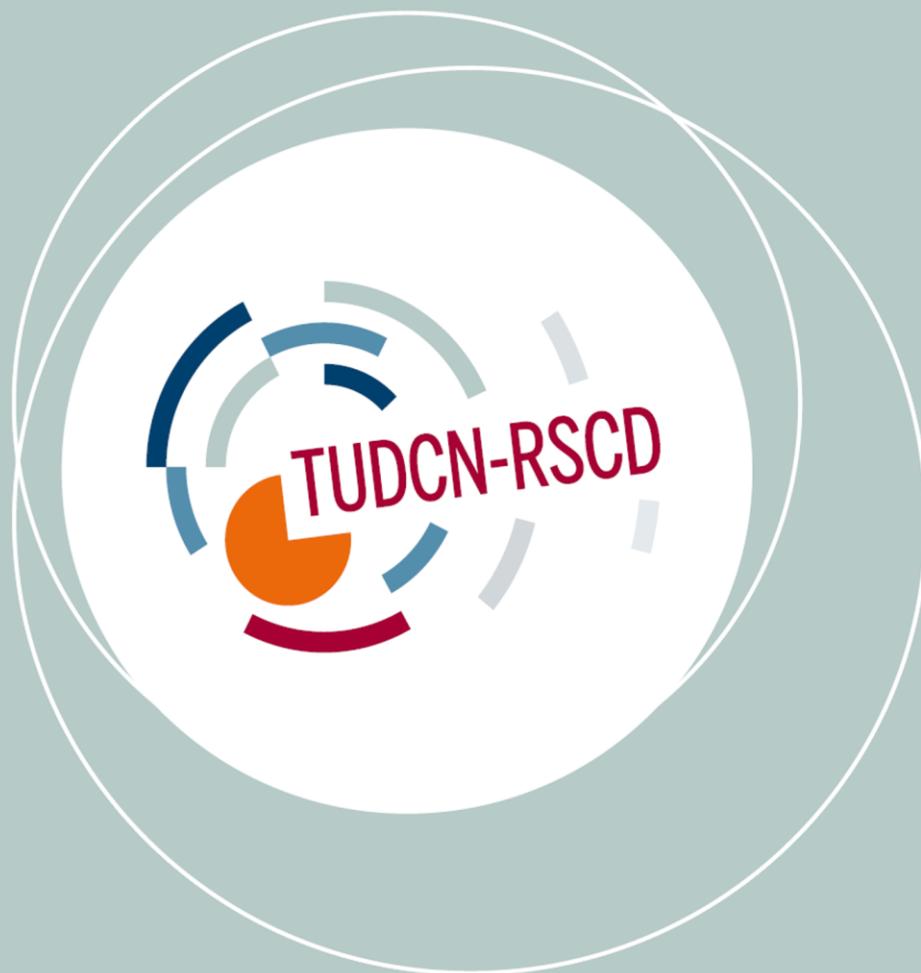


TUDCN General Meeting 2016

Meeting report

Bangkok, 5-7 April 2016



DAY 1 – TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2016

The General Meeting began with some words of welcome by ITUC Deputy General Secretary Wellington Chibebe, who introduced the Resolution on [“Trade Unions Priorities for development”](#), previously approved by the ITUC 2015 General Council. This was followed by the approval of the 2015 TUDCN General Meeting [report](#) and [conclusions](#) as well as by the presentation and approval of the agenda.

PART I PROGRESS REPORTS

A stock-taking session by the TUDCN Secretariat presented the main activities and achievements since the 2015 General Meeting. On its advocacy work, results were presented on [Agenda 2030](#) and the [indicators process](#), [Financing for Development](#) and the CSOs coordination, [OECD-DAC](#), Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation ([GPEDC](#)), [EU Development policies](#), advocacy-oriented publications and research. On partnerships, an update of the Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile ([TUDEP](#)) implementation and Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA) was presented. A plenary discussion followed.

The TUDCN regions offered an update on their activities of the 2015-2016 period. Giulia Massobrio [presented](#) the main areas of work and outcomes on behalf of TUCA-CSA : advocacy and Development Platform of the Americas (PLADA); research on social dialogue and on the private sector; capacity development; outreach and communication. The TUCA-CSA Congress will vote on a resolution on development cooperation.

Hilma Mote spoke on behalf of the African Trade Union Development Network (ATUDN, ITUC-Africa). The 3rd Congress of ITUC-Africa approved a resolution on Development Cooperation. ATUDN coordinated research on private sector and social dialogue in development. ATUDN is consolidating its Steering Committee, which met on February 2016 in Lomé. Dedicated work is expected in the areas of illicit financial flows, Africa Vision 2063 and partnerships.

The General Council of ITUC Asia-Pacific approved a resolution in October 2015 establishing the TUDCN Asia-Pacific.

Antonia Wulff from Education International informed the assembly of the GUFs’ work on 2030 Agenda and national, regional and global indicators. She pointed out the worrying trend of privatisation and outsourcing of elementary education as epitomised by the example of Liberia.

National organisations presented their activities during the last year and highlighted key issues they face:

- Argentina: a worrying trend led by the new government has seen spaces for social dialogue being demolished, a phenomenon that is spreading to other Latin American countries.
- France: the role of the private sector in development is being debated in Parliament. A particular focus is placed on business responsibility and human rights.

- Belgium: the focus is on 2030 Agenda implementation: the Development Ministry is pushing for multi-actor approach, with a red carpet treatment for the private sector.
- Italy: a new multi-stakeholder consultative body has been set up, trade unions are coordinating to provide input to this body.
- Sweden: engaged in intense dialogue with the government, even though more aid budget cuts are expected.
- Finland: aid budget cuts are making the work of SSOs very difficult. At least decent work is among the governments' priorities on development policy.
- Denmark: aid budget cuts are having severe consequences on trade union development cooperation.
- Philippines: trade unions have a seat at the national SDG platform. The national labour development plan is linked to national development plan. ILO office in Manila asked the advice of trade unions on national DWA plan.

Conclusions 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 these examples.

PART II: TUDCN STRATEGY 2016-2020

The afternoon session was devoted to the [TUDCN Global Strategy 2016-2020](#) document. Paola Simonetti presented the document prepared by the TUDCN Secretariat, in light of increased commitments taken by the network at international level, and the need to adjust the trade union work to a new development cooperation scenario.

Among the main achievements of TUDCN: most trade union priorities are included in global development policies. Trade unions are recognised as development actors in their own right. Trade unions influence CSOs and the development community. TUDCN regional development networks were created. Trade unions engage in advocacy-oriented research. Trade unions have to face various challenges: the lack of willingness to tackle systemic issues, very vague commitments (e.g. SDG indicators), voluntary accountability mechanisms that impede proper supervision of commitments taken. The increasingly strong role of businesses in development is accompanied by some serious issue too, it is leading to more privatisation, more tied aid and diverts ODA resources. However, many opportunities do lie ahead: the 2030 Agenda, in particular on Goal 8 (Decent Work), the many follow-up processes in which trade unions are involved, the recognition by the GPEDC of multi-stakeholder approaches and the possibility of promoting social dialogue and business accountability through different platforms (e.g. OECD-DAC, EU).

Following the plenary presentations working groups were asked to reflect on the strategy presented and suggest ways and areas to improve it, as reflected in the conclusions below.

Conclusions on the TUDCN Global 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 the role of private sector 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.

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2016

PART III: FOCUS ON AGENDA 2030 AND TRADE UNION ENGAGEMENT

The second day started with a high level panel on the contributions to the monitoring framework at regional and national levels.

[Margarita Guerrero](#), from UN ESCAP; gave the regional perspective, presenting some approaches to mainstream the SDGs in national policy frameworks on the basis of suggested priorities. Ms Guerrero underlined the importance of developing capacities and of data availability and use, with a specific focus on methodologies and the problems related to data gathering and measurement standards, particularly for vulnerable groups.

[Erlinda Capones](#), from the Government of the Philippines, presented the implementation and follow-up of the SDGs at national level. Efforts, which focussed on building awareness, prioritising indicators and reviewing and updating institutional mechanisms on the basis of the MDG experience were highlighted. The SDGs will need to be integrated in the different government plans. Some challenges will be: natural disasters, need for intensive localisation, data constraints and financing for the SDGs.

[Arun Kumar](#), from ILO/ACTRAV, introduced the relevant indicators for the ILO in the different goals, as well as the problems related to the weak tripartite and social dialogue structures that exist in many ASEAN countries. Decent work country programmes will be updated and will facilitate the implementation of Agenda 2030, but unions at national level will need to take initiatives so that their key priorities are not ignored in national policy implementation.

The presentations were followed by a question and answer session in which issues related to taxation and domestic resource mobilisation, and the role and engagement of trade unions at national level in the implementation of Agenda 2030 (namely in the Philippines) were raised.

This session was followed by a presentation of regional strategies on trade union engagement on the implementation of Agenda 2030.

Hilma Mote, ITUC-Africa, introduced the ATUDN strategy which covers five elements: analysing national priorities on SDGs; analysing the integration of SDGs and targets into national development plans; gathering information on national consultation mechanisms and opportunities for advocacy work; taking stock of the reporting and review mechanisms; analysing the capacity for engagement by trade unions. She also mentioned the need to map the inclusion of SDGs in regional and sub-regional institutions and enhance the capacities of national unions for engagement and advocacy.

Giulia Massobrio, TUCA, introduced the foreseen strategy based on the PLADA. She described it in three steps: firstly, the capacity building to elaborate National Trade Union Strategies for Development; secondly, advocacy work, including different events/meetings from low to high level, collaborating across regions, preparing communication tools and an annual report to analyse progress; and finally organizing at the regional level and coordinating national, regional and global initiatives.

Haridasan Parayarikkal, ITUC-AP, introduced the challenges in the region and presented the TUDCN in Asia-Pacific, following its mandate from the AP General Council. The engagement strategy is based on the regional conference which adopted an action plan, responding to Agenda 2030, for advocacy with national governments and regional institutions.

Liina Carr, ETUC Confederal Secretary and Joan Lanfranco, ITUC/TUDCN, presented the opportunities of the 2030 Agenda to engage EU institutions and member states. This includes the need to deliver on internal and external policies, and will affect EU development policy. Some countries will conduct national reviews but member states are moving at different speeds when it comes to planning, implementation and follow up. A survey has been conducted by the TUDCN to map the situation in each country and the EU working group will look at implementation and monitoring at national level.

The presentations were followed by a debate in which the diversity between the approach in each region was acknowledged and the need for synergies and collaboration was put forward.

Conclusions 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.

PART IV: FOCUS ON GPEDC HLM2 AND TRADE UNION PRIORITIES

The first session of the afternoon focused on an overview of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and its 2nd High Level Meeting (HLM2) and proposals for trade union engagement. Matt Simonds, ITUC/TUDCN, introduced the aid effectiveness process and the GPEDC. He explained the different plenaries that are envisaged for HLM2 and described the different forms of participation of TUDCN members in this process.

A debate followed in which the problems of the role of the private sector in this process were underlined. The importance of the negotiations and side meetings to promote trade union priorities at these events was highlighted.

Conclusions 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.

PART V: FOCUS ON “TRADE UNION PARTNERSHIPS” FUTURE APPROACHES

This session focussed on trade union partnerships. Diego Lopez, Matt Simonds and Joan Lanfranco, ITUC/TUDCN presented the concept notes on [organisational capacity](#), [the role of ODA in supporting decent work and social dialogue](#) and [joint TU initiatives](#), respectively. Following these presentations, work in groups was undertaken to discuss the strategies and forms of improving them. The main conclusions were:

Conclusions 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.

DAY 3 – THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2016

PART VI: TUDCN COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

The third day of the General Meeting focussed primarily on the revised communication and outreach strategy. The [concept note](#) strategy was presented to plenary and then later discussed in working groups in order to solicit feedback.

Overall TUDCN communication and outreach will be grounded in the following principles: communication to increase effectiveness on policy formulation, to share experiences and to increase coherence. Communication and outreach efforts would aim to reach the trade union movement, the development community, as well as the general public.

In plenary a number of pertinent issues were raised. These included questions and concerns on language and translations, use of multi-media material, coordination with the regional organizations and tailoring messages beyond the trade union movement.

Following the plenary presentations working groups were asked to reflect on the strategy presented and suggest ways and areas to improve it, as reflected in the conclusions:

Conclusions 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.

PART VII: TUDCN ACTION PLANS 2016-2017

Following the presentation of the communication and outreach strategy the [network's work plan](#) was presented. This was followed by [final conclusions](#) from the meeting.

ANNEX I: TUDCN 2016 GENERAL MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Country	Organisation	First Name	Surname
Europe			
Italy	CGIL	Sergio	Bassoli
Italy	UIL	Massimo	Di Pietro
Italy	ISCOS	Gemma	Arpaia
Belgium	ACV-CSC	Stijn	Sintubin
Belgium	ABVV-FGTB	Thierry	Aerts
Belgium	CGSLB-ACLVB	Maresa	Le Roux
Spain	USO Sotermun	Santiago	González Vallejo
Spain	ISCOD	Juan	Mendoza
Spain	CCOO	Félix Antonio	Ovejero Torres
Denmark	LO/FTF	Mads	Bugge Madsen
Finland	SASK	Janne	Ronkainen
France	CFDT	Blandine	Landas
France	CFDT	Elodie	Aïssi
France	CGT	Marie-Christine	Naillod
Sweden	Union to Union	Sigrid	Bergfeldt
Sweden	Union to Union	Kristina	Henschen
UK	TUC	Sean	Bamford
Netherlands	FNV	Naome	Chakanya
Germany	FES	Felix	Braunsdorf
USA	Solidarity Center	Fay	Lyle
Australia	Apheda	Kate	Lee
GUF	EI-IE	Antonia	Wulff
Belgium	ETUC	Liina	Carr
Africa			
Togo	ITUC Africa	Hilma	Mote
Senegal	UNSAS	Anne Cécile	Coly
Botswana	SATUCC	Paliani	Chinguwo
Asia			
Singapore	ITUC AP	Haridasan	Parayarikkal
Indonesia	KSBSI	Rekson	Silaban
Malaysia	MTUC	Siti	Binti Mahpudz
Cambodia	CLC	Athit	Kong
Fiji	FTUC	Rajeshwar	Singh
Philippines	FFW	Julius	Cainglet

South Korea	FKTU	Jiheon	Lee
Japan	JILAF	Hitoshi	Suzuki
Japan	JILAF	Teruhiko	Sekiguchi
Japan	JILAF	Yuki	Otsuji
Japan	Rengo	Koji	Suzuki
Nepal	GEFONT	Bishnu Prasad	Lamsal
Latin America			
Brazil	TUCA	Giulia	Massobrio
Argentina	CGT	Marita	González
Argentina	CTA	Andrés	Larisgoitia
Speakers			
	ILO/ACTRAV	Arun	Kumar
Philippines	Government	Erlinda	Capones
	UN ESCAP	Margarita	Guerero
TUDCN Secretariat			
Belgium	ITUC	Chibebe	Wellington
Belgium	ITUC/TUDCN	Paola	Simonetti
Belgium	ITUC/TUDCN	Matt	Simonds
Belgium	ITUC/TUDCN	Diego	López González
Belgium	ITUC/TUDCN	Joan	Lanfranco
Belgium	ITUC/TUDCN	Theo	Morrissey

The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) is 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). TUDCN'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.

Le **Réseau syndical de coopération au développement (RSCD)** est une initiative de la Confédération syndicale internationale (CSI) réunissant des organisations syndicales affiliées, des organisations de solidarité, les organisations régionales de la CSI, ainsi que les Fédérations syndicales internationales (les fédérations sectorielles - FSI), la Confédération européenne des syndicats (CES) et la Commission syndicale consultative auprès de l'OCDE (TUAC). Le RSCD a pour but de traduire la perspective syndicale dans les débats sur la politique en matière de développement international et d'améliorer la coordination et l'efficacité des activités syndicales dans le domaine de la coopération au développement.

La **Red Sindical de Cooperación al Desarrollo (RSCD)** es una iniciativa de la Confederación Sindical Internacional (CSI), que agrupa a diversas organizaciones sindicales afiliadas, organizaciones solidarias (OS), organizaciones regionales de la CSI, las Federaciones Sindicales Internacionales (FSI), la Confederación Europea de Sindicatos (CES) y la Comisión Sindical Consultiva ante la OCDE (TUAC). El objetivo de la red es aportar la perspectiva sindical a los debates políticos y mejorar la coordinación y la eficacia de las actividades sindicales relacionadas con la cooperación al desarrollo.



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