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To all TUDCN involved organisations,
ITUC affiliates, SSOs and GUFs

DGS/DCE

19 July 2010

Invitation for a TUDCN - EU policy working group September 7 – 8 2010

Dear all,

Through our TUDCN Newsletter and at the meetings in Stockholm, Madrid and Helsinki, we informed you regularly on the “Structured Dialogue” that is organised by the EU Commission with Civil Society Organisations, the member states and the European Parliament. This structured dialogue is organised at headquarters level and has also “decentralised consultations” in Africa (Bamako), Latin America (Asuncion), Asia Pacific (New Dehli) and Eastern Europe (place TBC).

The aims of the SD are (as stated by the commission): “Increasing effectiveness of all stakeholders involved by

1. building consensus on the role to be played by CSOs & Las;
2. finding ways to improve the effectiveness of CSO & LA involved in EC cooperation; and
3. exploring ways to adapt EC programmes”

We are now about half way in the discussions and the process, that was/is very much Commission driven but is now opening up, at least in its discussions and non-engaging conclusions, to new ideas and addressing key bottlenecks and challenges for the existing instruments and practices.

Given the impact the SD has also on the national governments thinking and practices (they are themselves very much active in comparative studies and harmonisations attempts) the direct and indirect outcomes of the process may affect us all, both at European level as well as at the level of your national governments.

Following our discussions in the TUDCN on an “ACTOR BASED” approach to development cooperation, we prepared a first draft of a position document that we could like to put on the table of the structured dialogue in the coming weeks.

We find it particularly important that the documents takes into consideration your views and understanding as well as articulates in the best possible way our strategies at European as well as at national level.

We therefore would like to call for a TUDCN - EU working group meeting on 7- 8 September in Brussels in order to discuss our approach and follow up to the EU Structured Dialogue.

All those involved in the TUDCN are welcome to join. The agenda will be centered on the EU Structured Dialogue, involving the member states and the European parliament members, therefore we would like to insist on the broadest possible participation of the EU affiliates.

Please see the important note on documentation below.

Sincerely yours,

Draft agenda for the TUDCN EU working group

1. Introduction to the EU-CSO cooperation policies and the Structured Dialogue in particular
 - a. Discussion on the current state of play
 - b. Tendencies and challenges
 - c. Trade union involvement
2. Position paper “Towards an Actor-based approach”
3. CSO donor group of Governments’ agenda
 - a. SIDA document on Harmonisation
 - b. Nordic + on decentralisation
 - c. Austria mapping on framework agreements
4. Articulation with other processes
 - a. At national level
 - b. At international level: the Open Forum Global Assembly in Istanbul
5. Conclusions on possible inputs and follow up.

Documents to read and study:

All the information on the Structured Dialogue is available at the CISOCH the Civil Society Helpdesk, a Commission driven Wiki-page (click [here](#)). Besides useful information on the process, it does also include all discussion documents and reports of the working groups and other meetings that took place until now. Please refer to them. As you will see, there is a lot of information on that page, however the main elements **of interest for our discussion are the Structured Dialogue page** and, with regard to agenda item 4, **the Open Forum page**. For your information, we also include the **most recent position paper from CONCORD**, the European Coordination of the National Development NGO platforms in the EU (click [here](#)). As background for the point 3, we include the SIDA study, the Nordic+ findings and the Austrian mapping. Unfortunately, most of these documents (or websites) are English only. We will ensure short introductions at the meeting in order to allow non-English speakers to catch up with the essentials.

In annex, you will find the draft discussion paper that we prepared as central discussion document for our meeting in September. We invite those who are in a position to do so, to send in their reactions, amendments and/or proposals in writing before the meeting so that we can already circulate them to all participants.

Practical information and time table:

The meeting will take place at the ITUC Headquarters, 1st floor room B.

The meeting will start at 10.30h on Tuesday 7/09, allowing those who fly into Brussels in the morning to do so. We’ll finish the meeting on 8/09 at 16.00h, allowing participants to fly back on Wednesday evening.

Please send the information sheet back to Peggy De Clercq in order to confirm your participation and so as to allow us to make the necessary reservation for hotel, meals and possibly for translation into French or Spanish when required.