



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

Africa Trade Union Development Network (ATUDN)

The 1st ATUDN General Meeting

Dates: 30th – 31st January 2018

Venue: Arusha, Tanzania.

“Gearing the Africa Trade Unions for Development Policy Influence from a labour perspective”

CONCEPT NOTE

Meeting Objectives:

1. To report on and evaluate the 2017-18 implemented ATUDN activities and map out implementation strategies for the New Year.
2. To further orient the ATUDN members on the use of the TUDCN monitoring template for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) country shadow reports.
3. To prepare for the ATUDN's participation at the UNECA Sustainable Development Goals regional summit through orientation to UNECA integrated regional indicator framework for monitoring both Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.
4. To orient members to the Africa Union's Agenda 2063 and other initiative implemented by other solidarity organisations.

Meeting Expected Outcomes:

1. Approved 2017-18 ATUDN workplan and implementation strategies/responsibilities shared and agreed.
2. Knowledgeable and capacitated ATUDN members ready and able to use the agenda 2030 monitoring template.
3. Knowledgeable and prepared ATUDN steering committee members ready and able to meaningfully articulate the trade union development priorities in international forums.
4. Enhanced knowledge regarding the UNECA monitoring processes for the Agenda 2030 and 2063.

In 2015, ITUC-Africa¹ formed the Africa Trade Union Development Network (ATUDN) - an initiative that brings together affiliated trade union organisations, the solidarity support organisations (SSO), the representatives of the ITUC-Africa regional organisations and the Global Union Federations (GUFs). The network's objective is **to bring the trade union perspective into the international development policy debates and improve the coordination and effectiveness of trade union development cooperation activities.**

The work of the network focuses on three pillars: (a) research, (b) evidence-based advocacy and (c) capacity building activities which include organizing conferences and seminars as well as issuing publications which include policy statements and research projects. ITUC-Africa development cooperation strategy is based on the principle of the democratic ownership, firmly believing that people should be in charge of their development policies.

In the spirit of bringing the trade union perspective into the international development policy debates, ITUC-Africa has established working relationships with various multilateral institutions like the OECD, World Bank and the IMF, UN, EU, SADC, EAC, ECOWAs etc where a meaningful space for policy dialogue has been established and policy proposals from ITUC-Africa have been sought and proffered on a number of developmental issues.

To further augment these initiatives, ATUDN, with the support of the European Union started a project in 2016 titled **“Equipping African trade unions for inclusive development policy engagement”**. This project aims at developing and strengthening the capacity of African trade unions for active engagement in the African development agenda in favour of economic structural transformation, employment creation and equitable economic development at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. This project was born out of the realisation that trade unions in Africa just like their counter-parts elsewhere want to see inclusiveness at the centre of development plans, programs and actions.

Owing to their central role of promoting fundamental human and trade union values of equity, fairness and inclusiveness, the participation of the workers and their trade unions in development processes is therefore crucial if sustainable development is to be achieved in Africa. As the representatives of working people, it was realised that trade unions are important partners in facilitating the achievement of sustainable development in particular its social dimension. It was with this realisation that ITUC-Africa formed the ATUDN

¹ The African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa) is a pan-African trade union organisation created in November 2007 following the merger of two former African trade union organisations, namely ICFTU-Afro and DOAWTU.

ITUC-Africa has 16 million declared members and 101 affiliated trade union centres in 51 African countries. The headquarters of ITUC-Africa is in Lome, Togo.

As a voice of working people, ITUC-Africa primary mission is, among other things, the promotion and defense of workers' rights and interests, through international cooperation between trade unions, global campaigning and advocacy within the major global institutions. The main areas of activity include trade union and human rights; economy, society and the workplace; equality and non-discrimination; and international solidarity.

network to champion the capacity building of unions in Africa to meaningfully participate in development.

In 2017 ATUDN carried out a number of project activities by way of influencing development policies at national, sub-regional and regional level. The ATUDN general meeting has thus been convened to give an opportunity and space for the network members to share their work accomplishments and challenges, foster cross-learning of experiences and plan for the year 2018.

Workshop methodology

The meeting shall include an intensive 2 days working session in plenary, which will include PowerPoint presentations and group discussions. Moderators will guide the sessions.

Participants

The meeting will bring together about 33 participants consisting of ITUC-Africa Trade Union Development Network (ATUDN), trade union leaders, Solidarity organisations (SOs/CSOs), and representatives of International development partners/multilateral bodies.

