



Statement of Giulia Massobrio (CSA-TUCA) at the Development Cooperation Forum session on “Southern partners advancing mutual learning and envisioning the contribution of South-South Cooperation for sustainable development”, New York, 21 July 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

I speak on behalf of Trade Unions.

We salute this session, as we think that South-South Cooperation has a unique potential to reshape the **historical asymmetries** between North and South and expand the **global governance** of cooperation.

At the same time, South-South Cooperation can reach this potential if and only if 3 conditions are met:

1) Democratic Ownership

- South-South Cooperation has to ensure the **participation of CSO** in its design, monitoring and implementation at all levels;
- Trade unions are ready to contribute to South-South Cooperation processes, in order to promote decent work and social protection within the 2030 Agenda;

2) Enabling environment

- In order for CSOs to participate, enabling environment is needed, meaning the recognition of CSOs as **development actors**, the strengthening of **democracy**, conditions for **social dialogue**, concrete commitments with **human rights** standards.

3) Fiscal space

- In order for the South to be able to effectively engage in the 2030 Agenda we need to bring to this debate systemic issues, namely trade and taxation.
- Indeed, the pressure put on developing countries for trade and financial liberalization limit their policy space.
- Likewise, tax avoidance/evasion imply an enormous loss of resources that could be invested in the SDGs.
- We need international frameworks on taxation and trade in order for developing countries to make **autonomous decisions** on their **development paths**, and we **think South-South Cooperation can help push this agenda forwards**.

Thank you very much.

Permalink: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/TradeUnionsDCF2016>