



Trade union inputs on the EC Communication “A Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015”, COM (2015)44 final

Trade unions highlight the importance of respecting the different nature of the current processes: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Financing for Development (FFD). Although complementarity should be granted, the FFD agenda touches upon systemic issues – such as policies concerning international financial architecture, trade and global governance – which cannot be fully addressed within the SDGs framework based on goals, targets and indicators.

Overarching Principles:

1. Trade unions regret that no reference is made to Decent Work in the overarching principles. Decent work is fundamental to support rights based and sustainable progress and we underscore the importance of each of the pillars of the decent work agenda. Trade unions call the EU to take the lead for bringing consistence and coherence in development taking into account earlier adopted policies, in particular the Agenda for change where the role of decent work and social dialogue has been fully recognized in the context of sustainable development.
2. Although we recognize the challenges associated with poverty eradication and climate change issues, we strongly call for providing adequate financial resources for the implementation of commitments in both processes.

Enabling and conducive policy environment:

3. We strongly regret the absence of social dialogue when referring to accountability systems, democratic processes support and providing enabling environment for the private sector. Social dialogue constitutes not only a means to improve socio-economic conditions (mode of implementation of sustainable development), but it is also a concrete tool to grant accountability of business as opposed to voluntary approaches and to achieve ownership of development policies.
4. Social Dialogue and collective bargaining play a crucial role in ensuring fair wage distribution, while also tackling informality. Addressing the issue of the “working poor”, constitute one of the most important priorities to fight inequalities. Wages should be consistently connected to productivity growth rates and economic growth to contrast inequalities within and amongst countries (minimum wage). The erosion of workers’ bargaining rights over the last decades explains to a large extent the current divergence between productivity growth and wage increase for a majority of workers. The divergence between pay and productivity is indeed at the heart of inequalities.



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) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)



5. We highlight the importance of supporting labour inspection as a means to grant monitoring and control of the implementation of all the standards, conventions and laws in all production sectors, being an essential tool to fight inequalities.
6. When referring to an “effective international system of governance” the text refers strongly to G7/G20, although these fora are neither representative nor inclusive.

Mobilization and effective use of domestic public finance:

7. We welcome the reference to green economy transformation and climate change actions, as well as, just tax policies promotion (progressive taxation).
8. We share the demand for transparency and accountability including disclosure of payments by companies to governments, and eradication of tax havens.

International public finance:

9. Trade unions insist on greater transparency and accountability for blending mechanisms, which can become instruments for tied aid. Furthermore, the often blind support for Public-Private Partnerships in developing countries – as opposed to traditional public procurement and public services – is irresponsible in our view. PPPs will need to adhere to principles and guidelines¹.
10. Funding for climate should be “new AND additional” like said at the Copenhagen summit.
11. We also highlight the additional role of the FTT in development financing.

Trade:

12. All Countries must avoid giving up, via trade agreements, these national tools for structural transformation and their capacities to define policies that would generate state income, create decent work and promote investment—both public and private—in different economic sectors.
13. Labour standards are gravely affected by global trade and investment patterns. Therefore, seeking to create fair trade, international trade and investment treaties and agreements should guarantee the enforceability of national labour laws and internationally recognized core labour standards based on stronger follow up and sanction mechanisms in case of violation of ILO standards

Domestic and International Private sector:

14. Business compliance to binding social and environmental standards must be granted if we want to achieve sustainable development. Compliance with ILO labour standards and environmental commitments, social dialogue, corporate accountability/transparency, country ownership, and development effectiveness principles must be the key compulsory

¹ [Trade Union Checklist on Public-Private Partnerships \(PPPs\) based on the OECD Principles for Public Governance of Public-Private Partnerships. TUAC Secretariat, Paris – June 2014](#)



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criteria for any participation of private-sector actors in poverty eradication efforts and transition to sustainable production. The reference to “meaningful business engagement” in this text is not sufficient, and we recall the December “Council Conclusions on the role of private sector in development” asking for “implementation of internationally recognized guidelines and principles” concerning business behavior.

15. Moreover, it is surprising that the *Accord* is mentioned as a “successful initiative of business”. The *Accord* is a binding agreement between social partners (employers and workers organizations), offering a tangible example on the relevance of social dialogue in granting accountability of business and contributing to development processes.

Migration:

16. We welcome that migration is given a specific and quite detailed link with Development, specifically the issue of portability of earned social security benefits, skills recognition, protection against high charges (“allow migrants to keep more of what they earn”), combating discrimination. However, we regret the lack of mention of coverage by social protection floors and universal health coverage in particular.
17. Skills recognition is crucial and there should be reference to the need for international agreements and frameworks for skills recognition.

Global Partnership:

18. We call for an inclusive and multi-stakeholder global partnership based on binding commitments (which could be supported by an international Convention) for all development actors. This will be a fundamental condition to achieve Policy Coherence for Development (PCD), which trade unions firmly support. We welcome a global partnership based on “already established systems for monitoring and accountability such as those established under international agreements”. It is important to highlight the ILO framework as a ‘living’ example on how accountability mechanisms can work at global level through to the national level. The ILO supervisory mechanism should inform the new global partnership on the international development agenda.
19. We support the UN High Level Political Forum as oversight body on the SDGs and granting the political commitments taken by all stakeholders, with the support of the GPEDC for monitoring implementation modalities.

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