



## Trade Union Development Cooperation Network Meeting

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Brussels, 17-18 February 2009

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present:	Austria	ÖGB	Tanja Buzek (17/02)
	Belgium	CGSLB	Vera dos Santos Costa (17/02)
			Maresa Le Roux
	Belgium	FGTB	Thierry Aerts
	Canada	CLC	Anna Nitoslawska
	Canada	CSN	Jacques Letourneau
	Denmark	LO-FTF Council	Mads Bugge Madsen
	Finland	SAK	Pekka Ristelä
	Finland	SASK	Hannu Ohvo
	France	CFDT	Luc Martinet
	France	CGT	Pierre Coutaz
			Olivier Blamangin (18/02)
	France	CGT-FO	Jens Tinga
	Great Britain	TUC	Gemma Freedman
			Bandula Kothalawala
	Hungary	MOSZ	Orsolya KAPITÁNYFY (18/02)
	Italy	CGIL	Gianfranco Benzi
	Italy	CISL	Giuseppe Iuliano
	Netherlands	CNV Internationaal	Jan Gerrit Van Norel
	Netherlands	FNV Mondiaal	Andriette Nommensen (17/02)
	Romania	Cartel Alfa	Camelia Dascalescu
	Romania	BNS	Mirela Caravan
	Spain	CC.OO.	Marisol Pardo
	Spain/Basque Country	ELA	Saioa Igeregi
	Spain	ISCOD-UGT	Isabel Caño
			José Manzanares
	Spain	USO-SOTERMUN	Santiago González
	Sweden	LO	Leif Isaksson
	Sweden	LO-TCO	Torbjörn Strandberg
	Sweden	TCO	Helena Johanson (17/02)
	US	Solidarity Center	Kate Doherty
		CGU	Jim Baker
		ITGLWF	Steve Grinter
		ITUC AFRICA	Adrien Akouete
		ITUC AP	Haridasan Parayarikkal
		ITUC AP	Toshiyuki Wakatsuki
		TUAC	Kristine Drew
		TUCA	Martha Ayala

Secretariat: Steve Benedict, HTUR Dpt. (18/02)  
Jan Dereymaeker, DGS Office  
Mamadou Diallo, DGS Office  
Kamalam, Equality Dpt. (18/02)  
Olga Nicolae, PERC (18/02)  
Kattia Paredes, Equality Dpt. (18/02)  
Luc Vermeersch, ITUC (17/02)  
Jaap Wiene, Deputy Secretary General ITUC

Excused: Belgium CSC  
France CFTC  
Norway LO

Minutes: Peggy De Clercq, DGS Office  
Jan Dereymaeker (item 6, 7)  
Mamadou Diallo (item 8)

## **0. Welcome and introduction to the agenda**

Jaap Wiene welcomes everyone.

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The draft agenda is adopted.

### **2. Minutes of the Meeting of 8-9 October 2008**

Some remarks of Pierre Coutaz, CGT, are added. The minutes are approved.

### **3. Plan of action for 2009-2010**

#### **3. a. Network planning and working methods**

The EU approved the networking proposal. As a result, the network staff has started its work: Paola Simonetti, as advocacy and policy officer, Luc Vermeersch as communication officer, and Mamadou Diallo as programme officer. Jan Dereymaeker will act as project coordinator.

Jan Dereymaeker explains that the project proposal as it had been approved by the Commission, has been translated into a work plan for the ITUC for 2009 and 2010. At the end of 2009 the follow up for the following years should be planned.

The work plan includes six activities (See: Work Plan 2009-2010 Trade Union Development Cooperation Network). These will take place in a transparent way, involving those organisations that wish to cooperate.

The network as an instrument to come to more coherence in trade union development cooperation, with respect for autonomous structures and decisions, is today project based, and less formal than some might wish (e.g. without terms of reference). However, it is possible to repeat information on the project on the ITUC development cooperation webpage, expected results, logical framework, ... This could be used as an instrument for monitoring and evaluation. Since the objects and indicators

are clearly defined, this is an ideal instrument to measure progress. It is important not to start from scratch, but to rely and draw on the expertise of those partners that have a lot of experience.

The idea to compare development education in the different countries in one of the working groups, is supported. This is indispensable in times of crisis, when budget cuts in foreign aid and development are likely to take place.

'Trade Unions as Development Actors' is also extremely important. It is really important that the public knows what trade unions are doing, that public support is mobilized. Special attention should also be paid to advocacy policy and awareness raising amongst citizens in the new EU member states.

The question of gender should be included in the working groups.

As for the capacity building seminars in the south, it is proposed to include sustainability, funding opportunities, in-country programs and self-financing of development programs, taking into account the effects of the crisis as well. The seminars in the south need to be discussed first with the regional organisations.

Jan Dereymaeker proposes to change the working groups into four work streams, which could include workshops. This would leave more possibilities than face-to-face meetings. In those work streams, development education work and awareness building can be tackled. The elements mentioned, own capacity, self-financing, impact assessment and evaluation, access to (EU) funds, MDGs, ... can be integrated in the discussions.

The overview of network activities will be corrected and updated.

Everyone agrees on the working methods of the working groups, including on the remarks concerning a more permanent or semi-permanent character of these groups. Although the finances are limited, exchange of information will certainly be stimulated. The organisations are invited to inform Mamadou Diallo to which working group they want to contribute actively.

The schedule of activities, with the seminars, the study, ... is agreed on.

A small working group, internal, will evaluate the network.

As for the seminars, are there partners to host these? The Swedish colleagues will facilitate the Conference later in 2009. Are there partners willing to take responsibility for research, for contributing or implementing research, and if so, on which topics?

### **3. b. Preparation of the Development Cooperation Conference**

A small working group will meet to prepare the Stockholm Conference in more detail. The participants should arrive on October 12, the Conference will be held on October 13 and 14.

There is a request to involve people who are actually benefitting from development cooperation. Furthermore, it would be good for representatives of civil society to attend, so as to pursue constructive dialogue.

This conference presents an opportunity to build some understanding of the unique role of the trade union movement in development, and of the role of unions in combating poverty.

A global vision needs to be presented at the conference. Since the main idea is to be recognized as actors in development, it is important to concentrate on this message. There is a need to be strategic about the message to get across. It might be useful to consider a publication as outcome of the conference, in order to highlight arguments and successes (such as DFID).

The invitations should be sent at the latest in April. In addition to inviting cooperating institutions of the EU, the ILO should be represented as well, as should development banks, and the US agency for aid. Is it possible to include academics? A progressive employer could perhaps speak on our specific role as social partners in development.

There must be enough publicity, press conferences, ... Good ideas for a title can be sent to the TUDCN team.

The working group of the ITUC and the Swedish colleagues will take the comments and requests into consideration. A strategic approach, and defined aims are needed.

### **3. c. Information and communication plan of the Network**

Luc Vermeersch, the communication officer in the development cooperation network project, drafted a document on the information policy. Comments and suggestions can be sent to him by email. The input and feedback of everyone is very important.

Target groups should be defined, and the objectives of the communication work should be stated.

As for the promised baseline information of partners and the database, not enough progress has been made yet to present a first result. However, that overview is important, and will be provided.

### **3. d. Training and capacity building initiatives**

Capacity building includes many topics, strengthens structures and skills, increases knowledge on different programs and notions.

The ITUC is trying to improve cooperation with the ILO and ITC Turin, and with the ILO at regional level.

Until now an agreement with the ITC has been made on the support of training, of focal points, networking colleagues on HTUR. A first training on HTUR took place in 2008, a second one is foreseen in 2009.

Although it is not the ITUC that defines the training policy of ACTRAV and of the ITC, there is an understanding that the ITUC priorities should be an important reference when defining the ITC program. The ITUC will have a meeting with the six colleagues from the ILO Governing Body Training Committee to achieve a better coherence. Additional efforts are also needed in cooperation with the ILO regional offices.

## **4. Progress reports on the implementation of the Global Programmes**

Directly after the founding congress of the ITUC the ITUC priorities were defined in line with the ITUC action plan. A number of projects were drafted after consultations with member organisations, regional organisations, SSOs, etc.

Following decisions on priorities and projects in the General Council, there are now concrete opportunities to cooperate.

#### **4. a. HTUR**

Steve Benedict, director of the HTUR department since January, tries to plan the future work around different pillars: the HTUR committee, the ILO standard setting and control mechanisms, the Survey, HTUR promotion and protection in countries at risk, special programmes on core labour standards, and HTUR networks to sustain HTUR work at regional and global level.

The new HTUR committee had its first meeting. The outcome should be strengthened, participation should be more effective. There is now a new chair of the HTUR Committee, Jongerius, and some vice presidents were elected.

The Survey is on track for 2009 and will be released during the ILC in June. There is a re-evaluation of how to handle the survey, of what might be a more useful format.

Another pillar is the HTUR promotion and protection in countries at risk (e.g. conference on situation in Zimbabwe, video and brochures in some countries like e.g. Swaziland, ...)

The special programmes on core labour standards are ongoing on the issue of forced labour and trafficking.

Jaap Wiene adds that the implementation, with an important regional component, has to start as soon as possible. All regions have appointed someone responsible for the projects.

Hannu Ohvo expresses the readiness of SASK to support the Survey, as an important information and campaigning tool. Furthermore, cooperation on the Zimbabwe conference can be discussed.

TUC is ready to support the Zimbabwe conference as well, but Bandula Kothalawala cannot yet specify how. As to the Survey, TUC works in close collaboration with Amnesty International.

Jaap Wiene summarizes the state of affairs. There is a commitment of LO-TCO, of FNV, and of the FES. TUC is waiting for the DFID agreement. A first agreement with ISCOS on certain topics was made. A positive discussion with CC.OO. and UGT ISCOD took place. The talks will be continued. There is a first agreement with LO Norway. There was a problem with the Belgian ministry, but the Belgian organisations are now ready to have more concrete discussions. A date will be set to meet the French colleagues. Mads Bugge Madsen will report back after internal consultations within LO/FTF. Kate Doherty will see how the Solidarity Center can work more concretely on projects. CNV promised an answer later this month. The Canadian colleagues will get back. Even though some organisations may only have limited possibilities, a commitment can be discussed.

#### **4. b. HIV/AIDS**

The HIV/AIDS programme has been developed within the framework of the Global Unions Aids Programme.

After a series of consultations, it was decided to reinforce the actions by national centres on HIV/AIDS, oriented on the work floor, on workers and on their families.

There is a commitment from LO-TCO. A request has been submitted to the EU. Furthermore, a contract with ILO AIDS has been signed, permitting the ITUC-GUAP to engage a coordinator.

TUC is not able to make a financial contribution as it already has a number of bilateral engagements (Ghana, Uganda, and possibly Nigeria). Jaap Wienen reminds that it is important to be kept informed of which activities are taking place with which partners.

At CLC Canada there is a renewed interest for more involvement on HIV/AIDS. CLC is trying to restart a small labour fund. Some discussions are taking place to see how CLC can support some of the work at the global level and in the regions.

#### **4. c. Informal Economy**

The IE programme is a combination of multilateral and bilateral approaches, with the support of SSOs. The programme also integrates the establishment of a group of reflection.

The ILO has decided that a conference will be held on the social protection of workers.

Progress has been made. A meeting at global level was organised, as well as regional events. There is a good input for the national pilot meetings. The ILO regional offices could support at national level. There are opportunities for the SSOs that have relations with certain countries. Pilot projects, of € 10,000, can give national organisations a good boost to organise workers in the IE.

José Manzanera highlights ISCOD-UGT's experience in trade union actions for the recognition of the informal sector, on labour legislation for workers and codes of good practices. ISCOD-UGT is prepared to coordinate efforts with the ITUC so as to increase effectiveness and improve the conditions of IE workers. IE workers need access to trade unions so as to organize.

Everyone agrees on the integration of IE into the trade union structures. Politically, the fight to increase the possibilities for the weakest in society to have access to social security remains essential. Adapting trade union structures and practices is what the pilot projects are about. The projects will be adjusted to the situation in a given country or region. A kind of road map is needed to come to a greater synergy, involving organisations, regional organisations, GUFs.

#### **4. d. Other**

**EQUALITY – 1<sup>st</sup> ITUC World Women's Conference, Brussels, 19-21 October 2009**  
**Racism and Xenophobia**  
**Migration**

**1<sup>st</sup> ITUC World Women's Conference, Brussels, 19-21 October 2009**

SASK is ready to contribute.

#### **Racism and Xenophobia**

A questionnaire was sent around to more than 300 organisations. Out of the 65 replies, some conclusions could be formulated. Following this survey, a seminar in cooperation with the ILO was held in June, and a joint action plan was worked out.

At present, the ITUC is following up, is organising seminars, is trying to mobilise trade unions. National initiatives are supported, with the help of the ILO Declaration. The ITUC is involved (financially) in a larger number of projects, in trade union training programs.

A conference on Racism and Xenophobia takes place in April 2009. The goal is to present a political document from the ITUC.

## **Migration**

The issue of migration was taken up at the latest GC. A resolution will be adopted at the next Congress. A pilot project was started in 2007, and has been extended by LO-TCO. Partnership agreements are established, services to migrant workers are provided, and migrant workers are organised. Depending on the results, a new programme will be proposed after consultations.

Besides the follow up of the pilot project, there will also be an opportunity to submit a project on migration in the framework of a EC and UN joint initiative. The ITUC will approach a number of organisations to come to concrete cooperation.

There is a request for better coordination on the subject of migration between the ITUC and the GUFs.

A remark is made on the complementarity of migration and racism, which will probably increase with the crisis. Furthermore, it has to be taken into account that a lot of migrants are trying to get back to their home countries because of the crisis. Migration and mobility must be seen as a political question.

A subject which merits special attention is south-south migration.

### **5. EU Development cooperation initiatives**

The EU has revised its instruments for development cooperation, and has launched new programs. This will be the object of a mid-term review in the coming months.

- Non-State Actors and Local Authorities

There is a clear willingness to cooperate with other CSOs than NGOs in the NSA program, such as trade unions, universities, ... The Commission has put a decentralized program into place.

As for the networking support, follow up to the current project has to be prepared as from 2009.

The NSA program focuses on capacity building. This offers new opportunities, with considerable budgets involved. The EU has introduced an online system for applicants called PADOR.

In February a concept note on ITUC networking and capacity building on HIV/AIDS in third world countries was introduced.

The EC plans three information meetings this year, one in Mexico, one in Egypt, one in Tanzania.

- European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

A project on networking and on forced labour was introduced, but was not selected.

- Investing in People

This programme includes gender, health, culture, education and decent work. The ITUC has discussions with the EC on the implementation. The EC has asked to think about projects unions could develop on decent work. The ITUC will take this up with the ILO Brussels office.

### **6. Development Cooperation Policies**

- a. **Aid Effectiveness AAA follow up and the ISG/ICG**
- b. **GFG and Civil Society Organizations' Effectiveness**
- c. **Financing for Development Debriefing and Follow up**

Progress and follow up are presented in powerpoint. The presentations can be sent around to those interested.

## **7. Preparation of the ITUC Congress resolution on Development Policy – working method**

There will be no drafting committee, but the network can deliver elements to be included during the drafting process.

## **8. AOB**

- A specific meeting on the Middle East and Arab countries to discuss a more coordinated approach on development cooperation in the region will be held in Beirut in April with ILO support.
- LO-Norway has agreed to fund part of the HTUR Observatory budget in the Arab world.
- FTUB (Burma) is seeking support and the ITUC has circulated a letter among affiliates. Contributions are welcome as FTUB colleagues are currently in a difficult situation.
- The ITUC will be organising some meetings on Climate Change and will seek support to involve participants from the South.
- PANAF is a trade union education programme supported by LO and TCO. The new development of the programme requires involvement of other partners as well. The ITUC, ITUC-AF, LO and TCO will approach interested partners.
- The ITUC-AF HQ will be moved to Lomé during the summer of 2009 and support is needed for a necessary renovation of the premises. Some organisations have already expressed their will to contribute.
- The ITUC will submit applications for organising pre-congress seminars before the next World Congress (Vancouver June 2010).

## **9. Next meeting**

The revised schedule for future meetings will be sent around. Work stream meetings will be organised on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2009.