Togo				
Uganda				

* Cambodia, Philippines, Vanuatu are proposed as standby countries; Ecuador, Chile, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Lebanon and Yemen are alternates proposed in case selected UNCTs are not able to carry out their national consultations;

> Thematic consultations

The thematic consultations started in May and are expected to finish in the first quarter of 2013. The consultations are organised by relevant UN specialised agencies. Consultations on Growth and Employment took place in May 2012. Consultations on Inequalities started in July 2012 and will continue until the end of the year. The full schedule of the other consultations has not yet been published.

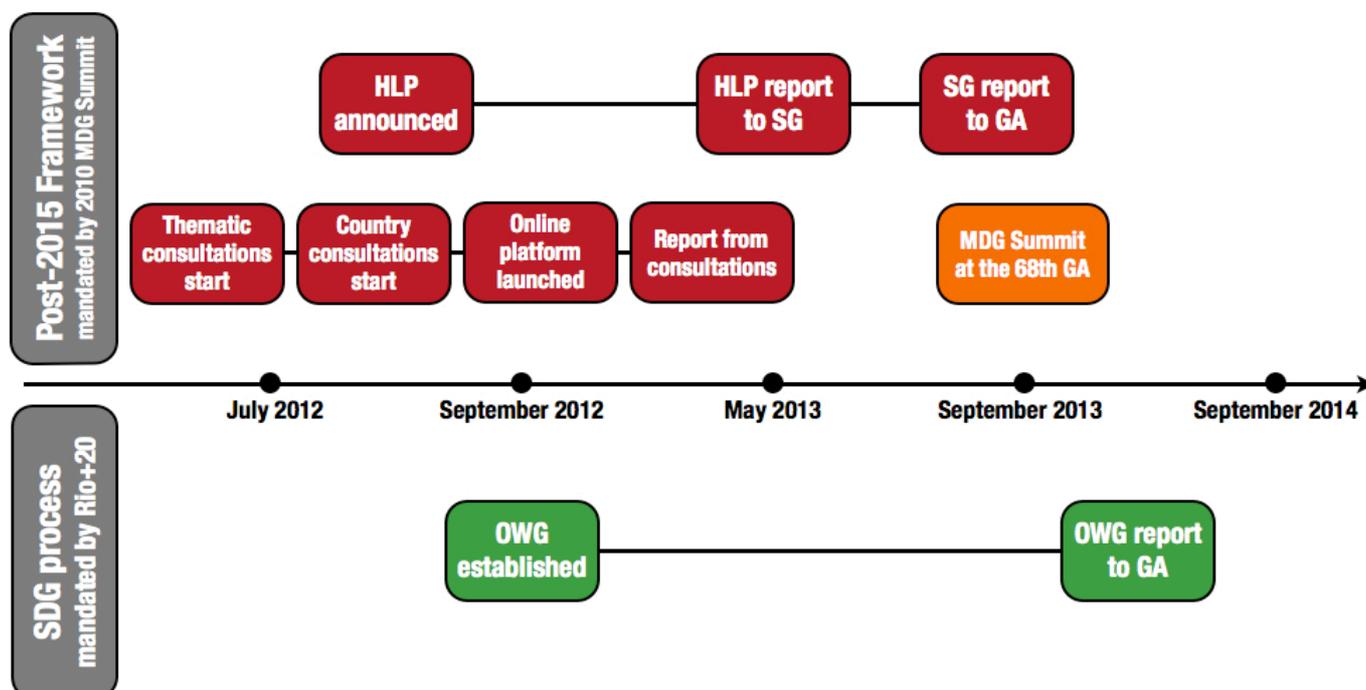
TOPIC	LEAD AGENCIES
Inequalities	UNICEF/UNWOMEN
Nutrition and food security	FAO/WFP
Governance	UNDP/OHCHR
Growth and Employment	UNDP/ILO
Conflict Prevention and Resolution	UNDP/PBSO/ISDR (tbc)
Health	WHO/UNICEF
Education	UNESCO/UNICEF
Environmental sustainability	UNEP/UNDP
Population Dynamics	UNFPA/UNHABITAT (tbc)

Sustainable Development Goals

The SDGs, coming out of the Rio+20 Summit that took place in June 2012, are expected to be integrated in the new development framework. It is however still not clear whether the processes of elaboration of both frameworks will be joint or how the integration between them will look like precisely. The main body responsible for the elaboration of the SDGs is the Intergovernmental Open Working Group, in consultation with the [Expert Group](#). The Working Group is expected to submit their report, outlining the proposal for the SDGs, to the UN General Assembly in September 2012.

Timeline of the process

DATE	EVENT
January 2012	Task Team appointed
May 2012 - First quarter 2013	Thematic consultations
15-16 May 2012	Thematic consultation on Growth and Employment. Tokyo, Japan
May 2012	Task Team's report delivered
20 - 22 June 2012	Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
July 2012 – First quarter 2013	UN country consultations start after the publication of UNDG guidelines
August 2012	High Level Panel appointed
First quarter 2013	Reports from country and thematic consultations delivered
May 2013	Report of the High Level Panel delivered
September 2013	MDGs Summit in the UN General Assembly



Key trade union priorities

The following proposal of key priorities for advocacy in the post-2015 development framework process will be submitted for endorsement to the ITUC General Council in November 2012.

A new development framework that delivers equity, social inclusion and decent work and sustainable livelihoods for working people while protecting our environment is needed and should be based on respect for the principles of democratic ownership and leadership. These priorities must be framed by a global agreement on climate action, environmental protection, international management of migration and fair trade. The post-2015 process must also include a transition to more comprehensive measuring of growth and development which complements GDP with assessment of more equal wealth distribution and a universal human rights framework.

Goal: Full employment and decent work for all

Work is a key element of social and economic development. Through job creation and better working conditions people, communities and countries can lift themselves out of poverty and improve livelihoods. This happens only when work is decent, with fair wages, underpinned by rights. A decent work goal must include concrete targets for full employment, green job promotion, international labour rights for all workers and gender equality at the workplace.

Goal: Universal social protection

Ensuring universal access to basic guarantees of social protection is a human right and a direct and efficient way of reducing inequalities. The new framework should include a goal on the implementation of social protection floors as defined in the “Bachelet Report”, and the ILO Recommendation 202 which has set an international standard. Targets must be set and realised on income security for the unemployed, the sick, the disabled, pregnant women, children and the elderly as well as on access to health care, education, housing and sanitation.

The ITUC and its affiliated organisations will undertake to:

- keep governments to account concerning their previous commitments to the MDGs and development targets, in particular on poverty reduction, full employment and decent work, and HIV-AIDS;
- use the UN national consultations in 2012-13 to enhance promotion of core labour standards, particularly freedom of association and collective bargaining and secure commitment to full employment, decent work and the social protection floor;
- encourage policy coherence and clear targets for development at national and international levels;
 - promote specific development goals
 - on decent work, with associated national employment targets, labour rights and equal treatment for all workers and decent work indicators, including green and decent job promotion
 - on the implementation of social protection floors, and
 - in support of civil society demands for food and energy security; and,
- promote innovative financing for climate action and sustainable development, including on-going support for the campaign for the financial transactions tax (FTT).

Guidelines for national and regional engagement

UN High Level Panel

Affiliates, especially those whose national representatives are members of the HLP (UK, Indonesia, Liberia or other HLP countries) are encouraged to proactively seek contact and engage in dialogue with the HLP members and their support teams.

Global Conversation

Once the online consultations system is set up, the affiliates are encouraged to engage with it on the individual basis, presenting their as well as the perspective of the global trade union movement through the system.

Country consultations

All affiliates are expected to contact directly the [UNDP Resident Coordinator](#) to inform themselves about the planned UN consultations process in their country and participate actively.

Thematic consultations

ITUC/TUDCN will coordinate inputs to the thematic consultations. Information about on-going and upcoming consultations will be circulated through the TUDCN mailing list. Affiliates and partners interested in particular topics are encouraged to contact directly the TUDCN team.

Direct advocacy

Since the final decision concerning the new framework will lie with the UN members, the affiliates are strongly encouraged to engage in direct contact with governmental representatives and national representatives to the UN in charge of the process.

Liaising with CSOs

Workers and Trade Unions form one of the Major Groups in the UN system, recognized separately from the Non-Governmental Organisations and other groups.

There is a number of CSOs working on the process and affiliates are encouraged to engage in any cooperation that would be beneficial for both sides.

The main global networks (with activities also on national and regional level) active in the process include:

> **GCAP** - This global campaign has been originally created to advance the achievement of the MDGs. GCAP has over 100 national platforms all around the world. In the post-2015 GCAP cooperates closely with the Beyond 2015 campaign, but has also initiated a separate process of developing and putting across its position towards 2015. ITUC has been a member of GCAP and remains in close cooperation with the global GCAP secretariat.

> **Beyond 2015** – This global campaign, initiated by a group of British organisations and supported through Concord (the European platform of NGDOs), has been very active in the process, engaging closely with the UN staff. Beyond 2015 (in cooperation with GCAP) has set up regional hubs to coordinate CSO inputs in the process.

Affiliates are encouraged to get in contact with relevant regional focal people to inform themselves about possible regional and national CSO consultations and discuss possible cooperation:

- Global contact - twww@beyond2015.org
- Africa – Sonia Kwami (sonia.kwami@whiteband.org)
- Asia – Nalini Vaz (nalini.vaz@whiteband.org)
- Europe – Gerard Vives (gvives@concordeurope.org)
- Latin America – Nancy Ramos (nancy.ramos@whiteband.org)
- North America – Zach Hongola (zach.hongola@whiteband.org)

Cooperation within the ITUC and TUDCN

Close cooperation with the TUDCN team, coordinating the process in the ITUC headquarters is important for affiliates engaging in any of these processes. The TUDCN team will be happy to provide any possible support and will expect intelligence, input and feedback coming from national and regional processes.

News from the process, also on national and regional level, will be posted on a regular basis on a dedicated [Post-2015 ITUC website](#) as well as on the [TUDCN page](#) (at ITUC website) and in the TUDCN newsletter *Trade Union Focus on Development*.

For more information and support on the post-2015 process please do not hesitate to contact the TUDCN team (dce@ituc-csi.org).

Contact us!

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www.ituc-csi.org/development-cooperation

www.ituc-csi.org/post-2015-development-framework

Additional resources

> Key UN portals and documents

- UN Task Team's report to SG
[*Realizing the Future We Want for All*](#)
- UN DG guide to country consultations
[*Post-2015 Development Agenda: Guidelines for Country Dialogues*](#)
- UN ECOSOC page on post-2015
www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/mdg.shtml
- UN Millennium Campaign page on post-2015
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/beyond2015>

> ITUC resources

- ITUC website on the UN Post-2015 Development Framework
www.ituc-csi.org/post-2015-development-framework
- Trade Union Development Cooperation Network
www.ituc-csi.org/development-cooperation
- ITUC campaign on Rio+20
www.ituc-csi.org/rio-20
- An on-going collection of links on post-2015
delicious.com/stacks/tudcn
- Relevant ITUC resolutions
[*ITUC Resolution on a sustainable and just development model for the 21st century*](#)
[*ITUC Resolution on changing globalisation*](#)
[*ITUC Resolution on fighting HIV/AIDS*](#)
[*ITUC Resolution on combating climate change through sustainable development and just transition*](#)

> ILO resources

- UN TT Thematic Think Piece: Employment
[*Emerging development challenges for the post-2015 UN development agenda*](#)
- UN TT Thematic Think Piece: Social Protection
[*Social protection: A development priority in the post-2015 UN development agenda*](#)
- Report of the UN post-2015 thematic consultations on employment (Tokyo, May 2012)²
[*Growth, employment and structural change*](#)

> CSO and think-tank resources

- Jan Vandemoortele
[*Advancing the global development agenda post-2015: some practical suggestions*](#)
- Beyond 2015 campaign
beyond2015.org
- ODI blog on post-2015
post2015.org
- CAFOD paper on post-2015
[*Post-2015 policymaking: What is being planned, what might actually happen, and CAFOD's current policy lines*](#)