



Preliminary conclusions of the 2016 TUDCN General Meeting, Bangkok, 5-7 April 2016

On TUDCN progress report 2015-2016

- TUDCN has covered diverse institutional processes throughout 2015-2016.
- There is general agreement on Progress Reports provided by the secretariat and these are endorsed by the General Meeting.
- There is a general acknowledgment of the budget cuts in development aid by the TUDCN members as well as of the current debate about the modernisation process of ODA and its challenges.
- Progress has been made with respect to the strengthening of the regional development networks, and the political backing by regional organisations through specific resolutions.
- There is an acknowledgment of the increased involvement of some national TUDCN members in development cooperation debates and processes at national level. Other members are encouraged to follow this path.

On the TUDCN Strategy 2016-2020

- The new TUDCN Strategy has been positively received overall.
- A preamble will be added about the major socio-economic challenges at global level related to development and reinstating our trade union universal priorities, such as policy coherence, decent work, tax justice, just transition etc.
- The need to pursue TUDCN advocacy-oriented research on social dialogue and private sector role in development, and translate it into concrete advocacy work was reaffirmed.
- Proposals for additional research and user-friendly material will be considered taking into account TUDCN advocacy targets and the need to avoid overlaps or duplication of what already existing. Relevant research areas will be taken up by the regional development networks.
- A revised formatted version of the document will be sent out to be endorsed on a non-objection basis.

On trade union engagement on 2030 Agenda

- Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining are included in the indicators set of the 2030 Agenda. Although this is a crucial achievement, missing elements of the overall Decent Work Agenda were highlighted in the indicators' process, notably social dialogue.
- In order to ensure indicators assessing progress on our priorities, seizing the remaining opportunities in the finalisation process of the indicators was encouraged. A particular focus should be placed on the Decent Work Agenda:
 - At global level: through the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators, and the related UN processes, such as the High Level Political Forum, and through specialised agencies such as the ILO.
 - At regional level: through the regional UN commissions (Regional Forums on Sustainable Development) and their efforts to shape regional contributions to the 2030 Agenda.
 - At national level: implementing advocacy strategies targeted in the 2030 Agenda national review processes (e.g. engaging with national governments and their relevant ministries). This implies pushing for a higher level of ambition than that already established at the global level.
- A trade union shadow monitoring report of SDG implementation and follow-up will be undertaken by TUDCN.
- The work plans of the regional development networks, including Europe, for the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda will be finalised by end of 2016.

On the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and its 2nd High Level Meeting (HLM2)

- Trade unions should engage in the monitoring process of the GPEDC.
- Ensure strong involvement in preparations and agenda-setting of the HLM2, and a strong presence at it:
 - Including unions in official government delegations;
 - Securing speakers in high level panels and side events;
 - Engaging in the negotiation of the outcome document;
 - Seeking participation and engagement of BRICS countries in the HLM2.

On future approaches on trade union partnerships

- The Organisational Capacity area builds on the Trade Union Development Effectiveness Principles. The challenges are noted, and TUDCN, along with the regional development networks, will pursue efforts to ensure ownership in the process.
- On Official Development Assistance's role in supporting decent work: the proposed research approach was positively received, albeit this is a concept to be further developed in line with TUDCN's advocacy work on social dialogue.
- On joint trade union initiatives in development: a greater engagement of TUDCN members in contributing to the updating of the Trade Union Development Projects Directory was reaffirmed. The proposal by the TUDCN Secretariat to share information about future funding opportunities was welcomed.

On TUDCN communication and outreach

- In the new phase of TUDCN, the regional development networks will play a key role in the overall TUDCN Communication and Outreach strategy.
- A new TUDCN working group on Communication and Outreach will be established in order to maximise the impact of TUDCN work and deliver an integrated TUDCN Communication and Outreach strategy.
- New communication and outreach tools will be developed (e.g. videos, info-graphs) that reassert the role of trade unions as development actors in their own right.
- Equal Times will be used as an additional opportunity to give visibility to labour and workers' issues in development.