



Trade union inputs on the Multiannual Action Programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities”

The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN), an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), bringing together affiliated trade union organisations, solidarity support organisations, regional ITUC organisations, the Global Union Federations (GUFs), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) - including the national trade union centres- and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) offers the following inputs:

1. Trade Unions welcome the proposal of the European commission to have a multi-annual programming process. This will allow better predictability and transparency both on policy priorities and funds allocation;
2. We very much welcome as well the consultation exercise with the EU Policy Forum on Development (PFD) constituencies on this issue. We recommend the same degree of transparency and inclusiveness at country level, under the responsibility of EU Delegations;
3. We are quite concerned about the very much-limited allocations to support regional and global networks (across 2015-16-17). This seems disproportioned compared to country-based allocations, and moreover not in line with the strategic objective of the 2012 EC Communication and the CSOs-LAs MIP, adopting an actor-based approach and highlighting the “pivotal role (of global and regional networks) in linking local concerns and priorities, often caused by global challenges such as climate change, to regional and global debates”.
4. As the whole structured dialogue (SD) process widely demonstrated, especially in the case of membership-based organizations, global & regional networks are fundamental to reach out and support national actors, both on advocacy and organizational capacity. We strongly suggest the precognition of integrated programs where the regional, sub regional and national dimensions can be linked up, allowing for better coherence of initiatives, which can range from capacity development to policy advocacy at all levels. This approach allows coherence and ownership as well as better impact for development results;



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5. Trade Unions note with deep preoccupation that the Call for Proposal (CfP) system still remains a default mechanism for CSOs. This goes against the results of the structure dialogue process (including CSOs right of initiative), which have clearly stated the limits of this system. We strongly remind that the SD recommendations set for an actor-based support, “incorporating sensible actor differentiation and a flexible set of responses adaptable to different situations, to pursue development objectives in a more strategic, effective and sustainable manner”. Therefore, the CfP system is incompatible with these recommendations.

6. We highlight the importance of adopting representativeness criteria and standards of CSOs platforms which might include: geographic coverage in a given continent (50%+1) or worldwide (all continents), recognition by institutional instances at regional or global level, existence and functioning of democratic governance structures, political and financial autonomy, and proven administrative and financial capacity.

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