

ITUC Congress, 22nd May 2014

Sustainable Jobs – Sub-plenary “Partnering for Development”

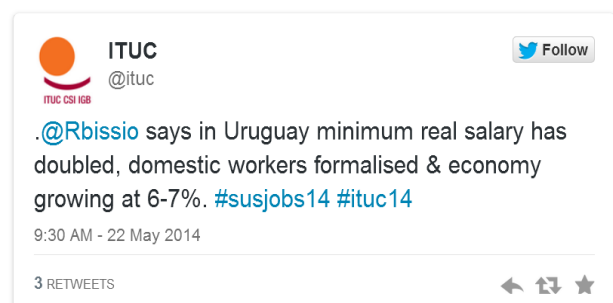
Session 1: Trade Union Role in the Post 2015 agenda

Roberto Bissio, Social Watch, expressed concerns on the [privatisation of the post 2015 agenda](#).



Roberto highlighted how unions should reinforce their presence in the post 2015 negotiations. According to him, rights have been taken away from workers (e.g. investment treaties, trade agreements) in favour of the rich. This has led to a dramatic increase of inequalities and income disparities, both in the North and in the South.

He explained how Uruguay introduced laws and policies strengthening unions, social protection and formalisation, policies contrary to the prescriptions of the World Bank “Doing Business” reports. Nevertheless, Uruguay still attracted vast amount of investments.



Afrileston Sulistri, KSBSI Indonesia, detailed trade unions demands.

“We want decent work, comprehensive education, social protection and sustainability”

She also advocated for more trade union input in the post 2015 process despite the difficulty for trade unions to find entry points in the UN negotiations.

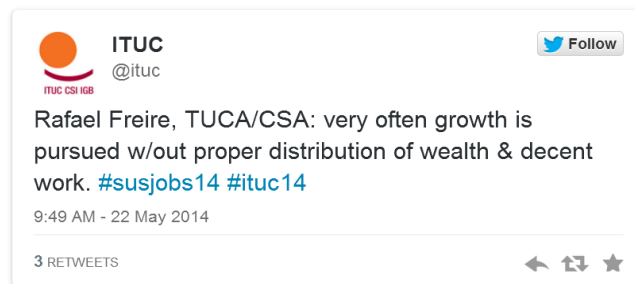
She reminded the audience how the role of unions is not only about co-designing Sustainable Development Goals but also monitoring their implementation.

Rafael Freire, TUCA, added a regional perspective to the debate.



"The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network enables us to contest the privatisation of the development cooperation agenda"

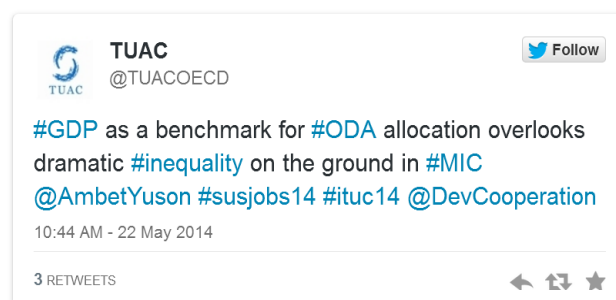
He explained how trade unions have created PLADA, [the Development Platform of the Americas](#) to demand political, social, economic and environmental rights and to avoid rising inequalities in Latin America. Trade unions decided to coordinate their local actions at the international and regional levels to promote a different development model.

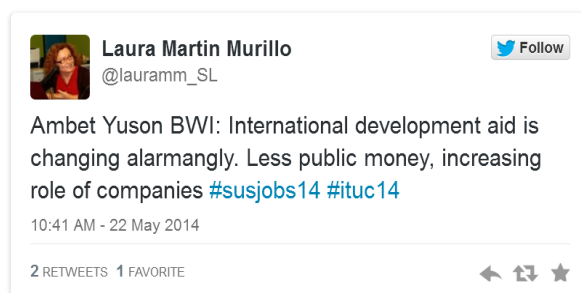


Wellington Chibebe, ITUC, closed this session recalling how *"We must participate, participate and participate in policy consultation, implementation and evaluation"*

Session 2: Trade Union International Solidarity Projects

Ambet Yuson, BWI, exposed the challenges trade unions face in terms of development cooperation.





To improve their solidarity projects, trade unions on the ground need to be more responsive and make use of global campaigns, and vice versa. Unions also need to be more sustainable and independent (e.g. funding) and to have a stronger voice.

Gemma Arpaia, ISCOS, added ideas to the list of recommendations to improve trade union solidarity projects.



She mentioned how Northern Unions have to become more autonomous in terms of their structures and how Southern Unions have to think about the needs of their own members and make the additional effort in engaging in development cooperation.

“Unions should also work on taxation and domestic resource mobilization in view of fairer income distribution”.

Wellington Chibebe, ITUC, closed this session recalling how *“the poorest of the poorest are experts in poverty”*

Session 3: South-South Cooperation

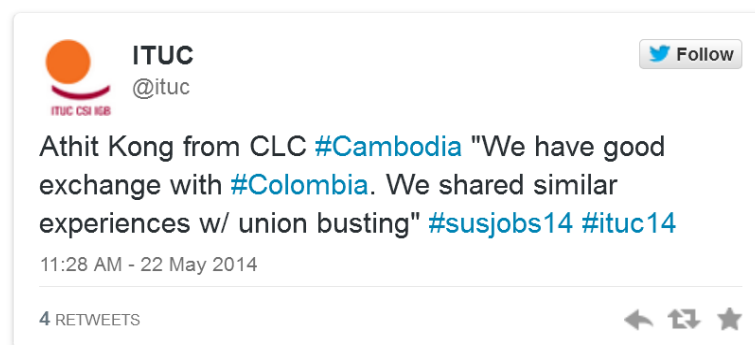
Antonio Lisboa Amancio Vale, CUT Brasil, gave a Southern perspective on trade union cooperation.



According to him, cooperation between trade unions must be a dialogue between equals, leaving space for political autonomy, and must lead to strong and independent unions which can advocate for workers' rights.

In terms of South-South cooperation, Brazil, like many other emerging economies, lacks legislative and regulatory pillars to fully engage in development cooperation. Those are needed to improve the quality of Brazil development cooperation.

Athit Kong, CLC Cambodia, shared his experience of South-South cooperation between Cambodia and Colombia.



He explained how trade unions in Cambodia, by exchanging information with other Southern trade unions, such as in Colombia, have had more innovative ideas to improve working standards.

He praised trade union South-South cooperation for enabling trade unions to share challenges, technical skills and expertise.

Conclusions

With respect to our advocacy efforts at different levels,

- Support through regional development networks, capacity building and policy development for advocacy and partnerships
- Strengthen our advocacy at international level, especially towards the UN system and as counterbalance to corporate influence and those that continue to promote the private sector led growth model, to secure sustainable and inclusive development in the 2015 agenda and beyond

With respect to how we cooperate as trade unions,

- Improve trade union partnerships based on our principles on development effectiveness, shared approaches and common objectives
- Increase multilateral trade union solidarity initiatives and support trade union south-south cooperation initiatives

To achieve these objectives, we need to continue to strengthen the TUDCN and affirm its role as a platform which supports international trade union solidarity and cooperation.