## Trade Union Development Coordination Network (TUDCN)

## Mission and Governance

This document has been produced with the aim of taking describe the current TUDCN mission and governance mechanisms[[1]](#footnote-1),taking into account the findings of an external evaluation of the work of the network in the past two years, as well as, the analysis carried out by the Facilitation and Steering Group (FSG) of the TUDCN (January 2013 and the discussion and conclusions of the General Meeting in Slangerup (DK) in April 2013.

**THE TUDCN AS AN INCLUSIVE PROCESS**

The TUDCN was launched after the ITUC Congress in 2006 to address the demand for better and more effective coordinated trade union development cooperation. The Vancouver Congress (2010) further supported this demand, both in operational terms strengthening coherence of trade union solidarity initiatives, and in political terms influencing relevant policy debates, representing the TU views to the international and regional development institutions, and reinforcing capacities for in-country action on development cooperation policies and strategies.

Congress instructs the ITUC and regional organisations, working together with Global Unions partners and affiliates, to:

(a) Defend, promote and advocate this new model of development among national and international institutions;

(b) Work for reform of the international financial and economic institutions, economic recovery programmes that focus on stimulating domestic demand on a counter-cyclical basis, new forms of international taxation, abolition of tax havens, a review of trade and investment treaties and agreements to ensure they promote development, and a fairer distribution of wealth within and among states;

(c) Work together, subject to respect of trade unions’ role and representativeness, with other civil society organisations and movements, including women’s and youth groups, that share our values in supporting the promotion of a new development paradigm that includes a new development index instead of GDP, able to measure social and environmental well-being;

(d) Support initiatives to shift international development assistance from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness, and endorse the work being done by the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) to bring greater coherence and improved coordination to trade union development cooperation;

(e) Support affiliates on issues related to the implementation of the new development model including in their fight to reverse the trend towards casualisation and informalisation of work, and to protect workers affected by it;

(f) Strengthen the capacity of member organisations on the issues addressed in this resolution.

The TUDCN was formally launched in 2008. Since then, it has operated as an open and inclusive network, engaged from the start with regional organisations in order to ensure the necessary voice and presence of all sides of trade union development cooperation partners. Solidarity Support Organisations also participated from the start as cooperating and constituent partners in the network, as well as, Global Union Federations more gradually.

**MISSION OF THE TUDCN**

**To improve trade union development cooperation “effectiveness”** (cooperation and coordination) through joining efforts and resources; sharing of information and practices; and by stimulating improved impact and results of the solidarity efforts within the trade union movement.

**To ensure** **input of trade union views in the development related policy debates** and especially concerning the inclusion of the decent work agenda, Jobs pact and democratic ownership in development as key issues for sustainable development strategies.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE TUDCN**

* ITUC affiliates active in development;
* Solidarity Support Organisations (SSOs)
* ITUC regions, including representation from national affiliates;
* Global Union Federations (including regional representation);
* TUAC and ETUC;
* invited as observers: ACTRAV

The Network membership should be understood as voluntary, inclusive and based on the interest and commitment of the cooperating organisations.

The network, whilst responding to the demand from the ITUC congress, is open to all members of the trade union family.

The network has multiple lines of accountability (reporting to the ITUC GC on the one hand for the ITUC affiliates, and for others (GUF, regions, SSO to their own respective constituencies).

See list of current participating organisations in annex.

**THE GOVERNANCE OF THE TUDCN**

**DECISION MAKING:**

The TUDCN works by **consensus,** given its mission, composition and mandate.

Decision-making on position papers: documents emanating from WG or TT, should be sent to the whole TUDCN and a sign off procedure should be implemented.

**GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES AND MECHANISMS**

**GENERAL MEETINGS**

Network meetings bring together all the members of the network and are aimed at setting the overall agenda for the work of the network, take the necessary decisions in terms of organising the work and the implementation of the work-plan. The network meetings act as the “organizing assembly” of the TUDCN.

***Mandate:*** policy decisions and orientations making, focusing on thematic discussions

***Composition:*** Organisations nominate “permanent” participants with indication of possible alternates Southern regional can nominate up to 5 representatives per region (LA, A-P, Africa) including also PERC, MENA

***Number of meetings***: 2 meetings 2/3 days per year

**FSG (FACILITATION AND STEERING GROUP)**

***Mandate:*** follow up on activities and management issues (reporting); take management decisions in between GM; take up representation tasks;

***Tasks***

The Facilitation & Steering Group (FSG) will enhance the preparation of TUDCN meetings (chairing meetings) and will oversee the work of the TUDCN secretariat.

The FSG will ensure the adequate monitoring and evaluation of the work of the TUDCN and also design, where appropriate, evaluation-monitoring mechanisms and follow up initiatives.

The FSG will assess regularly the financial and administrative situation of the network

The FSG reports to the TUDCN

***Composition***

The FSG will be a light and inclusive governance structure that is acting collectively on behalf of the different categories of membership; The different constituencies will nominate “permanent” participants with indication of possible alternates; Southern organisations can nominate up to 3 representatives per region (LA,AP, Africa).

The TUDCN secretariat is ex-officio represented in the FSG.

***Meetings:*** 1 or 2 per year besides the back to back GM meetings

**WORKING GROUPS, TASK TEAMS and ONLINE INTEREST GROUPS**

***WORKING GROUPS*** are established for the implementation of major areas in the work-plan :

* WG on EU development policies and instruments
* WG on TUs development effectiveness

***TASK TEAMS*** are created in order to respond to specific challenges or to take up determined tasks (research, expertise ...) and are open to all interested TUDCN members, complementing online consultations and shared drafting work. The current TT are:

* TT on +2015 and SDG
* TT on private sector in development
* TT on effective institutions
* TT on South South and triangular cooperation
* CSO Enabling Environment
* CSO Development Effectiveness
* Human Rights Based Approaches in Development

***ONLINE INTEREST GROUPS*** deal with issues of common interest to the subscribing organisations

* OIG on DAC donor policies on CSO and TU support
* OIG on Development Education
* OIG on EU Human Rights and Democracy instrument

Organisations should sign up for the different groups and where possible, take the lead on developing the work on specific topics with the support of the secretariat;

**SEMINARS**

Thematic or training seminars can be organised in order to enlarge the level playing field within the trade union organisations, create capacity or study and exchange on trade union development cooperation related issues and support on-line work streams when appropriate.

**TUDCN SECRETARIAT**

The TUDCN secretariat set up within the DCE-ITUC ensures the secretariat of the Network and supports the work of the FSG.

The secretariat will be responsible for:

* organising the workgroups, network meetings, and seminars;
* ensuring the communication and information instruments of the Network (website, newsletter, mapping and research, ...);
* Assisting with the outreach work to the members, affiliates, NGO platforms and other partners of the TUDCN;
* Providing technical support and coordination for project design, development and management;
* Communication and visibility strategy and instruments of the secretariat:
* Newsletter:
* dissemination by the regional structures to national affiliates in the continent is needed;
* 2 pagers on policy topics;
* Database on projects: to be updated through individualised approaches for follow up
* Other instruments: new leaflets, TUDCN outcomes report document to the wider public; possibly a video-clip; …
* Web site: add the activity calendar

The ITUC (DCE/TUDCN secretariat) is responsible and accountable for the EU project management and inform the FSG on progress.

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1. See Helsinki debates on the issue paper (May 2010) <http://www.ituc-csi.org/the-future-of-the-trade-union,6416.html> and Improving Trade Union Development Cooperation Effectiveness <http://www.ituc-csi.org/discussion-paper-improving-trade> (November 2010) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)