



## **Preliminary conclusions of the TUDCN General Meeting, Lomé, 19-21 April 2017**

### **Regional and national progress reports 2016-2017**

TUDCN has delivered the work plan approved in the 2016 Bangkok General Meeting. There is general agreement on progress reports provided by the TUDCN global and regional secretariats, and these were endorsed by the General Meeting.

Progress has been made with respect to development of the TUDCN regional development networks, their steering committees and working modalities.

National organisations are increasingly engaging to implement the TUDCN 2030 Agenda strategy (mobilisation and engagement, advocacy and implementation, and monitoring and reporting), and all members are encouraged to follow this path.

National organisations positively evaluated the TUDCN advocacy and communication tools, as well as research and publications produced in this period. They also appreciated the use of the Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile (TUDEP) and the evolution of the TUDCN partnerships work.

- TUDCN members will engage in a lobbying strategy on indicators related to SDG target 8.8 (freedom of association and collective bargaining), as well as in fostering a global alliance at UN level to give visibility to these trade union priorities.
- The TUDCN global and regional secretariats will work on a more agile way to report on progress.

### **Trade union engagement on 2030 Agenda**

The TUDCN regional development networks are increasingly implementing the TUDCN 2030 Agenda strategy, notably through their involvement in regional forums on sustainable development (ESCAP, UNECA, CEPAL, UNECE). Challenges are noted on the heterogeneity of participation modalities and processes.

TUDCN members recognise the importance of engaging with the Global Union Federations (GUFs), given their role in specific SDGs.

TUDCN members validated the SDG monitoring report template discussed along different TUDCN meetings and committed to its use for the upcoming SDGs regional forums and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, in July 2017.

- Work needs to be done to ensure trade union space at SDG regional processes, ideally reflecting the UN major group structure at global level.
- Support will be provided to national organisations to complete the SDG monitoring report template, by both global and regional secretariats.
- A question will be added in the template to assess the contribution of trade unions to SDG implementation.
- National organisations are encouraged to coordinate internally (across departments) and with sector federations for the compilation of the template.
- TUDCN members are encouraged to engage with EU delegations in partner countries, considering the potential support the EU can provide to trade unions as implementers of the SDGs.

### **ILO work on effective development cooperation – 2018 ILC**

Participants took note of the upcoming ILO report on effective development cooperation to be presented at the 2018 International Labour Conference (ILC).

The issues that emerged through discussions at working groups are noted. These are namely: the relevance of decent work and its four pillars, particularly social dialogue; privatisation of development cooperation, and the blended finance (linked to ODA); the support to formalisation of the informal economy; responsibility of multinationals in supply chains; capacity building to support ILO constituencies, particularly to increase trade union membership; the implementation of development effectiveness principles in ILO development cooperation; policy coherence (trade and development); digitalisation; migration.

- Three points of discussion will need to be proposed for the preparation of ILC discussion. These topics should be sufficiently general to have the buy in from other ILO constituencies. Potential suggestions could be:
  1. Increased role of the ILO in promoting decent work as the inclusive development paradigm based on social dialogue within the development arena stakeholders;
  2. Multi-stakeholders partnerships and the role of ILO;
  3. ILO models for capacity building.
- TUDCN will follow the ILC 2018 on the issue of effective development cooperation.
- The TUDCN OCM 2017 in Brussels could be another occasion to assess progress on the ILO report.

## **5<sup>th</sup> EU-Africa summit, Abidjan, 28-29 November 2017**

The importance of EU-Africa relations was outlined, particularly around topics of employment and job creation, demographic change and the need to invest in youth, industrialisation and diversification of African economies, migration, investment and use of ODA, fragility, taxation, trade and climate.

In the run up to the 5<sup>th</sup> EU-Africa Summit, the different spaces for engagement were described.

- Trade unions need to engage in and around the preparations of the 5<sup>th</sup> EU-Africa Summit, through CSO coordination spaces in Africa and in Europe working on the Summit to push key trade union messages that will feed into the Summit's conclusions.
- ITUC Africa will try to get involved in the CSO Africa platform dealing with the Summit.
- ETUC and TUDCN Secretariat will coordinate the EU CSO engagement for this Summit and the EU institutions, such as the EU External Action Service (EEAS) and the EU European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), and other fora deemed to feed in the Summit's discussions
- A trade union delegation will participate in the Intercontinental CSO Forum in Tunis, in July 2017.
- TUDCN will explore the possibility of organising preparatory meetings and access to the Summit itself.

## **Assessment of TUDCN 2014-2017**

The feedbacks of the breakout groups will be included in the General Meeting report and will be used to feed in the external evaluation process on the TUDCN. Organisations will also be contacted individually for bilateral interviews.

## **TUDCN global and regional work plans 2017-2018**

The work plans were presented and endorsed by the TUDCN members.