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**TUDCN Activity Report (2011-2012)**

***Promoting decent work for sustainable development***

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**List of Acronyms**

AAA Accra Agenda for Action

BA BetterAid

CPDE CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness

CSO Civil Society Organisation(s)

DAC Development Assistance Committee

DCI Development Cooperation Instrument

EC European Commission

FSG Facilitation and Steering Group

GM General Meeting

GPEDC Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation

GUF Global Union Federations

HRBA Human Rights Based Approach

ILO International Labour Organisation

ITUC International Trade Union Confederation

LDCs Least Developed Countries

MDG Millennium Development Goals

OECD Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

OF Open Forum

PBIG Post-Busan Interim Group

PD Paris Declaration

PFD Policy Forum on Development

SD Structured Dialogue

SPF Social Protection Floors

SSO Solidarity Support Organisation

TUAC Trade Union Advisory Committee

TUDCN Trade Union Development Cooperation Network

TUDEP Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNDCF United Nations Development Cooperation Forum

# Introduction:

The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) is an initiative of ITUC that brings together affiliated trade union organisations, the solidarity support organisations (SSO), representatives of the ITUC regional organisations, Global Union Federations (GUFs), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC). The TUDCN gathers more than 120 organisations from all around the world.

It was launched following the ITUC Congress in 2006 to address the demand for better and more effective coordinated trade union development cooperation. The TUDCN was formally established in 2008.

The mandate of the TUDCN is based on two dimensions: support the trade unions positions and views on development cooperation, bringing the trade union perspective into the international development policy debates and secondly, enhancing trade union development cooperation effectiveness. The work of the network focuses on advocacy and capacity building activities through its working groups, general meeting, conferences and seminars as well as by its research, communication and documentation activities.

The TUDCN has been operating since 2008 with the financial support of the affiliated organisations and of the European Commission - under the Non State Actors thematic programme.

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| The TUDCN’s governance[[1]](#footnote-1):  - **The TUDCN Secretariat**, provided by the ITUC, organizes the workgroups, network meetings, and seminars. It ensures the communication and information instruments of the Network.    - **General Meeting (GM)**: The GM gathers all members of the network twice a year. The major decisions inherent to the network are taken during General Meetings. It is also a time where reports and achievements are shared and future commitments and policies are discussed.  - **Facilitation and Steering Group (FSG)**: The FSG, composed by representatives of the different TU constituencies’, enhances the preparation of TUDCN meetings and oversees the work of the TUDCN secretariat. It ensures the adequate monitoring and evaluation of the work of the TUDCN. It assesses regularly the financial and administrative situation of the network.  - **Working Group on EU development policies and instruments (WG EU)**: The objective of the WG EU is strengthening the trade union role and priorities within EU development cooperation policies and instruments. It’s the main channel for elaborating policy positions and lobbying activities towards the European institutions on Development Cooperation. It is open to all TUDCN interested organisations.  - **Working Group on Trade Unions Development Effectiveness (WG DevEff)**: the task of the WG DevEff is contributing to elaborate and to put in place practices in order to facilitate coordination among TU partners in development as well as to enhance coherence and ownership of TU development programmes. It is open to all TUDCN interested organisations.  **- Working Group on Policy and Advocacy:** it ensures the follow-up of the development agenda. It monitors and supports the trade union work at the OECD-DAC, the UN, BetterAid platform, Open Forum and follow-up on the interaction with policy developments at national level.  - **Seminars**: The TUDCN organizes several seminars per year to exchange on trade union development cooperation related issues and prepare for policy positions. Recent seminars including the UN2015, development education, south-south cooperation.  - **Regional networks, consultations and seminars**: are organised in cooperation with the regional organisations of the ITUC on specific issues of trade union cooperation and development policies of importance for the region. |

# Summary of key achievements

## A. Global policies on development

Trade unions have been contributing actively to the aid and development effectiveness debates following the Paris Declaration (PD), Accra Agenda for Action (AAA), and Busan processes. They have built strong alliances with CSOs as members of the main CSOs Platforms, such as Better Aid and Open Forum[[2]](#footnote-2).

### - Paris, Accra, Busan (milestones on democratic ownership / global accountability / international HR standards)

Although trade unions have recognized the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) as an advance on the Paris Declaration in some important areas, such as the recognition of CSOs as development actors in their own right – and the awareness that aid isn’t the only factor contributing to development), they deplored nevertheless the limited and technocratic approach of what constitutes aid effectiveness.

In Busan, trade unions joined the call of the BetterAid Platform for a Declaration *“that [would] set ambitious commitments for renewed partnerships for a development cooperation system that focuses on human rights, recognizing the centrality of poverty reduction, gender equality, social justice, decent work and environmental sustainability…”.*

However, the Busan HLF adopted an open ended political declaration that was the result of a relatively open multi-stakeholder participation process but characterised by the lack of concrete commitments and objectives.

Trade unions deplored the fact that development policies are still often driven by donor countries’ political or trade priorities. They insisted that democratic ownership of development strategies by the people, through representation and participation in decision making must be the main instrument to achieve effective governance of development. The support to social dialogue, involving reinforced participation of the social partners, on labour market and decent work policies constitutes for trade unions an integral part of democratic ownership of development.

Trade union also regretted the failure to recognise trade unions as key players in their own rights as a social partner in development as well as the omission to include social dialogue as an instrument for engaging the private sector to sustainability in development[[3]](#footnote-3).

The achievements:

- Decent work is a policy priority in the final Busan declaration. Trade unions welcomed the inclusion of decent work, the will to address inequality as a development challenge and the promotion of international agreed commitments for human rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability, disability and good governance.

- Participation of CSO and TU at the negotiation table in Busan: for the first time CSOs were sitting at the negotiation table as an equal partner. The unions, together with other CSOs united within the BetterAid platform, took an active part in negotiating the outcome document. It’s also the first time trade unions were referred in the outcome document.

- The trade unions influenced the overall CSO agenda on development effectiveness.

### - EU level (actor based approach)

Trade Unions have always been advocating an ‘actor based approach’ in development more specifically vis-à-vis the EU asking them to recognize the diversity of CSOs working in development having different mandates, objectives and working methodologies. Therefore, the EU should adapt its cooperation instruments and tools based on the added value that the different actors can produce. The global dimension of civil society, most effectively expressed through membership-based organisations in the North and in the South (such as trade unions), should be recognized and supported by the EU when it comes to policy dialogues on development strategies, as well as, within financial support systems.

The TUDCN advocated for the actor-based approach in order to preserve the independence and autonomy of trade unions mandate and strategies in development.

The achievements:

- *The EC has endorsed a multi-stakeholders dialogue approach:*

Following the Structured Dialogue process, the trade union voice was heard and a permanent space for dialogue was set up: the Policy Forum on Development (PFD). Its aim is to offer CSOs and LAs from the EU and partner countries, as well as European institutions, a multi-stakeholder space for dialogue on development policies. The PFD ensures an adequate TU representation at all levels.

At country level in the South, EU delegations are setting ‘Road Maps’ which are supposed to facilitate wider inclusion of CSOs actors and sectors in policy dialogue.

- The support to CSOs networks at global and regional level was strengthened, supporting initiatives in the South.

- *Decent work, social protection and social dialogue* are included in the main policy documents as well as the social partners support in the current DCI proposal.

- The EU has reaffirmed its *recognition and* *support to the TUDCN*.

### - OECD/DAC level: TU representation

In March 2012, TUAC was invited for the first time ever, to the DAC Senior Level Meeting which brings together the heads of the development agencies of the 24 ‘donor’ countries. This was a very important progress showing firstly political recognition and providing additional advocacy access for trade unions.

Additionally, a seminar was organized in October 2012 at the OECD with the aim to discuss the findings and recommendations of the study [“Trade unions views on working with donor governments in development”](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/tus_working_with_donors_full_study_en-3.pdf) with DAC delegates. This mapping of 18 experiences of Trade Unions working with their respective governments in support of trade union development shows that donors have acknowledged the diversity of civil society organisations in theory, but have failed to do so in their support mechanisms.

## B. Trade Union development effectiveness

Development Effectiveness means for the trade unions: *“trade unions improve the working and living conditions of male and female workers and advance respect for human and trade union rights, thereby contributing to decent work, social justice and democratic processes. Trade unions are a social partner in the relations to employers, and governments and they are also part of the civil society”.*

The ITUC Founding Congress in 2006, ranks development cooperation and capacity building among the political priorities, calling for ‘new trade union internationalism’ based on better coordination, ownership and coherence amongst the various development initiatives of its affiliates. Following this indication, development effectiveness became and currently is one of the priority work field of the TUDCN.

The endorsement of [Principles and Guidelines on trade union development effectiveness](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/TU_develop_EN.pdf) and the elaboration of the [TUDEP](http://www.ituc-csi.org/tu-development-effectiness-profile) (Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile) have been key achievements of the TU development effectiveness work.

The principles and guidelines serve as a common reference for development cooperation initiatives, improving the methodologies and ultimately contributing to enhancing the impact of trade union cooperation programmes.

The TUDEP is conceived to facilitate the implementation of the principles in practice by trade union partners.

The TUDCN is engaged in following up this work stream in the future, elaborating specific tools and methodologies aimed at improving the quality of partnerships, as well as, strengthening the capacity of impact assessment of trade union development programmes.

# Chapter I: The TUDCN’s advocacy in depth

# BUSAN: TUDCN Involvement

## A. Busan preparation

Trade unions have been active in the international processes on aid and development effectiveness and engaged since 2008 with the BetterAid platform. Trade unions have participated in the meetings of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness at the OECD, taking up the lead as the CSO co-chair on the democratic ownership and accountability work stream. They provided inputs on the various versions of the draft leading to Busan negotiations. Trade unions have been increasingly recognized as important players among the development stakeholders. In cooperation with TUAC the trade union movement also hosted and supported the CSO liaison office with the OECD/DAC and the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness.

Trade union consultations took place a year and a half before Busan, both at regional and global levels and contributed to the elaboration of the TU positions.

In July 2011, the TUDCN released a development paper [“](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/TU_dev_2_ENG_Final.pdf)*[Towards a Comprehensive Paradigm for Decent Work and Development Effectiveness](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/TU_dev_2_ENG_Final.pdf)*[”](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/TU_dev_2_ENG_Final.pdf). This document presents the trade union positions and key messages for the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. It was endorsed by the TUDCN’s affiliates during the GM in Brussels in June 2011.

The trade union movement called governments and other stakeholders to:

- Fully support multi-stakeholder approaches to policy formulation and implementation with respect to development cooperation,

- Shift to a comprehensive paradigm on development effectiveness, adopting a rights-based approach, and striving towards the full implementation of internationally agreed standards on poverty eradication, decent work, human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability,

- Deepens and fully implements existing commitments with respect to the principles of democratic ownership, mutual accountability, ending policy conditionality, untying aid, results-based management, and policy coherence.

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## B. The trade union delegation

An important trade union delegation of some 40 trade unionists from 25 different countries took part in the Busan Civil Society Forum (BSCF, 26-28 November) and in the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4, 29th November – 1st December).

\* Busan Civil Society Forum: Trade unions contributed considerably to the BSCF. At the Development for a Decent World – preparatory meeting for their delegation, the trade union positions and advocacy strategies were clarified and prepared. During the BCSF, the union delegates participated actively in the sessions on inclusive ownership and accountability, rights-based approach and private sector.

The final [CSO statement](http://www.betteraid.org/ar/betteraid-policy/betteraid-publications/statements/524-civil-society-statement-to-the-fourth-high-level-forum-on-aid-effectiveness.html) which was the outcome of all BSCF discussions reflected fully the trade union perspective on the issue, including the call for the recognition of social partners and adherence to international standards on labour rights.

The trade union delegation finished with the proclamation of the Civil Society Statement [“Better Aid and Development Effectiveness for the World We Want”](http://www.google.be/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CDMQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dochas.ie%2FShared%2FFiles%2F4%2FCivil_society_statement_to_HLF4.pdf&ei=Ln1mUYXJGMiyOZeUgcgN&usg=AFQjCNGUUbgJjVDqimr3LSXW4DSUp572Hw&sig2=a8h2bsG9QXQLUlG69GQwTA&bvm=bv.45107431,d.ZWU&cad=rja). It captures the CSO positions for the High Level Forum.

\* 4th High Level Forum: About 300 CSO participants, including 30 trade union delegates stayed in Busan to attend the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

In cooperation with LO-FTF (Danish Confederation of Trade Unions) and EATUC (East African Trade Union Confederation), ITUC hosted a side event on the role of Social Dialogue in development cooperation, built upon the best practice of a trade union-led programme strengthening the Social Dialogue structures in East Africa as a contribution to the democratic ownership debate.

Trade union representation was also present at the High-Level debates. Wellington Chibebe, the Deputy Secretary General of the ITUC spoke at the Thematic Session on the Rights-Based Approaches on the first day of the HLF.

Finally, the TUDCN coordinator, Jan Dereymaeker, was sitting at the negotiation table of the HLP, bringing forward trade union asks.

## C. Busan follow-up

TUDCN made public its engagement post-Busan at the TUDCN General Meeting in Florence. It was an opportunity to debrief the 4th HLF and to react to the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. Finally a TU response was drafted.

Firstly, the inclusion of decent work and social protection is welcomed as well as the confirmation of the role of civil society organisations as development actors in their own right. However, it regrets the failure to specify a framework for effective and responsible private sector commitment based on internationally agreed standards as well as the failure to recognise trade unions as key players in their own right.

It also deplores the omission to include social dialogue “*as an instrument for engaging the private sector to sustainability in development*” and the vision of the HRBA which is relegated to in-country focus and voluntary commitments.

“*Overall, the trade union movement cannot share the underlying economic development model of the Partnership, nearly exclusively, based on growth as driver for development*”. According to the trade union movement, the State shouldn’t have a role limited to enable the market and private sector driven policies like it was stated in the Declaration.

Lastly, the *“international trade union movement commits to engage in the GPEDC and its governance and working structures in the post-Busan processes*” in order to meet the agreed ambitions as set out in the preamble, common goals and commitments for the GPEDC.

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| FOCUS: Towards a new Civil Society Organisations’ Partnership after Busan, … the CPDE  A post-Busan CSOs follow-up meeting took place in Cebu, Philippines. It brought 80 delegates together from the BetterAid platform and the Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness in February 2012. The meeting discussed how CSOs will organise to work further on the issues of development effectiveness and interact within the new Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.  Participants representing the continental networks and large constituency-based organisations such as AWID or ITUC agreed to create a new, unified platform based on [the Cebu consensus.](http://www.google.be/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&cad=rja&ved=0CEgQFjAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cso-effectiveness.org%2FIMG%2Fpdf%2Fthe_cebu_consensus.pdf&ei=hn1mUZ25LseqO5ysgOgI&usg=AFQjCNESfIq_dHaI23oBg2s_-lNvCBiu-A&sig2=_kjFWIHCoeccC1exJc1FDQ&bvm=bv.45107431,d.ZWU)  The new platform substituted BA and OF in September 2012. Both platforms were dissolved.  In Amsterdam, in April 2012, a task team representing the major constituencies, including the trade unions through ITUC/TUAC, started working on the blueprint for a workable and effective CSO coordination.  In December 2012, the Global Facilitation Groups of Open Forum and BetterAid Coordination Group met in Nairobi to finalize the new civil society strategy and working arrangements in the post-Busan reality and formalized the new global CSO partnership secretariat, working groups and mandates going forward.  The Global Partnership starts on the wrong foot.  In the end of June 2012, an OECD-DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF) meeting took place to launch the GPEDC (Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation).  But the global Partnership turned out to be very disappointing in term of space for the civil society. The Partnership was considered by many to have been launched through an imposed consensus.  The legitimate demands from African Union, CSO, trade union and other partners were simply ignored and classified without follow-up. Also, the Busan grounded “Building Blocks showed little or no proactive engagement on the essentials of the Busan Agenda. |

## - UNITED NATIONS:

Addressing United Nations bodies and specialised agencies dealing with international development is crucial for our aim to make decent work and democratic ownership recognised in current development agendas and to improve the trade union outreach and cooperation with other development actors. Therefore the TUDCN followed up specific events at UN level during the last two years.

### \* United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):

The ITUC released a [Statement](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc_statement_to_unctad_xiii_-_final.pdf) before the Conference, pointing at the problems resulting from trade liberalisation that need an appropriate regulatory framework for the financial markets, sufficient policy space for countries to follow more appropriate trade and taxation policies and ensuring social protection floors.

The UNCTAD XIII *“Development-centred globalisation: Towards inclusive and sustainable growth and development”* opened the debate about the real outcomes of the current model of international trade and finance.

The trade union delegation, composed of 6 people took part in the event. It hosted two events: on social protection and on policy space for development. The ITUC advocated for the establishment of Social Protection floors, Decent Work Agenda as well as macroeconomic policies for job creation and targets for green jobs creation. ITUC Deputy General Secretary Wellington Chibebe, who headed the delegation, spoke at UNCTAD’s General Debate, conveying trade union messages to the governmental delegates attending the forum.

The 13th session reaffirmed and strengthened the organisation’s mandate. It won’t only continue its work on the wide spectrum of issue related to trade, finance, investment and development, but also deepen its work on issues such as social protection and green economy. Trade unions welcome the new UNCTAD mandate as well as its progressive language, referring to rights to development, decent work and social protection a couple of times in the final declaration.

### \* UN Development Cooperation Forum meeting (UNDCF):

In its [Statement](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc_statement_to_undcf_2012_en.pdf) to the UNDCF, ITUC raised the issues of green and decent jobs creation, role of social dialogue and private sector, the issue of mutual, accountability and democratic ownership and the Human Rights-Based Approach… The trade union delegation also focused on the issue of South-South Cooperation; it spoke up about the need for more transparency, focus on the local decent employment creation and compliance with international standards on development effectiveness.

### \* 4th UN Forum on Least Developed Countries (LDCs):

The ITUC released a Statement asking for employment-led, inclusive, equitable growth in LDCs and for the integration of the LDCs in the green economy.

The Istanbul Conference was the 4th UN Conference, held 10 years after the Brussels LDC Conference that made public the LDC Brussels Programme. The Istanbul Conference evaluated the implementation of that Programme.

The ITUC participated as a panellist in several sessions and had the opportunity to advocate for a Financial Transaction Tax, for Decent Work Agenda, gender equality, internationally recognised labour rights and environmental sustainability.

The ITUC was highly visible as part of civil society, however, they felt together with the other CSOs that their opinions and contributions were not enough reflected in the final political declaration.

## - OEDC-DAC (TUAC)

TUDCN has privileged links with the OECD through TUAC. By the years, trade unions including TUDCN have acquired recognition and more advocacy access to the OECD.

In March 2011, in a trade union consultation on Aid Effectiveness at the OECD in Paris, supported by BetterAid, Bert Koenders Co-Chair of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and [Brian Atwood](http://www.equaltimes.org/in-depth/real-development-needs-real-participation), the DAC chair, encouraged the trade unions to engage in local development policies and take their place in the international development forum.

In March 2012, the DAC Senior Level Meeting took place in Paris; it brings together the heads of the development agencies of the 24 “donor” countries and is part of the OECD. For the first time ever, the trade union movement was invited by the DAC chair and was represented by John Evans, TUAC Secretary General, and Jan Dereymaeker, TUDCN Coordinator.

The SLM addressed various elements of the current development agenda such as the post-2015 development goals, the Rio+20 Conference, the follow-up of Busan, or the OECD Development Strategy for the coming years.

## - EUROPEAN UNION:

TUDCN is very active in lobbying the EU, with the support of its specific WG on European development policies.

### \* European Commission Strategic Communications

### • EU Agenda for Change

+ Trade unions [welcomed](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/key_trade_union_messages_on_agenda_for_change.pdf) the text of the Agenda for Change and the EC Communication on Budget Support, making explicit commitments to support more the Decent Work Agenda and social protections schemes and initiatives. However, they stressed again the importance of focusing on poverty reduction and sustainable, social development rather than on narrow aid delivery results. They also voiced concerns about the omission of social partners and social dialogue in the paragraph about private sector.

### • Social Protection: EC communication on ‘Social Protection in European Union Development Cooperation’

ITUC and ETUC released [their contribution](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/key_tu_messages_on_social_protection_floors.pdf) to the Communication calling on the EU to integrate the SPF approach into social protection support in developing countries and secure adequate funding for the support of SPF implementation. Trade unions suggest also the creation of an interagency mechanism to support the implementation of SPFs at global, regional and national levels as well as promoting the SPF approach in the strategies of the World Bank, OECD and G20.

According to the document published by ITUC and ETUC, rights-based approach to development, ownership and inclusiveness through social dialogue, policy coherence and domestic resource mobilisation need to be followed while implementing the approach

In the final text of the communication, the trade union movement welcomed the reference to the ILO standards and to the social partners as well as the inclusion of decent work and social protection as fundamental objectives for the sustainable development agenda. The importance of supporting social dialogue was also reminded as a priority in EU development cooperation.

However, the TUDCN was concerned with the fact that the Communication makes reference to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) when referring to the support of private sector in developing countries in managing protection schemes. The reference to CSR should be replaced by the full commitments to international labour standards and UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

**- Social protection at the heart of the development agenda – European Development Days**

The [High Level Event](http://www.ituc-csi.org/social-protection-at-the-heart-of) that ITUC co-hosted together with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the European Development Days on placing social protection at the heart of the development agenda attracted not only eminent speakers, but also a full room of development professionals interested in the topic. ITUC Secretary General Sharan Burrow, European Commissioner Andris Piebalgs and French Minister for Development Pascal Canfin were only some of the distinguished speakers who stressed the importance of social protection as a crucial element of development policy and practice.

It was underlined that it’s important to integrate social protection norms – including universal health care for all – in the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals framework.

### • CSOs in Development: EC Communication on CSOs in Development

In the [consultation process](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc_paper_final_csos_in_development_en.pdf), TUDCN stressed the importance of social dialogue: the EU should make the social dialogue a specific point in its development cooperation approach. It should promote social dialogue initiatives more concretely, through strengthening the capacity of social partners and through supporting policy dialogue with national governments.

It reiterated that trade unions have to be recognized as agents in development and that democratic ownership, representation/accountability legacy and sustainability should be the guiding principles to legitimate CSOs

After the publication of the Communication, the TUDCN welcomed “*the explicit reference to trade union organisations as actors with a specific role in promoting democratic ownership and social and sustainable development*” and appreciated “*the words of the Communication when describing the role of CSOs in promoting participatory democracy, democratic ownership of development policies, and finally accountability of development results”.* That’s why it called the *“EU Institutions to always refer to the Human Rights-Based Approach to development, which should be one of the funding principles of the new DCI*.”

Nevertheless, it deplored that there was no specific mention to the role of social partners and social dialogue in the Council Conclusions of October 15, when referring to the promotion of inclusive growth, decent work, and corporate social responsibility.

TUDCN pointed out the specificity of trade unions as development actors. It stressed that the existence and functioning of social dialogue structures/mechanisms is an indicator of an enabling environment, as social dialogue contributes to and strengthen democracy.

### \* Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI):

Concerning [the key trade union messages](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/key_trade_union_messages_on_dci.pdf) on the EC Proposal for a Regulation establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation – DCI, the most important asks were the need for an actor-based approach and more support to the Decent Work Agenda and social partners at country level. The Decent Work Agenda must be included when it comes to concentration of sectors at country level. Social partners must be part from the start, in policy dialogue to ensure democratic ownership of development policies which goes beyond government’s involvement.

Concerning the overall shape of the DCI, trade unions advocated strengthening the thematic programmes, granting more access to trade unions and increasing capacity building.

On May 2012, the Trade union Intergroup[[4]](#footnote-4) meeting at the European Parliament included for the first time development cooperation among the discussion points in the agenda.

The five key trade union messages concerning DCI were presented by Judith Kirton-Darling, Confederal Secretary of the ETUC:

- Decent Work should be mainstreamed in the EU development policy, in accordance to recent EU policy recommendations, such the EU Agenda for Change;

- Promotion of the role and capacity of social partners in development (one of the fundamental pillar of Decent Work is indeed social dialogue);

- Support to an “actor based approach” in development cooperation, highlighting specifically organisations that are membership based and therefore more capable to grant long-term sustainability to development processes;

- Strengthen the thematic programmes of the DCI, being the main mechanism to support independence of trade unions in partner countries;

- Give relevance to specific indexes, such as the UN Human Development Index, when it comes to differentiation between middle and low-income countries.

### \* Structured dialogue

The Structured Dialogue was an initiative of the European Commission (EC), which provided for the first time an opportunity for a multi-stakeholders dialogue with civil society organisations, local authorities, member states and European institutions on development effectiveness. Its purpose was reaching a mutual understanding and building consensus on the main challenges related to civil society organizations and local authorities involved in development cooperation. It also aimed to find ways to improve the effectiveness of civil society organisations and local authorities strengthening partnerships and to explore ways to improve EC funding modalities.

TUDCN promoted social dialogue, democratic ownership, enabling environment and [an actor based approach](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/Actor_based_approach_to_development_cooperation_july_2010.pdf) for development cooperation.

TUDCN also [called](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc_messages_on_sd_follow_up-2.pdf) for a permanent structured dialogue to be implemented following the [Final Conference of Budapest](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/images/f/fb/Joint_Final_Statement_May_2011.pdf). This dialogue must be permanent, multi-stakeholders, actor-based, and financially supported.

After 4 meetings and 14 months of extensive exchanges in Brussels and during regional seminars, the Final Conference of the Structured Dialogue co-organized by the European Commission and the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in May 2011, has been the occasion to present the main outcome of the process and to address Structured Dialogue results in the light of main EU development priorities for 2011 and beyond.

Paola Simonetti (TUDCN) participated to the second animated Questions & Answers panel discussion; it covered the challenges of the follow-up of this SD pilot initiative and its outcomes. Panellists indicated that the SD recommendations should be translated in operational contributions for the HLF-4 in Busan, and for the on-going negotiations on the financial perspectives and the new EC Communication on the involvement of CSOs & LAs in EC development cooperation.

The trade unions were heard: the EU Structured Dialogue has then evolved into the Policy Forum on Development. Trade unions asked for a place of actual dialogue, not only information sharing. The first meeting of the Policy Forum on Development took place in May 2012.

Thanks to the intensive advocacy work achieved by the Network, trade union’s demands for decent work and democratic ownership have been increasingly recognized in policy debates. The visibility and recognition of trade unions as development actors has increased in the CSO platforms as well as among other development actors like governmental and multi-stakeholder fora (OECD-DAC, UNCTAD, UNDCF…).

The success of the TUDCN activities is also reflected in the EU level through the recognition of the role of social partners, the importance of Decent Work Agenda and Social Protection Floors or the better inclusion of the “actor based approach” in the CSOs thematic programmes.

# Chapter II: From principles and guidelines to the Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile

## A. Approval by the General Council of ITUC of the “Trade Union Principles and Guidelines on Development Effectiveness”

Development Effectiveness became on the highest priorities in international debates on development cooperation, also within CSOs. In Accra CSOs engaged in defining their own criteria on development effectiveness and the Open Forum was created precisely to meet this objective. Trade unions were part of the Open Forum process, and contributed to elaborate the Istanbul principles on CSOs development effectiveness.

At the same time trade unions took the opportunity to further reflect, trying to adapt and contextualise those principles according to the trade union needs and priorities. Therefore, the TUDCN undertook this challenge translating the concept of development effectiveness in terms of trade union development cooperation.

The Principles and Guidelines are the result of an extensive consultation process, which started in the second half of 2009. It was coordinated by the ITUC/TUDCN secretariat and completed by the end of 2010.

This document was consequently brought at the level of ITUC regional structures which, in coordination with ITUC Brussels, organised consultations with their national trade union centres. Consultations were mainly aimed at raising awareness within Southern trade union organisations on the contents of the Principles, capturing Southern perspectives and views on the Principles, and gathering additional inputs for their final formulation.

The P&G were approved during the ITUC General Council on February 2nd 2011 – with unanimity. Thanks to this endorsement, the Principles & Guidelines became core shared criteria for the ITUC itself and for its member organisations within multilateral and bilateral development cooperation programs.

The Principles & Guidelines presented under the form of a Development Paper, aims to represent the vision and the values of trade unions and, at the same time, serve as a common reference for development cooperation initiatives. Moreover, it contributes to improve the impact of trade union cooperation programmes. They are meant to apply in all situations, whether trade unions are using internal resources or external donor support from national governments/development agencies or multilateral institutions.

The Operational Guidelines are meant to identify actions, tools and mechanisms for the implementation of the Principles, supporting their compliance during the actual implementation of development initiatives.

The eight principles are: Democratic Ownership, Autonomy, Partnership, Transparency, Accountability, Coherence, Inclusiveness and Equality, Sustainability[[5]](#footnote-5).

The approval of the trade union document on Principles & Guidelines on Development Effectiveness led to the creation of a new WG: TU Development Effectiveness.

## B. Elaboration of the TUDEP: improving the effectiveness of the Development Cooperation activities of trade union

The Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile Tool is the result of an in-house development process in 2011 and is meant to be used by Trade Unions that are involved in Development Cooperation to help them to bring the guidelines into practice The “Development Effectiveness Profile Tool” was presented during the WG DevEff in June 2011 as an instrument which facilitates the monitoring/evaluation and implementation of the Principles & Guidelines on TU development effectiveness. It’s directed at improving the cooperation modalities of the trade union partners on case by case basis and can be used in all project phases. (design, planning, implementation, and monitoring & evaluation).

The TUDEP was introduced to the affiliates during the GM in Florence (December 2011) and was supported by the members of the WG DevEff who shared their experiences with the try-out of the tool in their organisations.

# Chapter III: TUDCN Communication and outreach tools

- Newsletter: the Newsletter “Trade Union Focus on Development is issued by the Secretariat every month or six weeks in three languages (EN-FR-SP).

The Newsletter allows an improved visibility of Network’s activities and political statements, as well as a better sharing of information between the affiliated organisations and a better awareness and understanding of the current development policy processes among Network’s members and other actors.

- Database: the [Trade Union Development Projects Directory](http://projects.ituc-csi.org/) is a website with an easy to browse database of trade union development projects and organisations. The directory has been created with the aim of fostering coordination and cooperation for an improved impact of the trade union development cooperation. It contains more 260 development projects carried out by the affiliated and partner organisations of the ITUC all around the world.

The database has been developed by the TUDCN’s Secretariat in collaboration with the IT unit of the ITUC.

- Website: The [TUDCN’s web page](http://www.ituc-csi.org/development-cooperation) included in the ITUC’s website contains all the information concerning the Network. News is published regularly and more information on each event organized by the TUDCN is available (background information and reports). Former newsletter and direct access to the directory are available as well.

- Development papers: they present and disseminate trade unions positions and views on international development cooperation policies. The TUDCN has published 4 Development Papers so far: *Trade Union Principles and Guidelines on Development Effectiveness, Towards a Comprehensive Paradigm for Decent Work and Development Effectiveness*, *Mapping of the integration of the gender perspective in trade union development cooperation* and *Trade Unions’ view on working with donor governments in development.*

Way forward:

Over the past two years, the TUDCN has worked on ensuring input of trade union views in development policy debates. The results are satisfactory: TUDCN has been significantly strengthened and consolidated, contributing widely to current development policy processes. The Network activities have been valuable for the member organisations which have increased their capacity to actively participate in development policy processes.

During 2012-2013, the TUDCN has been working on several issues but some of these topics are recurrent in the actual debates and therefore represent challenges for the future.

- HRBA will have to be the central axe of the trade union’s agenda. Guidelines have to be developed and implemented to show the way forward in international development practice and to ensure aid and development effectiveness

- South-South and Triangular Cooperation should be guided by the same principles as North-South traditional cooperation, trade union have to advocate making this idea recognised by the donors.

- Private Sector: private sector contributions will have to be framed by the developmental commitments to human rights, decent work, gender equality, anti-discrimination and environmental sustainability.

- Post-2015: A new development agenda that delivers equity, social inclusion, decent work, structural transformation and sustainable livelihoods for working people while protecting the environment is needed and should be based on the human rights based approach as well as on the principles of democratic ownership and leadership.

1. For more information on the governance of the TUDCN, please refer to the document “[TUDCN Mission and Governance](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/docx/tudcn_mission_and_governance_draft.docx)”. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. BetterAid united over 700 development organisations from civil society, and was working on development cooperation and challenging the aid effectiveness agenda since January 2007. It was leading many of the civil society activities including in-country consultations, studies and monitoring, in the lead up to the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) in 2011.

   Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness was a global fully participatory space run by and for civil society organizations worldwide to improve the impact of their development work and advocate for more favourable government policies and practices for CSOs. Through the Open Forum process, civil society developed the International Framework for CSO Development Effectiveness – which includes the 8 Istanbul Principles and the critical conditions for Enabling Environment for CSOs - and launched a series of tools for its application at national level and by individual CSOs around the globe.

   The both platforms are now dissolved and merged within the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE): for more information, refer to the Focus on Busan’s follow up. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See [TU statement](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/tu_reaction_to_bod_en.pdf) in response to the Busan Partnership for Effective Development [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Trade Union Intergroup is a space where the different political forces of the EP regularly meet the European trade unions to debate the most urgent labour related dossiers. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. For more information on the Principles, please consult the Development Paper “Trade Union Principles and Guidelines on Development Effectiveness” [↑](#footnote-ref-5)