

Monday, 7 May 2012

1. Introduction

After the welcoming words from Henrik Als (LO-FTF, the hosting organisation) and participants' presentations, ITUC DGS, Wellington Chibebe opened the meeting.

The [agenda](#) has been approved with no amendments.

TUDCN Reporting

2. Report of the last meeting

The [report of the TUDCN General Meeting in Florence \(December 2012\)](#) has been approved with no amendments.

3. Activity report

Judith Kirton-Darling (ETUC) opened the session. Jan Dereymaeker (ITUC) provided an **overview of TUDCN activities between January and April 2012** ([Prezi document](#) / [Word document](#)). He completed the presentation, referring to a number of bilateral meetings that took place between the ITUC DGS, Wellington Chibebe, accompanied by Jan Dereymaeker from the TUDCN secretariat, and TUDCN member organisations. Jan mentioned also the regular publication of TUDCN's monthly newsletter *Trade Union Focus on Development*.

Maurice Bossuat (CFDT) presented the main [conclusions of the Facilitation and Steering Group meeting](#). The first point touched on the composition of the network - the network needs to expand from North to South. Second point was on the political obstacles. Development cooperation is often not on the top of the agenda of trade union organisations, including in the ITUC. As seen during the activities update, TUDCN puts currently stress on the external relations - participation in the global forums. However, the network lacks feedback from national affiliates. The work of direct meetings of Wellington (ITUC) and Jan (ITUC) is extremely important. We also need to focus on the actual results, not only the activities. Parayarikkal Haridasan (ITUC-AP) returned to the question of the composition of TUDCN. At the moment, the weight is on the side of European/donor countries. If some of the meetings could be outside of Europe, it might encourage more participation of representatives of other regions as well as move the focus away from Europe. There could be more invitations directed at particular people. If they are sent to the Secretary General, they might not make it to the right people and be lost. Often the notices are short. The newsletter is helpful and it should be sent not only to the network, but also to people outside it.

Martin Lofete (CSC DRC) stressed the need of translating all documents into French. We should also work on engaging all the other affiliated organisations so that they are aware of the network's activities.

Jan (ITUC) said the issue of how to interact with the members is crucial. It does not make any sense to go to global meetings, if there is no backing from the affiliates. We should focus on how to use the strength of the network to reinforce the messages both at national and international level. Looking at the activity report, we should focus more on the results rather than activities.

4. European development policies

Opening next point of the agendas, Judith (ETUC) informed the participants about the new **developments in the ETUC policies**. ETUC decided to engage more in development cooperation policies and reinforce TUDCN. ETUC started chairing the TUDCN WG on EU Policy & Instruments, contributing with the liaison with the Members of European Parliament (MEPs), to add on to the work of ITUC with the European Commission. Paola Simonetti (ITUC-TUDCN) elaborated on the **progress on EU development policies**. There were a number of consultations for upcoming communications (on social protection and the role of CSOs in development). They will all feed into the new DCI. There is also the process of the follow up on the EU Structured Dialogue. It has developed into the [Policy Forum on Development](#). The EU WG has been trying to be as inclusive as possible, open not only to EU-based organisations but to everyone. The organisations from the South are especially welcome as the key stakeholders of the policies. An EC representative presented the consultations paper at the EU WG meeting for both consultations. The WG has also invited the assistant of Mr Berman (MEP, rapporteur on DCI) to convey to him the first messages.

The **EU Agenda for change** focuses on two key areas: private sector and inclusive growth. Other major changes include the differentiation (phasing out support to the MICs in order to allocate most of the assistance in LICs). There will also be three priority sectors: inclusive growth (social protection, social inclusion, private sector etc.), agriculture and climate change. The full [TU messages on the Agenda for Change](#) are available on the website. Concerning the cooperation with the EESC (European Economic and Social Council): in the Goeren's report on Agenda for Change, there are direct references to the need of including Decent Work when speaking of private sector support. The Agenda for Change is now in the legal process to be adopted by the Member States.

We have provided input to the **consultations on social protection** in development cooperation. Our inputs went through the regional bodies. The EC organised regional consultations in Indonesia and Africa. EU needs to develop an approach coherent with international UN (ILO) approaches - incl. social protection floors. The [ITUC contribution to the consultations](#) is available online.

ITUC has also contributed to the **consultations on CSO role in development**, preceding a communication due September 2012. The consultations were open to organisations in the South as well. The consultation document has been widely circulated through TUDCN mailing list. ITUC stressed the difference between the classic NGOs and membership-based organisations and global networks (see full [ITUC contribution](#)). ITUC has also contributed to the [EESC Opinion on the role of CSOs in development](#).

Concerning the overall shape of the **DCI**, trade unions advocated strengthening the thematic programmes, granting more access to trade unions and increasing capacity building. Mr Berman will be invited to a WG EU meeting to discuss the [trade union messages on DCI](#).

The EU Structured Dialogue has evolved into the **Policy Forum on Development**, following a demand of a permanent dialogue forum. [The first preparatory meeting](#) will take place directly after the TUDCN meeting. Establishing a PFD is considered a success, but it will need prove to be a place for an actual dialogue, not only information sharing.

ITUC and ETUC have been invited to a **seminar on social dialogue in development cooperation** that will take place on the 25th of May in Brussels. Many affiliates contributed to the [survey on this topic](#). The document will support the TUDCN participation in the meeting, although the EC process further on that issue is still not clear.

Judith (ETUC) summarised the session, pointing out that all the documents have been circulated to the participants and are available on the TUDCN website. She also stressed that the involvement of both Southern and EU affiliates is crucial, especially the engagement on the national level and pressuring the national representations to the Council.

Adrien Akouete (ITUC Africa) commented that some of countries have already started the work on the Decent Work Agenda and social protection and there is a risk of duplication with the new EU programmes. ITUC Africa will organise a seminar to develop an African statement on the issue of social protection. Concerning the issue of social dialogue and social partners, especially in the francophone Africa, the trade unions have become very weak because of their multiplication. The informal economy also remains a big problem.

Paola (ITUC) summarized the debate, pointing out that TUDCN will need to work on the complementarity of the agendas: EU, OECD, UN etc.

5. Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile (TUDEP)

Gemma Arpaia (ISCOS) opened the next session and handed the floor over to Paola (ITUC) to provide an update on the **progress on the TUDEP (Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile)**. Work on TUDEP focuses now on two areas: ensuring visibility and building capacity for the use of TUDEP, esp. in the South. TUDCN supported Belgian seminars for their partners. Next week the tool will be presented at the Nordic-Dutch meeting. Another step will be the Capacity Development Seminars, focused on the TUDEP. There is work being done the concept development with the regional bodies. Further, work will focus on the indicators and impact measurement for trade union development cooperation work. On 11-13 June there will be a seminar in Brussels on these topics, with the participation of ILO. The email invitation will be sent out soon. First day of the seminar will be dedicated to TUDEP and its practical use. The following two days will be dedicated to outcome and impact measurement. We are working on contextualising the work on impact measurement and monitoring. TUDCN did not want to limit ourselves to a list of indicators, but chose to take a wider approach that makes us reflect more on the outcomes and impact of our work.

6. International development agendas

After a round of practical questions, Gemma (ISCOS) introduced the next session on the international development agendas. First, Jan (ITUC) introduced the *TUDCN Briefing Notes* (linked in the TUDCN GM Agenda). The key development agendas for trade unions are now:

- [Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation](#) (the 'post-Busan' process)
- OECD/DAC Development Strategy
- UN system ([UNDCP](#), [UNCTAD](#), [Rio+20](#), [Post-2015 development framework](#))
- ILO (technical cooperation)
- World Bank development agenda
- G20 development agenda

Rekson Silaban (KSBSI Indonesia) pointed out that development cooperation is happening on multiple bilateral levels and multilateral settings. In the government-to-government cooperation the logic is different. How can we make sure that all the donors follow the decisions of the multilateral institutions? On the regional and national level there is little discussion about these agreements.

Jan (ITUC) agreed that policy coherence is indeed an important issue. Even good international conventions do not matter as long as the government is not pressured on the national level to actually follow them.

Concerning the **post-Busan process**, the HLF concluded with an open ended Busan Partnership document. The monitoring system of the declaration is being discussed now in a very political process. There is the Post-Busan Interim Group Meeting and a number of Building Blocks. TUDCN follows mostly the one on Private Sector. There is an attempt to create a BB on CSOs & enabling environment.

It has been kept as a Task Team so far. In the end of June there will be the OECD-DAC Working Party on Aid Effectiveness meeting to launch the GPEDC (Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation). In the CSO process, TUDCN was represented at the Busan Civil Society Forum and at the Cebu meeting. In Amsterdam in April a first blueprint for a new CSO platform has been created. It will involve regional and sectorial representation. BetterAid and Open Forum will cease existing in September, when the new platform will come in place. The question is how TUDCN will be involved. Since TUDCN/TUAC and BIAC have been invited to the OECD DAC committee, we might have a more direct access now.

Caroline Khamati Mugalla (EATUC) was invited to provide update on the **UNCTAD XIII meeting**. ITUC has a delegation of 6 people and hosted two events: on social protection and on policy space for development. The turnout for the CSO Forum was very low. ITUC DGS, Wellington Chibebe addressed the General Debate; Khamati (EATUC) attended the Women in Development special High Level Event. She also represented the trade unions in a panel on sustainability. Ruben Cortina (CGT Argentina) represented trade unions on the panel that directed questions to UNCTAD Secretary General, Mr Supachai Panitchpakdi. As a result of the conference, the UNCTAD outcome document (“Doha Mandate”) reaffirmed UNCTAD’s mandate despite some of the developed countries’ efforts to limit it. The development vision of UNCTAD came out much focused on social development: strong mandate for UNCTAD (incl. financial and economic crisis), right to development, decent work and social protection have been mentioned a couple of times in the final declaration.

Concerning the **ILO technical cooperation**, Enrico Cairola (ILO ACTRAV) informed the meeting that there will be a discussion on PPPs that should result in a position paper of the working group in ILO. In March 2013 there will be discussion on the post-2015 in ILO. There are already some positions, like HRBA and Decent Work. The discussion should result in a paper that will feed into the general UN debate.

7. Update from national and regional organisations

Adrien (ITUC Africa) provided an update on the regional activities. [See the full report](#) (in French).

Haridasan (ITUC AP) provided an update on the ITUC-AP activities. ITUC-AP participated in the dialogue with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Myriam Luz (CGT Colombia) provided an update on the activities of TUCA. In their advocacy TUCA focuses now on the issues of sustainable development, green jobs and precarious work, esp. in view of the upcoming UNCSD ‘Rio+20’. 2nd TUCA congress concluded with a new action plan and some decisions concerning the development cooperation. There will be a strong focus on how to implement in practice the Decent Work Agenda. Congress resolution speaks also about South-South cooperation, esp. on the side of Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Chile who have the most capacities for projects targeting mainly Haiti and Paraguay. There are capacity building activities planned on the issues of: MDGs, post-2015 framework, Global Jobs Pact, Decent Work Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals and Rio+20.

Lars Bengtsson (TCO Sweden) reported that since the Forum in Busan there have not been many development cooperation-related activities. The Swedish minister of development cooperation refers frequently to the Busan Partnership. Government brings up frequently the issue of the private sector in development. The CSOs, including trade union, advocate Human Rights-Based Approach. A new platform for development cooperation has been announced by the Minister and trade unions will not be a part of it. Great challenges are coming up with the new structure.

Marta Manrique (ISCOD Spain) shared the challenges faced by the development communities with the development budget being cut by 65% and by 80% for CSOs. Many long term partners in Latin America are affected by this situation that creates insecurity for both Spanish and Latino-American trade unions.

Dominique Bicomumpaka (COTRAF Rwanda) said COTRAF has advocated the implementation of the Busan commitments and the government representatives were very responsive. The challenges are mainly in the areas of transparency and accountability, as well as the CSOs role. Since 2009 COTRAF answers on a regular basis to the EC calls for proposals.

Christine (ITF Global) provided an update on the activities of the International Transport Federation. ITF has been involved in the Rio+20 ITUC campaign, esp. on the topic of the impact of transport on the environment and will be sending representatives in the ITUC delegation. ITF has been active in awareness raising and is currently preparing a collection of case studies on the impact of just transition on jobs. In West Africa ITUC has been focusing on the road transport and the corridor project at the level of ECOWAS, where trade unions are not yet recognized. Together with the Education Workers ITF is developing an online course on climate change and transport. ITF also works on informal economy in Peru, supporting organising work. In the area of development policy, ITF's focus is on the issue of private sector, esp. in relation to PPPs and World Bank's project on transport restructuring.

Bandula (TUC) reported on the TUC's recent activities, incl. an international development strategy that was developed last year. The evaluation of the first year of implementation will be online soon. TUC raises development issues with the government on a regular basis, in partnership with BOND, the NGDO platform.

Stijn Sintubin (CSC Belgium) said the growth of ODA has been frozen and the directorate plans on reforming the system, focusing on a geographic approach and changing the cooperation modalities with CSOs. Belgian trade unions work hand in hand with the CSOs to influence the new structure in a series of regular consultations with the Ministry of Development Cooperation. The Ministry invites the trade union for consultations on a regular basis. TUDCN's work is very helpful on these occasions.

Tuesday, 8 May 2012

ROUNDTABLE SOCIAL PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Wellington Chibebe opened the second day of the General Meeting, introducing two roundtables, chaired by him that day:

- THE DANISH SOCIAL PARTNERS AS ACTORS IN DEVELOPMENT
- THE ROLE OF SOCIAL PARTNERS IN PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Roundtable 1: THE DANISH SOCIAL PARTNERS AS ACTORS IN DEVELOPMENT

First, Ms. Janne LAIGAARD SCHNEIDER, Head of Business and Contracts DANIDA spoke about the ways in which DANIDA, the Danish development cooperation agency engages with private sector and trade unions.

Ms. Maria GAD, Senior Advisor Confederation of Danish Industry, introduced briefly the activities of DI as well as their development cooperation projects.

Ms. Heidi Rønne Møller, EU Advisor Danish Confederation of Trade Unions, presented the trade union perspective on the Danish development cooperation structures and the collaboration with the private sector. She also presented the current challenge related to the planned changes in the board of DANIDA, where both trade unions and employers are currently represented.

The panel presentations were followed by a round of questions and comments on the challenges of the current economic environment, collaboration with NGOs and the motivation for private sector to work with DANIDA and trade unions in development.

Roundtable 2: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL PARTNERS IN PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

First, Ms Hjordis OGENDO, DEVCO, European Commission provided a [presentation](#) on the place of the Decent Work Agenda, social protection and social partners in the European development policies.

Mr Rudi DELARUE, Head of the ILO Office for the EU Brussels, gave a critical response to Ms Ogendo's presentation, sharing the ILO perspective on the EU development policies. He then further explained the [ILO approach to the role of social partners in development](#).

Mr. Pierre HABBARD, Senior Policy Advisor in TUAC, spoke about the challenges of the changing development cooperation trends, increased focus on the Public Private Partnerships and the regulations they require to effectively contribute to development. TUAC has recently published a paper: [PPPs – In pursuit of fair risk sharing and value for the people?](#)

In the round of questions and comments, participants raised issues around the EU's planned phasing out assistance to the Middle Income Countries, the need for acknowledgment of the diversity of CSO actors and the specificity of trade unions

Reflections from the regions

After the roundtables, representatives of the regional organisations took the floor to share their perspective on the issues discussed.

Working groups on private sector in development

In the afternoon, the participants split into working groups to discuss the issue of private sector in development, guided by a set of questions prepared by the secretariat.

Jan (ITUC) summarized the session, saying there is a need for TUDCN to draft guidelines and principles for the future work on the private sector.

The conclusions of the session included a number of points concerning the issue. ODA could serve the purpose of creating a more active private sector, but only if aiming at decent jobs creation, local private sector and cooperatives. There is an important role for the state in this aspect and in capacity building and ensuring decent work. The governance process should be transparent. None of these conditions should be different for the South-South cooperation. The conditions should include fair taxation systems, fight against corruption and illicit financial flows, redistribution measures, reinvestment principles, respect for ILO conventions as well as the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles. Strong unions are the best mechanism of monitoring at country level and social dialogue – by itself an important element of sustainability in economic and social policy. There is a need for a better infrastructure for social dialogue, including improved access to labour courts, better labour inspections etc. Concerning the cooperation with CSOs, there are diverging opinions.

Adrien (ITUC Africa) opened the sessions and handed the floor over to Jan (ITUC) to introduce the plan of the day.

8. “Trade union views on working with donor governments in development”

Jan (ITUC) presented the progress on the study that summarizes how the key donor countries support trade union development cooperation programmes. The study has been finalized and will soon be published. There is a possibility of organizing a seminar to discuss the outcomes of the study, also with the donors. The proposal is to organize it in October, back to back with the donor group meeting.

In the comments Maurice (CFDT) and Lars (TCO Sweden) pointed out the need to clearly set the objectives for the study and seminar and to prepare well in order to maximise its impact.

Bandula (TUC) shared experiences of TUC’s cooperation with DFID.

9. Overview of the current international development agenda’s

Jan (ITUC) presented the [overview of current development agendas](#) and elaborated on the [Post-Busan process timeline](#).

The participants split again into groups to discuss the prioritizing of TUDCN’s engagement in the presented development frameworks.

Jan (ITUC) summarized the discussions reminding the upcoming seminar on Results and impact measurement in the trade union development cooperation. He referred also to the post-2015 process, commenting on the dynamics between the Beyond 2015 campaign and GCAP and stressing the need to keep an independent status with the UN. On the issue of Post-Busan Building Blocks, Jan proposed that a questionnaire is sent out to the affiliates for them to sign up for the various BBs.

Maurice (CFDT) pointed out the issue of the composition of the network and stressed the role of the secretariat in identifying the current members and the important absentees.

10. Plan of TUDCN activities for May-December 2012

Rekson (KSBSI) suggested working more on the South-South cooperation – elaborating the trade union understanding of the issue and identifying the trade union best practice in the field.

Maresa Le Roux (CGSLB) proposed a number of possible activities, including the creation on an online network of experts that would be available for consultations on specific issues; working further on the issues of South-South and triangular cooperation; publishing a paper on the PPPs, SS cooperation, decentralisations and the Policy Coherence for Development.

Haridasan (ITUC AP) suggested hosting some of the events outside of Europe in order to increase non-European participant’s engagement.

After the discussion, Kasia Szeniewska (ITUC TUDCN) presented the progress of the work on [the Trade Union Development Cooperation Projects database](#).

11. The future of the TUDCN after 2012

The main questions are how to secure and differentiate funding for the network, how to strengthen the Southern representation, how to redefine the role and the mandate of the network for the next phase. Jan reminded that now, having the ITUC DGS solely in charge of development cooperation, there can be a better political momentum for development cooperation in ITUC. At the next general meeting a proposal for the structure and activities of the network for the next phase will be discussed.

Keth Thapper (LO Sweden) pointed out that the network should be open to everyone and move from simple information sharing to a shared policy dialogue.

Gemma (ISCOS) brought back the issue of reporting on the results rather than outputs of the work of the network

Bandula (TUC) expressed his support for the network and its continuation and raised the topic of development education and awareness rising.

Jossee Roy (CSN Canada) also expressed her support for the network, even if CSN will not be able to support it financially.

Denise (FTQ-CTC) stressed the need to get more independent from ODA and securing funding independent from public sources.

Paola (ITUC) reminded that concerning reporting on results, we should keep in mind the timelines of the official processes.

Jan (ITUC) summarized saying that the issues of funding and improved inclusiveness in coordination are complex ones and they require engagement of all network's members.

12. Evaluation

The last point of the agenda was the short **evaluation** round, where participants raised concerns about the lack of proper welcome session for new members, low participation of GUFs and unstructured session on regional and national updates.

Jan (ITUC) concluded the General Meeting, thanking the participants for their engagement, the interpreters and staff of the Konventum for their support and LO/FTF Denmark for the hospitality.

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