

REPORT ITUC STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE 13-14 October “Development is Social Justice!”

1. CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

This first ITUC conference on Development Cooperation is a major “reflection moment for the ITUC and its affiliates and Solidarity Support Organisations to exchange ideas and guidelines for action on Trade Union Development Cooperation. The Conference is not a decision making meeting but an **important opportunity to share ideas and to deepen the understanding of the trade union contribution to social and sustainable development**. It will also be an important moment for the recently established Trade Union Development Cooperation Network to present itself publicly and highlight the role of trade unions as actors for development. **The conference will also allow the trade union movement to engage with national and international decision makers**, including the EU presidency, Commission and the newly elected EP.

2. EXPECTED RESULTS

The following outcomes are expected:

- **Sharing and Building up common views on development cooperation policies/mythologies among the ITUC network members**
- **Reinforcing TU recognition as actors for development:** in some countries TU are fully part for the CSO scene and are recognised as development actors. This recognition should be extended to other partners and at European and international level.
- Further definition of the **specific contribution of Trade Unions to Development Cooperation and in particular the inclusion of Decent work as essential contribution to the sustainable development strategies**
- Established and **deepened relations with EU Commission, the new EP, civil society organisations and other national and international actors**
- Collect first stepping stones of **ITUC DEVCO policy**
- Contribution to the **LO and TCO strategy and visibility** on development cooperation in Sweden.

3. NARRATIVE REPORT

Wanja

- Trade unions are essential for democracy. International cooperation and solidarity is a basic part of trade union history and of everyday trade union work.
- The unions’ special position makes us unique and the work we do has positive results

- Trade union activities and development cooperation today cover a wide range of issues which the movement considers important: trade union training, human rights in the workplace, the work environment and negotiation.
- The trade unions represent a unique social movement. They exist to protect their members and defend their interests in the workplace and society but are also involved in the labour market, representing their members in negotiating and signing collective agreements and creating conditions for economic growth and development.
- Trade unions are important partners in developing international cooperation. Many years of experience, our unique position in society and contacts with other organizations have made it possible for the trade unions' collective development work to achieve very positive results in the fight against poverty.

Brundin

As Swedish Presidency we have four priorities:

1. **Climate change:** we're trying to have a new international agreement in Copenhagen
2. **Policy care for development:** trade unions play an important role as social actors for a coherent policy
3. **Development effectiveness:** we need a stronger and more effective cooperation.
4. **Democracy building:** democracy must be built from inside, cannot be imposed from outside.

The Swedish government adopted a new policy on civil society cooperation. Civil society plays a key role in diminishing poverty in all its dimensions, in getting respect for all kinds of human rights, in supporting democratic developments. The following issues are important:

- Actor analysis is a key for success
- Necessity of increased aid effectiveness
- Donor harmonisation of the objectives for and forms of support to civil society
- Long term programme approach
- Core support instead of earmarked project funding
- Contributions rather than procurement
- Increased cooperation between civil society and parliaments and political parties

For the Swedish Government trade unions are a very important partner in implementing the policies, a dialogue partner on how to shape policies.

Guy Ryder

Ryder underlined as ODA and national funding is still very necessary to be allocated to development cooperation initiatives. Therefore national governments have to make an effort to comply with international obligations in this sense (7% of GDP).

However, also organisations from CS, which receive financial support to implement cooperation projects, have to demonstrate their own effectiveness. Also Trade Unions have nowadays this important task: demonstrate our own development effectiveness, in terms of results and contribution to development of countries in need.

Koos Richelle

- EU as Multilateral actor in 140 countries (much wider than bilateral cooperation)
- ODA is not the only way for development cooperation: remittances, Trade (technical assistance to governments), **GSP +** (countries accepting core labour standards)
- EU is shifting to support to sectors (**budget support**) as it guarantees more coherence
- Direct and indirect support to Trade Unions – social partners: DW
- **Untying aid** for least developed countries in transition, the issue is still for middle income countries. Challenges: middle income countries are still included in the ‘poverty eradication’ objective: when the aid has to stop? China, Mozambique....CSOs are fundamental to raise the right question

Panel I

Riera: difficulties in putting into concrete terms decent work in the dialogue with beneficiary countries

Zimmer: DW is discussed in 2 different EP committees at the same time. If poverty in developing countries is not addressed, we will not be able to implant DW in Europe. EPAs should include a strategy of development. Actually they do not involve the national parliaments in ACP countries.

Change of the mandate of the European Investment Bank (conditions on loans)

Proposals:

- 1) tobin tax (tax havens) to be channelled to development (UN DCF agenda)
- 2) moratoria of treaties not respecting MDGs

Aleman: holistic view of development, sectors of working areas is not sustainable any more so alliances are the only way out in this context of crisis. *Better aid* is an example: coalition of voluntary CSOs informally challenging government in development effectiveness

Cunniah: ECOSOC recommendation to implement ILO Global jobs pact

Suzuki: recognition of social partners in the regional/sub regional agreements (Asean). DW is there, but the different components are not included

Panel 2: ???

Role of civil society vis-a-vis the state

Right of initiative

Participation

Democratic ownership

TU are democratically elected organisations in their own rights

Enabling environment

Decent work

4. EVALUATION AND CONCLUSIONS

In overall terms the objectives of the Conference have been achieved:

- Political view and strategies on development cooperation shared and established among ITUC/TUDCN members: trade union principles on development effectiveness
- Strategies for strengthening coordination with Global Unions Federations discussed
- Vision of Trade Union role in development reinforced: proposals elaborated towards the international financing organisations
- Contribution to national dialogues on development cooperation and trade unions provided

It has to be noted that the objectives of the Conference are inscribed in a wider context, that is to say the TUDCN network working areas and purposes:

- 1) coordination and information sharing
- 2) lobby and advocacy
- 3) training

In this sense please find enclosed the TUDCN action plan.

Recommendations:

1. “actor”-based approach to cooperation programmes.

Donor governments and especially the EU have recognized that, in the interest of in-country development and whilst underlining the importance of the work of many NGO's, it was important to bring in other actors and to enlarge the non-governmental channel to a broader civil society approach (some call that also Non-State Actors). This was endorsed by the Parlemo I conclusions the European Consensus on Development and the newly adopted DCI. More actors did indeed entered the scene such as the trade unions, political foundations, cooperatives, local authorities. However, whilst the scope of the actors was enlarged, the implications of that choice on the way of working were not taken forward.

- The NSA programme should be based on framework agreements with actors, not on calls for proposals. The evaluation of the Court of Auditors does illustrate the shortcomings on the call for proposals system. But more fundamentally, the problem

is not just one of inadequate deadlines or procedures, it is a problem of inadequacy of the call for proposals system with the logic of the actors based planning, monitoring and evaluation approach.

- Trade unions do have their own, democratic set-up that includes adoption of workplans and permanent monitoring and adjustment of their actions according to changing economic, political and social realities they are confronted with. The logical framework approach by programme/project does undercut the coherence and the adaptability as well as it takes away the ownership of the organisations to decide on changing patterns of involvement.
- 5 dimensions can be identified as part of a coherent approach to development practice for trade unions: policy preparation; advocacy; capacity building and training/research; and publicity/visibility. Projects and programmes often limit the approach to one or a limited number of these aspects.
- Long term cooperation strategies and agreements should allow a better impact measurement and the definition and achievement more realistic results based outcomes.

Proposal: we demand long-term, actor based framework agreements that define outcomes and uses appropriate monitoring and progress assessment approaches respecting an inclusive approach based on the actors own priorities procedures and working methods.

2. We want recognition of transnational dimension of civil society actions.

Trade unions and some other civil society movements have an established and recognised international representation and representativity. The international dimension, as recognised by the ILO Convention 87 is a constituent part of the trade union existence and actions. The current transnational development cooperation is not recognising the own international space for the trade union to act and deliberate on their cooperation policies out of its own right. National conditionalities, be it in donor countries or in southern countries, are forcing the internationally organised movements to reduce their cooperation to the addition of bilateral defined priorities, conditions and policy decisions.

Proposal: governments should recognise and include the international dimension of CSO networks when setting the policies and action plans with their own civil society organisations. That would include the faculty for the CSO to organise their own sectorial, thematic and geographic priorities within their own constituent international organisational framework. Support for southern regional organisations within the support strategy of the DCI for CSO networks.

3. The Aid Effectiveness Agenda should also apply to the state-to-CSO support.

Whilst we recognise the need to define the contribution of CSO to aid effectiveness under the par.19 of the Accra Agenda for Action, we do feel that from an enabling point of view, the same orientations that do apply for bilateral state-to-state cooperation, could, as a first step also be taken into account for the state-to-CSO cooperation. We would like respect of our self-defined policies, based on our right of initiative, that is called ownership and use of in-CSO systems; we would appreciate untied aid and alignment on

the CSO own policy; we would like to see more transparent and predictable support; we would prefer budget support to allow social movement to sustain their activities whilst developing their own resources above programme or project support.

Proposal: State-to-CSO cooperation should respond to some of the fundamental orientations of the state-to-state cooperation, respecting the CSOs autonomy and ownership.

4. co-management structures for policy development and implementation

The ultimate consequence of recognising the role of civil society in a democratic society is involving them in the decision-making as part of a pluralist and multi-actor participatory democracy. As trade unions we have been able to establish solid traditions in social dialogue with employers and governments. That social dialogue has in many ways been seen as complementary and, in the areas of work as normative, for the democratic decision making in our societies. We have been able to construct an internationally based normative system in the world of work. Would it be too naïve to think that also the development cooperation world would be able to allow representative and experience based actors to sit on the decision making table. In this respect the ITUC will address the Palermo II discussion with proposals to enlarge the decision making cycles of the EU institutions and make it more inclusive and therefore more sustainable. We are convinced that that also responds to some of the challenges put on the table by the Court of Auditors on the quality of the relationship of the EU with the non-state actors in their recent report.

Proposal: where they do not exist participative structures should be created at national level and european level that brings together the governmental and civil society in joint decision making both on policy setting and implementation of programmes.

5. Inclusion of decent work in all development policies.

The case should not need to be made any more. At all levels of the UN as well as at national and european level, decent work for all is a recognised objective. It has explicitly been added to the MDG as a strategic option to combat poverty. However we regret as trade unions that decent work does not seem to be put on the agenda when discussing development coherence. Not within the EU and not within the AAA or international policy setting institutions. We therefore demand the inclusion of decent work as one of the fundamental cross-cutting issues in development.

Proposal: decent work should be added explicitly to the cross-cutting issues to be addressed by the implementation of the AAA as well as by the policy coherence assessments of the EU and the UN.

6. Democratic ownership as a priority strategic objective in development.

The ITUC has taken up the challenge to take the democratic ownership agenda further. Its experience of promoting social dialogue and its longstanding cooperation within civil society platforms do allow us to convene the many actors including parliaments, employers and civil society to the table with governments and international institutions to

strengthen the participative processes and enlarge the focus from the technical aid related issues to include all dimensions of social and sustainable development that is based on recognition and respect of internationally agreed and shared commitments on human rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability and decent work.

Proposal: social dialogue should be included as an constituent element of democratic ownership and could serve a reference for other inclusive processes of democratic ownership, addressing development effectiveness at national and international level.

5. ANNEXES

Conference Program 13 and 14 October
Special number of TUDCN Newsletter, including speeches, video, pictures
TUDCN Action Plan
Background Papers panel 1 and panel 2