



TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION NETWORK GENERAL MEETING

Sao Paulo, 18th -20th March 2014

Tuesday 18th of March

The General Meeting was opened by Victor Báez (General Secretary of the TUCA) and Wellington Chibebe (Deputy General Secretary of the ITUC) who highlighted the importance of this first meeting on development cooperation in the Global South.



Daniel Olesker

Minister of Social Development of Uruguay

He exposed the [development model of Uruguay](#)

“Economic growth needs to be accompanied by redistribution policies to bring development”



Luiz Dulci

Director of the Lula Institute

“Today, Latin American governments do not have a common ideology or strategy of change. This is our biggest challenge”



Boris Utria

Country operations advisor of the World Bank in Brazil

He made a [presentation](#) on the evolution of the World Bank and its approach to development throughout the years.

Carlos Mussi

Director of CEPAL Brazil

He made a [regional analysis](#) of the present economic and social situation in Latin America and indicated future challenges.

Pedro Santos

European Commission delegation in Brazil

He gave a brief outlook on the European Commission's perspective and agenda with respect to development cooperation.



Victor Báez

Secretary General of [TUCA](#)

He exposed the creation and objectives of the [PLADA - Development Platform for the Americas](#)



Kwasi Adu-Amankwah

Secretary General of [ITUC Africa](#)

He mentioned the consequences of the IMF and World Bank policies in Africa and the role of trade unions in development.

Working groups then discussed the trade union development model.

The main conclusions were:

- Trade unions want a stronger role for the state. In Latin America, **the State** has an increasing regulatory capacity, whereas this capacity is being lessened in Europe.
- The **international financial system** has to be regulated. Trade unions demand an end to corporate driven governance.
- Trade unions want quality and publically-owned **public services** (free and quality education, healthcare, etc.)
- The **private sector** needs a stricter framework; tax systems should be fair; policies should be based on decent work and a human-rights based approach to development.

Wednesday 19th March



Gerardo Bracho

Senior Policy Advisor, Development Cooperation Directorate of the OECD

He introduced the [current situation and the debates](#) in view of the [1st Ministerial meeting on Development Effectiveness](#) to be held in Mexico in April.



Pierre Habbard

Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD / ITUC

He presented the draft position paper on [the private sector in development](#), outlining the different roles that it plays and the increase of official development assistance allocated to this sector. He concluded with policy priorities for trade unions.



Matt Simonds

International Trade Union Confederation

He introduced the [debates](#) on [the post 2015 agenda](#), focusing on the Open Working Group and the current focus areas. He emphasised that the final decision will be made by the UN General Assembly in September 2014.



Kjeld Jakobsen

Trade Union Confederation of the Americas

He gave an [overview of the situation](#) concerning **South-South and triangular cooperation** in Latin America.

He emphasised the lack of strategies and legal framework for this kind of cooperation, in which labour related themes are often absent.

The debates of the afternoon session were organised in working groups in which the four subjects treated in the morning presentations were discussed.

The main conclusions of the different working groups were:

- In terms of **the high level meeting in Mexico**, trade unions need to focus on few objectives: taxation floors, accountability and transparency, including in contracts with multinational companies.
- A stronger **private sector** might contribute to growth but not to wealth redistribution. Trade unions thus question the legitimacy of the private sector as a beneficiary of cooperation policies and the role of the private sector as a donor. Standards and criteria have to be set for all the companies who want to take part in development cooperation.
- In the **post-2015 process**, our main advocacy message should be the support for a global governance framework which includes rights and provides accountability.
- In terms of **south-south and triangular cooperation**, new emerging economies should obey to the same development effectiveness rules and criteria as other donors.



Thursday 20th March

The third day, chaired by Maurice Bossuat (CFDT), started with presentations of activities in the regional organisations of the ITUC in Latin America, Africa, Middle East North Africa and Asia-Pacific.



Paola Simonetti (ITUC/TUDCN) presented the TUDCN report of activities and results for 2013-2014 and the action plan for 2014-2015, as well as strategy documents.



Jan Dereymaeker (ITUC/TUDCN) discussed improved governance mechanisms which were endorsed by the audience.

The chair concluded the work and thanked the TUCA leadership and staff for hosting the meeting as well as the rest of the team for the excellent conditions of work and for their hospitality.