



Policy Statement

22 February 2019

Trade Union Priorities for the OECD Development Assistance Committee

The Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and the International Trade Union Confederation Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (ITUC-TUDCN) appreciate the opportunity to participate at the Senior Level Meeting of the OECD – Development Assistance Committee (DAC), which took place on the 22nd of February 2019, at the OECD Centre in Paris.

The meeting offered a much welcome strategic discussion on the role and future of the Committee. As a follow-up, the TUAC and the ITUC-TUDCN are sharing trade union priorities and proposals for action to help address the DAC's future role and areas of work, including regarding innovative development finance.

Trade unions priorities are:

The DAC fit for the Future

1. Trade Unions praise the DAC for its current inclusiveness policy of non-DAC members. Trade unions remain fully committed to strengthening cooperation with the DAC, through the annual Trade Union-DAC Forum, bringing about important results, such as the alignment of the DAC reporting system to SDG 8¹.
2. Equally, the current DAC Dialogues with different regions in the Global South are an excellent example of an inclusive approach of non-DAC members. Therefore, we recommend the DAC to pursue this line.
3. However, the DAC should aim at increasing coordination with other relevant departments/divisions within the OECD, in order to grant policy coherence. This is true in particular for the working area related to innovative finance for example, where linkages with responsible business conduct or investments policy divisions are key.
4. The DAC should also ensure direct dialogue with DAC members' headquarters, ensuring political level participation;

DAC Key engagement areas

5. The implementation of Agenda 2030 requires engagement from all stakeholders: 70 per cent of the world's population has no social protection at all; 300 million workers in emerging and developing

¹ Updating the CRS purpose codes to improve the tracking of the decent work agenda:

[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT\(2018\)15&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)15&docLanguage=En)



countries earn less than 1.9 US dollars a day; less than 60 per cent of workers have formal contracts and 81 per cent of all countries in the world have violated the right to collective bargaining.

6. Trade Unions also call for a more attentive approach of the DAC, and its development cooperation, in fostering SDG 8 achievement in particular. This goal is central to the overall implementation of the SDGs across the board as it includes targets related to: *labour rights, labour markets policies, occupational health and safety, policies on wages and social protection systems, climate justice and just transition.*
7. The new development narrative must take into consideration the new global challenges, such as the issues related to the future of work:
 - Addressing the skills challenge raised by the changing nature of work;
 - Creating Decent jobs, based on solid industrial relations;
 - Ensuring adequate universal coverage and protection;
 - Supporting institutions, policies and strategies that will support people through future of work transitions.

Innovative Finance

8. The scale of the SDGs certainly needs to be met with the requisite financing. The quality of that financing remains equally as important as the quantity. Trade unions stress that financing needs to be scrutinised against the goals and target contained in the Agenda 2030 on social justice and environmental sustainability. This is key when addressing the role of private sector in development cooperation.
9. Responsible Business Conduct based on due diligence, risk assessment, income generation at country level, and especially decent jobs creation – based on social dialogue - should be the key parameters for any engagement and assessment of private finance contribution to the SDGs. Therefore, trade unions call on DAC members to endorse criteria to grant alignment of private sector investments to the SDGs².
10. The DAC has a special responsibility to making progress in setting the rules for Private Sector Instruments (PSI) reporting. Trade unions recognise the work carried out by the DAC so far, and call for DAC members to further enhance the engagement on PSI in 2020, with raised ambitions.

The **Trade Union Development Cooperation Network** (TUDCN) is an initiative of the International Trade Union Cooperation (ITUC)

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² [Aligning private sector investments in development with the SDGs](#)