



Development for a Decent World

Key trade union messages to the 4th High Level Forum
on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, November 2011

Decent Work and social protection

Decent Work should become an explicit objective of aid and development policies. As a global policy framework, the Decent Work Agenda will help to achieve the objective of the first MDGs (poverty eradication) and to improve the living and working conditions for all.

The **Social Protection Floor Initiative** should be embraced by partner countries, and should be supported by adequate multilateral and bi-lateral donor funding as well as country resource mobilisation. It should be gender sensitive, and should aim to provide citizens with key social services and income support to combat poverty.

Given its unique mandate to promote social justice across all areas of economic and social policy, including trade and finance, the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** has the competence to offer development solutions which are coherent, sustainable and effective and therefore an increased cooperation with ILO should be encouraged among the donor and partner country governments.

Democratic ownership and social partners' involvement

Democratic ownership of development strategies by the people, through representative institutions, is a fundamental dimension of effective development governance. This means the full involvement of national parliaments, local authorities, trade unions and civil society in defining development strategies. The institutionalisation of **social dialogue** involving the social partners (trade unions and employers' organisations) on labour market and decent work policies must be an integral part of democratic ownership of development.

Social partners should be recognised as crucial actors in development. Furthermore, an enabling environment for effective **civil society organisations' and trade unions' participation**, based on the autonomy of these organisations, as guaranteed by internationally agreed standards on freedom of association, should be created. To that effect governments should respect and apply existing freedom of association, freedom of expression, the right to operate free from unwarranted state interference, the right to communicate and cooperate, the right to seek and secure funding, and the state's duty to protect.

Private sector and development

Private sector actors as important contributors to economic development should respect and apply the relevant **ILO, UN and OECD resolutions and standards** as elaborated and monitored by the ILO supervisory system.

Transparency and accountability should be at the heart of private sector engagement. We call for companies to report on their financial affairs, including tax and procurement procedures, on a country-by-country basis.

Public-private investments should also serve the purpose of transforming industrial sectors and greening existing economic activities, while creating an enabling environment for green and decent jobs, and incorporating just transition measures towards a new low-carbon economy.

Aid should be untied and clear preference given to job-creating local procurement. Criteria for awarding contracts should include commitment to decent work objectives, respect for core labour standards, and prioritisation of environmental sustainability and gender equality.



For more on this issue please see: [**Private sector in development. Trade union statement for HLF4.**](#)

Environmental sustainability and climate finance

Environmental sustainability should be aimed at creating green jobs and promoting the greening of existing economic activities. Green policies should incorporate “just transition” measures aimed at protecting the most vulnerable throughout the economy, and at training and redeploying workers into the new low-carbon economy in the developing countries.

Aid and **climate finance** should be allocated to the creation of vibrant new industries of environmental goods and services (EGS), prioritising the use of local and indigenous expertise, technology transfer, human resource development, and to the opening up of trade for green products and services from developing countries, under conditions of fair trade, and respect for core labour standards. The Financial Transaction Tax should also be considered as a potential source of development finance in this regard.

Policy conditionality and accountability

Donor countries should not impose economic and political **conditionality** on partner countries. On the other hand, both donor and partner countries must adhere to internationally agreed commitments and multilateral/global standards as well as ensure the convergence of the relevant national policies with the development goals (**policy coherence**). They should also hold each other **accountable** for multilateral and aid-specific agreements made.

Results-based management must involve the measurement of progress on development effectiveness in terms of the ILO's decent work indicators: reductions in unemployment, income inequality and the decent work deficit, and the creation of decent jobs.

A comprehensive **reporting/monitoring mechanism** should be established, providing for full public disclosure from donor and country systems, aimed at ensuring systematic and mutual observance of the Paris Declaration/AAA principles and indicators, and at countering all practices of corruption and poor governance.

Committing to Development Effectiveness

All development actors, including the **emerging donors** and **private sector actors** must respect the internationally agreed commitments and global standards in human rights, labour rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability as well as adhere the internationally agreed principles of development effectiveness.

The Busan Outcome Document should affirm the rights-based approach to development as well as the goal of **policy convergence** with the relevant international frameworks on international labour rights, human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability, and commit to coordination between the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (UNDCF) and the Busan Global Partnership.

Trade Union Development Cooperation Network

TUDCN is an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) that brings together affiliated trade union organisations, the solidarity support organisations (SSO), the representatives of the ITUC regional organisations, the Global Union Federations (GUFs) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC). 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



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You can find out more in the *TUDCN Development Paper no. 2:*

Towards a comprehensive paradigm for decent work and development effectiveness.