



**AFRICA'S REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ITUC-Africa)**

Africa Trade Union Development Network (ATUDN)

ATUDN Steering Committee Meeting

Dates: 20th – 21st June 2017

Venue: Bolton White Hotel, Abuja.



“Consolidating the Gains of the Africa Trade Union Development Network (ATUDN)”

1. Introduction

The Africa Trade Union Development Network (ATUDN) is an initiative of ITUC-Africa that brings together affiliated trade union organisations, the solidarity support organisations (SSO) and the representatives of the ITUC sub-regional organisations. The network's objective is to bring the trade union perspective into the development policy debates at

global, regional, sub-regional and national level and improve the coordination and effectiveness of trade union development cooperation activities.

Since its inception, the network has been working on research, capacity building and advocacy oriented activities mainly around issues developmental and specifically around the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. This has been done through evidence based advocacy and representation at high level meetings (national, sub-regional and regional level), through conducting workshops, seminars, conferences and also by issuing publications.

Annually, the ATUDN steering committee which coordinates the activities of the network meets to evaluate, plan and coordinate the work of the network. This year, the ATUDN meeting took place in Abuja, Nigeria from the 20th to the 21st of June 2017. What ensues is the report of the two-day meeting:

Meeting Objectives:

1. To report on and evaluate the implemented 2017-18 Africa Trade Union Development Network activities.
2. To orient the ATUDN members to the 2017-18 ATUDN work plan, to adopt the work plan and map out implementation responsibilities.
3. To further orient the ATUDN members on the use of the TUDCN monitoring template (country reports) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. To prepare for the ATUDN's participation at the Africa-EU summit.

Meeting Expected Outcomes:

1. Approved 2017-18 ATUDN work plan and implementation responsibilities shared and agreed.
2. Knowledgeable and capacitated ATUDN members ready to use the agenda 2030 country monitoring template.
3. Knowledgeable and prepared ATUDN steering committee members ready to take part at the Africa-EU summit.
4. Enhance coordination and information sharing among the ATUDN Steering Committee members.

Target Group

The meeting targeted all ATUDN network members. Also in attendance were TUDCN members from Brussels, an official from International Labour Organisation (ILO) and United Nations Commission for Africa (UNECA). The President and General Secretary for Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) officially opened the meeting.

List of participants

Name	Country	Gender	
		Male	Female
1. Joan Lanfranco	Belgium	√	
2. Pierre Traore	Mali	√	
3. Etsri Homevoh	Togo	√	
4. Alex Nkosi	Togo	√	
5. Zanele Matebule	South Africa		√
6. Naome Chakanya	Zimbabwe		
7. Kamadji Demba	Chad		√
8. Ameth Toure	Senegal	√	
9. Steve Mwaiko	Tanzania	√	
10. Diego Gonzalez	Belgium	√	
11. Tendai Makanza	South Africa		√
12. Rhayem Nawfel	Tunisia	√	
13. Diallo Yacouba	Ivory Coast	√	
14. Sissoko Fatouma	Ethiopia		√
15. Cynthia Onyancha	Kenya		√
16. Chris Uyot	Nigeria	√	
17. John Odah	Nigeria	√	
18. Mustapha Hawa	Nigeria		√

Expected Contribution

The ATUDN steering committee meeting is expected to help members take stock of the work done this far, plan and coordinate the future work of the network. It is also expected that the meeting will proffer an opportunity for orienting all the members to the SDGs monitoring tool/template that has been developed by the TUDCN for the trade unions.

2. Description of the activity

- The meeting was called to order by Alex Nkosi. He welcomed the participants to the 2017 steering committee meeting and in a special way; the new comers to the committee were welcomed and duly acknowledged.
- Diego Lopez shared the developments that took place and the progress registered in implementing activities since the general meeting that took place in Lomé, Togo.
- Alex Nkosi proceeded by welcoming and introducing the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) leadership.
- The Secretary General of NLC, Dr. Ezo made a few welcoming remarks and proceeded to invite the NLC President Ayuba to officially open the meeting.
- NLC President officially welcomed participants to Abuja Nigeria. In his remarks, he underscored the important work that the trade unions in general do and the network in particular does. He intimated that the capacity building that the network does is crucial in tackling the myriad challenges that Africa faces like inequality, extreme poverty, huge unemployment, which in his view, consequently lead to conflicts. In the same vein, he stressed that development is so important for Africa and that the contribution that ATUDN makes in realizing development on the continent is so instrumental. He further said that it is important for the ATUDN to be in the driving seat on the SDGs and particularly the SDG8 because the decent work agenda is a challenge in Africa.
- He concluded his speech by saying that enormous task lies ahead to push governments to act in the best interest the citizens. Thus ATUDN needs to bring about a positive change and propel governments to do what is right. He also emphasized the need to look at ILO and GUFs work on peace and resilience, stressing that peace is not possible to attain without steady employment.
- Finally, he hinted that preventing conflicts and managing migration is very important for prosperity. Poverty can push people to do anything, including the indulgence into acts of terrorism.
- And the he concluded his speech by welcoming people to Nigeria.
- After the official welcome, Alex Nkosi oriented members to the objectives of the meeting and went ahead to highlight the activities that have recently been implemented and also shared about the TUDCN new publications.

Sharing of experiences from the ground: Country reports/feedback

Steering Committee members were also accorded the opportunity to share information on what they have been doing since the General meeting was held in Lome, Togo.

- Tendai Makanza from SATUCC shared about the work that her institution is doing in implementing the SDGs. She mentioned that annually, SATUCC holds a labour symposium where issues of development are discussed with the affiliates. During the 2017 symposium, ATUDN was invited to make a presentation on SDGs. She also

- mentioned that SATUCC is part of the CSO Forum and this year, and the SDGs are the agenda.
- Naome Chakanya from LEDRIZ also highlighted that her institution is lately active on SDGs. She shared her experience in filling-in the SDG template. She also mentioned that the ministry in charge of SDGs in Zimbabwe duly recognizes the role of Trade Unions, especially their contribution to national SDGs planning, implementation and monitoring. She mentioned that upon presentation of draft VNR, trade unions in Zimbabwe gave comments from the labour perspective. She also mentioned that she was involved in facilitating the ACTRAV SDGs academy in Cape Verde.
 - Zanele Matebule from COSATU mentioned that her national centre has been raising awareness on SDGs. She said that the flyer that TUDCN produced has assisted them in this endeavour. She mentioned that COSATU plans to hold a workshop in October 2017, to showcase TUDCN/ATUDN and plan national activities.
 - Steven Mwaiko from EATUC shared that their regional organisation has been training their members on SDGs – they actually held a regional training in ECA on SDGs. He mentioned that apart from capacity building of the members, EATUC wants to monitor implementation of SDGs quarterly and that they recent produced and published an advert in the East African Newspaper on trade unions work on SDGs.
 - John Odah from OWATU/NLC: shared about the work of his institution. He mentioned that they have developed a 5-year strategic plan with 10 pillars; one of them is SDGs/decent work.
 - Pierre Traoré from Mali said that his union approached the government to lobby for trade union’s inclusion in national forums on SDGs implementation and monitoring. He said that the Mali Strategic Committee on Poverty (MSP) consults Trade Unions regularly. He further highlighted that the social dialogue architecture is well alive in Mali: government launched a platform where trade unions take part.
 - Ameth Toure from Senegal (UNSAS) mentioned that SDGs are always a priority for their country.
 - Alex Nkosi concluded the session and thanked members for sharing their experiences. He felt that the exercise was important and further suggested that this sharing of information ought to become a norm and that the network should also document such experiences.

Recap of the ATUDN's work

This session basically highlighted the activities implemented by the network since the General meeting in April 2017.

- ATUDN sent an eight member delegation to the UNECA regional meeting on SDGs and Agenda 2063 that took place in Addis Ababa.
- Private sector accountability: Joan Lanfranco briefed members on activities around this theme. He mentioned that a study on the development effectiveness of blended-financed projects is in the pipeline and that in Africa there will be three country studies.
- State of Trade Unions in Africa: Alex Nkosi briefed members on progress regarding this study. He mentioned that the study is almost finished. The countries where the study was conducted included: Nigeria, Kenya, Togo, Senegal, Ghana, Madagascar, Gabon, Chad and Uganda.
- Diego Lopez briefed members on the work on partnerships. He talked about the trade union projects and that TUDCN tries to provide coordination and build synergies. Regarding communication and outreach, it was mentioned that the new website TUDCN is coming soon.

Report from the UNECA RFSD: assessment of the forum and advocacy with national governments (Discussion on future strategies)

This session was aimed at the advocacy/lobby experiences that ATUDN had in Addis Ababa during the regional forum on Agenda 2030 and AU's Agenda 2063.

- Alex Nkosi reported that the 8 member ATUDN delegation arrived in Addis Ababa on the 15th of May 2017. The delegation was constituted of ITUC-Africa, Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Tanzania (EATUC) Kenya and Botswana/South Africa.
- On 16th of May, the delegation held a strategy meeting aimed at preparing for the forum and also getting updates on the shadow country SDGs reports. During the strategy meeting it was agreed that the delegation should be split into various thematic groups or SDGs goals.
- It was strategised that to ensure that trade unions make an impact and also influence the outcome document – we have to volunteer to take up positions in the thematic groups i.e. as a chair, rapporteur etc.
- During the strategy meeting, the members reported that they had challenges in filling the templates for national reports. Access to information was a key challenge!
- Chris Uyot observed that in the meetings NGOs dominate, but in this particular meeting trade unions showed that they were organised and had a common message.
- Tendai Makanza mentioned that she realised that our affiliates were not monitoring the SDGs as they should and were waiting for their governments to involve them. But hinted that we need to strengthen TUs involvement stressing that CSOs don't really

- refer to us, so we need to situate ourselves with CSOs to get their recognition and then position ourselves with UNECA.
- Naome Chakanya was glad that one of the meeting's main outcomes was to connect with the respective people in charge at country level. She highlighted that another role we have is the popularisation of SDGs amongst our unions.
 - Steve Mwaiko observed that it is important to have the key messages before the meeting. ATUDN did a good job because we already had a draft document and the strategy meeting assisted us to get organised.

Conclusions:

- It was observed that the emphasis during the regional forum was on Agenda 2030 and 2063; therefore it is important that we begin to work on Agenda 2063, if we are to be in tune with the realities of the continent. In this regard, we need to do some research on how the Agenda 2063 is being coordinated; we should also look at the possibilities of integrating the Agenda 2063 into the monitoring document.*
- We also need to strengthen our relationship with NGOs and try to use the many paces they have to push for our agenda and the trade unions.*
- By way of conclusion, it was noted that there was a lot of influence from trade unions during the forum. The delegation played an active role in the deliberations and the outcome document had included the trade union key messages.*

Agenda 2030 monitoring – contributions from UNECA and ILO on the sources of data for the indicators

During this Steering Committee meeting, UNECA and ILO Statisticians, coming from Addis Ababa – Ethiopia and Abidjan-Cote D'ivoire, were invited to attend the meeting and share with the network about the tools that their respective institutions have developed to monitor the SDGs and advise how the ATUDN can improve its tool.

- The session opened by Diego giving a recap of the trade union national report template. It was highlighted that the TUDCN/ATUDN developed this tool to contribute to the monitoring on SDGs at country level through the production of the shadow report that will complement country voluntary reports.
- Comrade Naome was given the floor to share her experience in using the tool. She mentioned that it was challenging to get data (statistics) from international organisations/websites. In some cases, there was some duplication on information provided, e.g. on precarious work and temporary employment. She intimated that statistics on SDG16 very difficult to gather. The latest data on TU rights is from 2009. On tracking progress and recommendations: financing

is a challenge. She concluded by saying that the template is not only about filling in statistics, but also making analysis out of that data, to make it advocacy-worth.

- Diego mentioned that filling in the template also requires asking for the support of other professions within and outside of our offices. It needs efforts from many departments in TUs.
- Alex concluded by saying that issues of statistics are quite complex. Issue of access to data is also critical, both for governments and international organizations.

Yacouba Diallo, Senior Statistician at ILO Regional Office for Africa (Abidjan) gave his presentation that focused on the following:

- Labour statistics standards framework
- National
- IAEG SDGs Africa: Uganda, Tanzania, Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Senegal, Algeria
- ILO custodian in SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 14, 16.

Discussions:

- Alex thanked Diallo for the presentation and mentioned that what ILO is doing is complementary to ATUDN/TUDCN work and asked what added value can TUs monitoring bring to official process? What are the areas of TU monitoring that may need strengthening?
- Naome highlighted the fact that in Africa, there are several measurements of poverty line (e.g. food, etc.); this can bring confusion in the monitoring process.
- Fatouma asked Naome if she consulted the data producers. What are the strategies to have data available?
- Yacouba mentioned that countries are allowed to contextualize indicators. Flexibility should reflect as much as possible the specificities of countries and regions. He mentioned that in 2016, training for SADECC on how statisticians measure wages was conducted by the ILO. They adapt training packages to diverse actors. SDGs are flexible and African countries are allowed to reflect priorities. He mentioned that ILO has 13 offices in Africa; it targeted 3-4 countries and plan to have activities, to be selected by end of 2017.
- Naome answered Fatouma that some sources are in the template, some others are national data.
- Tendai asked what the advocacy plans for the templates are? To which Alex replied that the TU shadow report will complement the VNR at the HLPF in New York.
- Yacouba concluded the session by emphasizing that metadata allows to have and own opinion on data availability.

Fatouma Sissok from the African Centre for Statistics, UNECA, also gave her presentation which focused on the following:

- i. Background: 2030 Agenda
- ii. Coordination UNECA-African institutions in monitoring A2030 and AU2063.
- iii. Indicators

- iv. Integrated regional indicator framework for both agendas: in theory,
- v. UNECA RFSO also focuses on the corresponding goals for the 10-year implementation plan of the AU2063
- vi. UNECA support to implementation and structuring the monitoring at national level
- vii. Data issues: in Africa, only 37.8% of SDG indicators have data to measure progress.
- viii. Coverage of each goal is uneven.
- ix. There is limited autonomy of national statistical offices.
- x. Limited timeliness and quality of data, if not old data.

Discussion:

- Alex observed that in listening to Fatouma’s presentation, one cannot avoid but to note the convergence between Agenda 2030 and 2063.
- Diego mentioned that other regions have similar problems in terms of data availability to measure indicators. He then asked if there is a document mapping the convergence between A2030 and AU2063 – especially on the targets and indicators with those of AU2063? Is there an update to update the UNECA’s database?
- Alex asked on what mechanisms are in place on AU2063 in terms of reporting?
- Fatouma concluded the session by saying that if there is no similar methodology, comparability is futile. National statistic offices don’t have mandates and means. Even developed countries are lacking some data (e.g. environmental and lack of comprehensive mechanism for follow-up). Many partners are working on the improvement on data availability.

Alex made concluding remarks noting that it was a very productive day and a lot of important issues have been discussion, he then invited the participants to dinner that was organised by the Nigeria Labour Congress – NLC.

Africa - EU Partnership Summit (Abidjan) and AU-EU CSO Forum (Tunis), ACP post-2020

- Joan gave an overview of the Africa-EU partnership, the joint strategy and the Africa-EU summit. He contextualised EU-Africa relations and presented the issues that will be tackled in the Africa-EU summit that will take place in Abidjan in November. The main issues to be tackled will be youth, related to employment and migration. The summit will also look into further strengthening the Africa-EU partnership and will be the space for the launch the EU External Investment Plan.
- He also presented on the Africa-EU CSO Summit which will take place in Tunisia. He explained how the process towards this forum and selection of participants were done, as well as the main themes that will be dealt with in this summit. He also introduced the main messages of the trade union advocacy paper. After his presentations, participants were divided into two language groups to look at the advocacy document and make some inputs.

A summary of inputs from the French and English Group

French Group	English Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. On decent work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Revision and application of social security legislation with regard to the informal economy. b. Investment in professional training for women. c. Reduce fiscal policy on the formal workers to capture informal workers. d. Good financial governance to avoid outflows. ii. Social dialogue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish decent work as a precondition for investments and establish protection for workers in these investments. b. Participation of trade unions in the negotiation of Africa EU Partnership. c. Create an enabling environment by fighting corruption. d. Institute a good legal framework, having effective follow-up organs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. On migration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Include reasons for migration i.e. peace and security, poverty etc. ii. There is no social dialogue on the main issues touched upon in the document. iii. Include the gains discussed in Addis Ababa – they ought to be included in the document. iv. There is no reference to equal employment, need to refer to gender equality. v. A2030 and A2063 should be put together. vi. The reference to illicit financial flows should be strengthened. vii. Also raise the issues of climate. viii. There is a need to have a more gender sensitive vocabulary in the document. ix. Put decent work and social dialogue as the first issue. x. There is lack of reference to key African instruments, there is only reference to the EU Consensus and it does not flag out the key African instruments that support their demand.

- Demba mentioned that if Europe wants to invest in Africa, they should also work to promote good governance.

The session was concluded with observations that the advocacy document was good; it only needed strengthening by factoring-in the proffered suggestions.

Business accountability in development: main priorities and research ahead

- Alex opened the session by giving a synopsis of the changing landscape of development finance in the SDG era, and explained the so-called innovative development finance instruments and how they are to fill-in the finance gap.
- He explained that the role of the private sector in development has been touted as unavoidable in the SDGs era. However, we know that the private sector wants to make profit.
- ATUDN carried out specific research on PPPs which have been used for advocacy purposes. A workshop was undertaken in Blantyre to build the capacity of the network in terms of understanding the private sector instruments.
- This workshop concluded that more work needed to be done on this and specially with respect to blending.
- Joan presented the issues that we have been tackling on private sector through our research and the issues at stake with respect to blended finance. He presents the issues that we want to tackle in upcoming research on blended finance and how we want to use it.
- He also explained the process which includes a mapping of blended facilities and an analysis of particular projects with respect to decent work priorities.
- Then the participants were divided into two language groups to brainstorm on some of the aspects that the research could focus on. The suggestions on sectors to be studied included: (a) water and sanitation, (b) renewable energy, (c) health sector and (d) transport (SA) – while the thematic focus should be on decent work agenda: how these four pillars, blended projects vis-à-vis illicit financial flows and how trade unions are involved in the whole project cycle.

Proposed SDGs engagement plans by national centres at national level

Name of Participant	Country	Planned National Activities
	Tunisia	Tunisia has long-term plans/projects on sustainable development. The plans in the context of the ATUDN including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Participating in the SDGs national platform by UGTT. ii. Awareness raising on SDGs.
John Odah	West Africa (OTUWA)	The OTUWA strategic plan includes work on SDGs. We plan to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Work with national centres in sub-region. ii. Raise awareness and hold governments accountable on SDGs. iii. To follow up on commitment from ILO in 2017 to do a regional activity on SDGs and participate.
Pierre Traoré	Mali	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. To work with employers on decent work issues. ii. Raise awareness on priority SDGs.

Ahmed	Senegal	i. To raise awareness on SDGs.
Demba	Chad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To create a national trade union network on SDGs. ii. Organised workshops to raise awareness among membership. iii. To follow up and monitor government's agenda 2015-2022, which is about good governance and social protection. iv. To discussion with CSOs, starting with disability NGO on working modalities on SDGs. v. To hold a workshop on SDGs for Central Africa, there has been some exchange of information. Next week Yaoundé workshop on SDGs.
Tendai Makanza	SATUCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To attend the SADC CSO Forum and talk about SDGs - with a sponsored ATUDN participant. ii. Hold side event on SDGs during the Sept-Oct SATUCC Congress, and engage all Secretary Generals on SDGs. iii. To include SDGs during the 2018 SATUCC symposium. iv. Draft a monitoring tool on SDGs for NSA. v. Rest of 2017, engagement on monitoring on SDGs. vi. Engaging the EU on issue of EPAs, industrialisation and SDGs. vii. For 2018, engage the ILO. viii. Willing to commit on blended finance work.
Naome Chakanya	Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To discuss with ILO sub-regional and national offices to see how to engage in capacity development workshops (Harare ILO office interested in engagement processes). ii. Budget monitoring, take the opportunity to share with other stakeholders. iii. To have a slot in ZCTU magazine to talk about SDGs. iv. Engaging various ZCTU departments on SDGs, to see how to work together. v. Be part of the multi-stakeholder platform on SDGs, vi. Monitor and be part of TU engagement, new developments (i.e. CSO SDG Forum launched recently, will seek TU voice therein).

		vii. On blending-finance study, willing to assist, especially as Zimbabwe is taking many economic reforms.
Zanele Matebule	South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To request constitutional bodies to have space to talk about SDGs. ii. Take space in members' magazine to talk about ATUDN topics. iii. To continue with work on integrate SDGs in COSATU departments, linking it to specific SDG. iv. To linking up with CSO working group on SDGs in South Africa. v. To get involved in the Belgian cooperation programme focusing on social dialogue, development and vulnerable sectors to find a way to include SDGs as issue.
Chris Uyot and Hawa Mustapha	Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To build capacity of leadership on SDGs. ii. To assist organ meetings and speak about SDGs. iii. To start speaking about private sector in development. iv. To work on a project on budget-tracking and how to link up with SDGs, as well as programmes on gender, social protection. v. To ensure that education programmes also could include a complement of SDG.
Steve Maiko	EATUC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To organise capacity building workshops on SDGs ii. Template to provide feedback to EATUC on SDG implementation. iii. Share the SDGs information to the members. iv. Monitor the SDGs implementation.
Cynthia	Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To start the capacity building sessions on SDGs with objective of raising awareness and trigger action on SDG implementation.

- After listening to the participants' presentations on their national plans, Alex also presented the ATUDN 2017 to 2018 workplan. And then the session was closed.

Members concluding remarks:

- Demba: we need to work on enhancing our visibility as a network by among other things, foreseeing and participating in meetings organised by regional bodies like the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), other regional integration bodies, as well as ACTRAC and ILO regional and sub-regional offices. On communication, we need to have a clear strategy and steps to follow at national level.

- Hawa: we need to have a copy of the regional timeline of activities at national level
- Zanele: it would be good to have plans for engagement with AU. Look at fundraising for national activities. We need to trickle down what the ATUDN does.
- Alex shared that there are plans to formalise engagement with AFB, UNECA and the AU.
- The AU Agenda 2063 is a critical issue and maybe we can have some capacity building during the ATUDN GM.

Closure

- Alex Nkosi thanked the NLC for all the logistical support, hosting the network to a dinner and for the kind welcome.
- The NLC Secretary General (SG) thanked everyone for coming to Nigeria. The noted that the ATUDN work plan looks quite ambitious but with hard work and proper coordination, they can be achieved.
- He noted that labour is the largest membership based movement in Africa. Inclusive development will only be done with TUs. NGOs are not always membership driven.
- Alex closed the meeting by wishing all the participants safe trips back to their respective countries.

General Conclusions

Below is a summary of the conclusion drawn from the two-day ATUDN Steering Committee meeting. It was observed that there was a great improvement in member's contributions and also the quality of discussions.

- 1) *More work still needs to be done on the TUDCN/SDGs monitoring tool.*
- 2) *Following ILO and UNECA's presentation on monitoring SDGS and Africa's Agenda 2063, it was proposed that ATUDN should begin to do work on the AU Agenda 2063. It was suggested that work on this agenda could commence during the 2018 ATUDN general meeting.*
- 3) *It was agreed that work on research on Blended-finance will commence with the mapping of such projects and that immediately after the mapping, three countries in Africa will be selected for the study.*
- 4) *Some members of TUDCN/ATUDN will attend the AU-EU Civil Society forum in Tunisia to participate in the working on the outcome document that major groups/CSOs/trade unions will take to the Africa-EU summit in Cote D'Ivoire in November 2017.*
- 5) *ATUDN should formalise its working relationship with the Africa Union and UNECA and also fight for the attainment of the ECOSOCC status.*