Sustainable development through decent work

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2008-2012

Trade Union Development Cooperation Network
INTRODUCTION
The TUDCN is an international development cooperation network of trade unions and workers’ solidarity organisations.

The TUDCN brings the trade union perspective in international debates on development.

The TUDCN endeavours to improve trade union solidarity projects.
SOLIDARITY IS THE FIRST NAME OF TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network has achieved a first step in its short existence. The current report wants to bring to you the main achievements over the last four years and give you an impression of the work done, the activities organised and the policy positions on development cooperation by the TUDCN as an open and inclusive “coalition of the willing” in the trade union family.

With this publication we want to give you an insight in what was achieved and to show the development community and other partners the added value of the trade unions’ action as partners in development in their own right.

The past period was a very first step in the trade union work on development cooperation at international level. The report will show that there are still many challenges to take up: the changing economic and political environment, the marketeering strategy by big business and bias politicians, the stubborn paternalism from donor driven development strategies, the shift from the (ending) aid to a sustainable development agenda and the demand for policy coherence at all levels. This will request from the trade union movement an upgrade in its action and more and better international cooperation in order to make sure that our social, economic, environmental and political agenda is represented, heard and taken on board in the future international cooperation.

In the coming period, we will be working towards extending the networks outreach to the trade unions of the developing countries to allow them to participate in their own right in the international debates and in the dialogue with their partners.

Solidarity is the first name of the trade union development cooperation. Long before ODA appeared on the scenery, trade unions were known for their strong international solidarity agenda, backed up by the legal and political framework of the ILO. This is part of the assets we can bring to the development community: our dialogue based tripartite decision-making, inclusive global rights based standards that work in law and practice at national level and is monitored and accounted for through tripartite dialogue.

The new post 2015 development framework should turn to that experience, for making another approach to development possible.

Jan Dereymaeker, TUDCN Coordinator
WHY A TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION NETWORK?

HISTORY

The ITUC Founding Congress in 2006 ranked development cooperation and capacity building among the political priorities calling for a ‘new trade union internationalism’ based on better coordination, ownership and coherence amongst the various development initiatives of its affiliates.

In 2007, consultations with trade union development cooperation actors led to the creation of the TUDCN in 2008.

Two successive conferences in 2009 (Runö/Stockholm) and 2010 (Madrid) on “Trade Unions as Development Actors” gave ground to a shared vision and action plan for the trade unions' activities on development.

COMPOSITION

The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) is an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). It brings together affiliated trade union organisations, solidarity support organisations (SSO), representatives of the ITUC regional organisations, Global Union Federations (GUFs), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC).
TRADE UNIONS ARE ACTORS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR OWN RIGHT

• The TUDCN encouraged the creation of regional networks in the South to ensure Southern voices are being heard in development debates.

• Governments recognised trade unions as actors in development cooperation.
**DECENT WORK IS THE ROAD TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

- In 2011, the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan included Decent Work as a development policy priority and inequality as a development challenge for the new Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)

- Trade Unions participate as a constituency in its own right in the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness

- The OECD/DAC invites trade unions to the table of the development agencies

- The European Union supports the Decent Work Agenda, social partners’ role and social protections schemes

- Through the Structured Dialogue process in 2010-2011, the EU engaged more strongly with trade unions as development actors in their own right and adopts a actor and dialogue based approach to development cooperation with civil society and trade unions

**TRADE UNIONS ENGAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS**

- The Principles and Guidelines on trade union development effectiveness were endorsed by the international labour movement and are used to enhance the impact of trade union cooperation programmes.

- The TUDCN and its members elaborated the Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile to improve the quality of their international partnerships.

- The TUDCN has a website with most development projects carried out by trade unions around the world.
1. TRADEN UNIONS ARE ACTORS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR OWN RIGHT

In Latin America and Africa, trade union networks for development were set up and interaction between national organisations and TUSSOs were stimulated. Trade union cooperation between North and South but also South-South cooperation were important subjects of the networks discussions. Raising the voice of trade unionists from the different regions with regional development institutions and representing them in the international discussions was the other vector for the regional networks agenda.
In October 2012, the TUDCN organised a seminar in the OECD/DAC to discuss its study “Trade unions views on working with donor governments in development” with representatives of development agencies. The study looked at 18 experiences of trade unions “in the North” working with their respective governments to support trade unions “in the South”. The analysis revealed that donors have acknowledged the diversity of civil society organisations in the development sector but only in theory, not in practice.
2. DECENT WORK IS THE ROAD TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2011, the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan included decent work as a development policy priority and inequality as a development challenge for the new global partnership for effective development cooperation (GPEDC).

Since 2008, at the 3rd High Level Forum on Development Effectiveness in Accra, trade unions have been active in international processes on aid and development. In 2011, 40 trade unionists from 25 different countries took part in the Civil Society Forum and in the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea.
In the High Level Forum in Busan, trade unions achieved major policy results:

- **Decent work** is a policy priority in the final declaration. Trade unions also welcomed the will to address inequality as a development challenge and the promotion of internationally agreed commitments for human rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability, disability and good governance.

- **Civil society organisations and trade unions were at the negotiation table** as an equal partner. Trade unions, together with other civil society organisations, took an active part in negotiating the outcome document.

- During the **High Level Forum**, in cooperation with LO-FTF (Danish Confederation of Trade Unions) and EATUC (East African Trade Union Confederation), the trade unions hosted a side event on the role of Social Dialogue in Cooperation.

In the Civil Society Forum, trade unions asked for rights-based policies and employment and decent work to be part of civil society core demands for sustainable development.

For trade unions, important challenges remain:

- In the Busan Declaration, development was understood mostly as growth;

- The vision on the Human Rights Based Approach was limited;

- There were no commitments from the private sector to respect neither internationally agreed labour and development standards nor social dialogue;

- Development policies are still mainly driven by donor countries’ political or trade priorities instead of being drafted by the people concerned, through representation and participation in decision making, including in the workplace through social dialogue.

“Trade unions believe the State has an important developmental role and should not be limited to enabling markets and supporting private sector initiatives.”

Jan Dereymaeker, TUDCN Coordinator
Trade Unions participate as a constituency in its own right in the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness.

After Busan, civil society decided to create a new, unified platform to follow the discussions of the Global Partnership for Effective Development that was established at the Busan HLF. The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) was created and launched in Nairobi in 2012. Trade Unions are one of the constituencies that form the CPDE and are a member of the Coordinating Committee. Trade unions take a leading role on important issues such as Human Rights Based Approaches in development and the role of the private sector in development within the platform.

Trade Unions took part in the structuring of a common civil society platform on Aid and Development Effectiveness. The Better Aid platform, bringing together Southern NGOs, International NGOs and national and regional platforms, was the main voice on the road from the Accra HLF (2008) to the Busan HLF (2011). Unions also engaged with the Open Forum on CSO Effectiveness, where the principles for CSO Effectiveness and the issue of Enabling Environment were elaborated and approved.

The OECD/DAC invites Trade Unions to the table of the Development Agencies

In March 2012, the TUDCN, in cooperation with TUAC, was invited for the first time ever to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Senior Level Meeting. The meeting brought together the heads of development agencies from 24 donor countries.

The TUDCN/TUAC, advocated for donors to include decent work as a fundamental development objective and to support trade unions as social partners and development actors in their own right.
THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS THE DECENT WORK AGENDA, SOCIAL PARTNERS’ ROLE AND SOCIAL PROTECTIONS SCHEMES

TUDCN members thoroughly engaged in advancing trade union asks, putting forward policy statements and influencing policy making process at the EU level.

Trade unions welcomed strategic Communications from the European Commission, which explicitly support the Decent Work agenda, social partners’ role and social protection schemes, such as the “Agenda for Change” and “Social Protection in European Union Development Cooperation”.

Moreover, the Communication ‘The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe’s engagement with Civil Society in external relations – EC COM (2012)’ refers to trade unions as actors with a specific role in promoting social and sustainable development.

In October 2012, during the European Development Days, the ITUC co-hosted with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs a High Level Event on placing social protection at the heart of the development agenda.

““The concept of SPF's could provide a well-defined basis on which to build coordinated and, where possible, joint EU support for social protection with partner countries which decide to develop them”.

““The EU should support social dialogue and labour standards in line with the Decent Work Agenda”.


Moreover, the Communication ‘The promotion of decent work covering job creation, guarantee of rights at work, social protection and social dialogue is vital”

“The EU should strengthen its links with civil society organisations, social partners and local authorities, through regular dialogue and use of best practices”

Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change” - EC COM (2011)

“Thanks to the TUDCN, social dialogue and social partners support are included, for the first time ever, as priorities in the newly approved Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the financial instrument of the European Union for development cooperation.

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“In October 2012, during the European Development Days, the ITUC co-hosted with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs a High Level Event on placing social protection at the heart of the development agenda. 
Through the structured dialogue process in 2010-2011, the EU engaged more strongly with trade unions as development actors in their own right and adopts an actor and dialogue based approach to development cooperation with civil society and trade unions.

The TUDCN also participated and supported the transition from the Structured Dialogue to the Policy Forum on Development (PFD).

Challenges

The “differentiation” policies, shrinking EU bilateral aid devoted to middle income countries, and the EU approach on the role of the private sector in development, surely constitute significant political challenges for trade unions. 75% of the world's poor live in unequal societies, the majority of which are emerging economies. Trade unions demanded ongoing financial support in order to build democratic and equitable societies with strong social partners.

Trade unions also advocated strongly for a full commitment by private sector actors to respect international labour standards and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The current PFD is a multi-stakeholder forum of the European Union aimed at discussing and debating its development policies and programmes. Trade unions can now count on a permanent representation to the EU PFD, including regional organisations in the South.

The TUDCN and the post 2015 process in the United Nations

In September 2012, the TUDCN took the initial steps in mobilizing trade unionists around the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda at a seminar in Istanbul.

The seminar convened many of the network members, as well as other representatives from civil society and UN agencies, like ILO and UNDP.

The seminar offered an opportunity to begin to prioritize key trade union positions and to understand where the important moments would be over the coming months to influence this important agenda.
Development Effectiveness has become one of the highest priorities in international debates on development. This debate positively affected trade unions and led to the elaboration of *the Trade Union Principles and Guidelines on Development Effectiveness*. Following an extensive global consultation process in 2009 and 2010, the Principles and Guidelines were approved by the ITUC General Council in February 2011.

The Principles represent the vision and values of trade union organizations on development. They are designed to serve as a common reference for development cooperation initiatives, strengthening ownership and working methodologies among trade union partners, and ultimately enhancing the impact of cooperation programmes.
8 Principles on Trade Union Development Effectiveness

1. Democratic Ownership
2. Autonomy
3. Partnership
4. Transparency
5. Accountability
6. Coherence
7. Inclusiveness and Equality
8. Sustainability
In 2011, the TUDCN also created a practical tool (TUDEP) to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the principles within trade union solidarity projects.

TUDEP has a special focus on the quality of partnerships, triggering analysis and dialogue among trade union partners in order to make their cooperation fairer and more equal.

The TUDCN has a website with most development projects carried out by trade unions around the world.

The TUDCN also created a Trade Union Development Projects Directory, a website with more than 260 development projects carried out by trade unions around the world.

The database enabled trade unions to share experiences. Thanks to the directory, synergies and partnerships inside the labour movement have been created and the overlapping of projects has been avoided.

The projects directory also managed to increase transparency.
4. OUR NETWORK

OUR COLLABORATING PARTNERS

REGIONS AND GLOBAL UNIONS

ITUC - Asia Pacific
SYNDICAT EUROPEEN TRADE UNION
TUAC
ITUC CSI IGB
Global Unions
This list of national organisations is not exhaustive as the TUDCN is a network open to all trade union organisations.
NATIONAL TUDCN MEMBERS

Landsorganisationen i Sverige

Landsorganisasjonen i Norge
OUR GOVERNANCE

GENERAL MEETING
major decisions

THE TUDCN SECRETARIAT
advocacy/information sharing and organisation of events/working groups

WORKING GROUPS
monitor and support the trade union work on various development agendas. (OECD/DAC, UN, EU, etc)

REGIONAL NETWORKS, CONSULTATIONS AND SEMINARS

FACILITATION AND STEERING GROUP
monitors and evaluates the work of the TUDCN
## OUR MEETINGS

### GENERAL MEETINGS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>17 - 18 February</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>Madrid, Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 - 12 May</td>
<td>Helsinki, Finland</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 - 18 November</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>20 - 22 June</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 - 14 December</td>
<td>Florence, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>7 - 9 May</td>
<td>Helsingor, Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 - 15 November</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
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### OTHER MEETINGS AND THEMATIC SEMINARS

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>13 - 15 October</td>
<td>Stockholm, Sweden</td>
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This first conference launched the network and drafted guidelines for action on trade union development cooperation.

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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>25 - 26 February</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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Training and advocacy seminar for EU Trade Union Organisations ‘Officials on External Assistance Instruments of the EU and on Policy Making Structures

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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>27 - 28 May</td>
<td>Lomé, Togo</td>
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This Regional consultation discussed the principles on trade union development effectiveness for Africa.

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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8 - 10 March</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
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60 trade unionists took part in the consultation at the OECD on development effectiveness.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>26 - 28 November</td>
<td>Busan, South Korea</td>
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40 trade unionists hold a preparatory meeting to define trade union positions and advocacy strategies for the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan.
### 2012 11 - 13 June 2012, Elewijt, Belgium

The seminar discussed how trade unions can measure the outcome and impact of their development cooperation projects.

### 2012 28 - 30 August, Florianopolis, Brazil

The seminar discussed trade unions position and engagement in South-South cooperation.

### 2012 25 - 26 September, Istanbul, Turkey

The seminar discussed the strategy for trade union engagement in the UN Post-2015 Development Framework process.

### 2012 25 October, Paris, France

The seminar discussed the TUDCN study of 18 experiences of trade unions “in the North” working with their respective governments to support trade unions “in the South”

### 2012 5 - 7 November, Vienna, Austria

The seminar enabled trade unions and their partner NGO representatives to share their experiences in development education and discuss the contribution of trade unions in development cooperation.

### WORKING GROUPS

The TUDCN is made of several working groups.

They meet regularly to work on specific aspects of trade union development cooperation.

- The Working Group on European Development Policies and Instruments meets three times a year to discuss and elaborate trade union policy positions and advocacy strategies on the European Union development cooperation.

- The Working Group on Trade Union Development Effectiveness meets twice a year to elaborate trade union cooperation modalities. The Group was a central engine of the trade union principles on development effectiveness and the Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile tool.
OUR MATERIALS

2008

SEPTEMBER – Paris Declaration: “Putting Decent Work at the Heart of Sustainable Development Effectiveness”

The ITUC Statement ahead of the Accra high level meeting on aid effectiveness.

2010

JUNE – ITUC Resolution on a sustainable and just development model for the 21st Century

The resolution was approved by the ITUC World Congress in Vancouver in June 2010.

JULY – Towards an Actor Based Approach in EU Development cooperation

The document is the ITUC draft position paper for discussion following the sessions of the Structured Dialogue organised by the EU Commission with civil society platforms, the EU Member States and the European parliament.

2011

JANUARY – Trade Union Contribution to the EU Green Paper Consultation

The trade union welcomed the EU Green Paper on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development. The ITUC shared with the Commission their comments on how to improve the effectiveness of Development outcomes and especially how to strengthen the fights against poverty.

APRIL – TUDCN proposal on EU Structured Dialogue follow up

MAY – “Trade Union Principles and Guidelines on Development Effectiveness”

The document presents the vision and values of trade union organisations on Development Effectiveness in a form of Principles and Guidelines, elaborated on a consultative basis by trade union organisations from both the Global North & the Global South.

JUNE – Trade Union Key Messages on EU Development cooperation and Human Rights policies

The document is a common position between the TUDCN and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). It feeds into the conclusions of the European Structured Dialogue process on Development effectiveness as well as proposes strategic priorities in the light of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework on external actions.
JUNE – Trade Unions Statement on funding for EU external action

The paper is the ITUC answer to the questionnaire opened for consultation by the EU on “What funding for EU external action after 2013?”

JULY – “Towards a Comprehensive Paradigm for Decent Work and Development Effectiveness”.

The document presents the trade union positions and key messages for the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. It was endorsed by the TUDCN’s affiliates during the General Meeting in Brussels in June 2011.

OCTOBER – Decent Work in donor country development cooperation policy

The online report is a country overview of the integration of the Decent Work Agenda into the development cooperation policy of the major donor country governments.

OCTOBER – ITUC and ETUC letter to Commissioner Piebalgs

The letter summarises the key aspects of the trade unions’ contributions to the European development policy.

NOVEMBER – Development for a Decent World: Key trade union messages to the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan

JANUARY – Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile tool - TUDEP

FEBRUARY – Key trade union messages on Social Protection Floors

The online report not only explains the origins and context of the Social Protection Floor approach but also identifies principles that need to be followed while implementing the approach.

MARCH – “Mapping of the integration of the gender perspective in trade union development cooperation”

MARCH – Key trade union messages on the new EC proposal of the Development Cooperation Instrument

The document is the trade unions response to the proposal of the European Commission on establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI). The most important trade unions demands are an actors-based approach as well as more support to the Decent Work Agenda and social partners at the country level.

MARCH – Key Trade Union Messages on the Agenda for Change

The document is the trade unions response to the EC Communications on “Agenda for Change” and the “Future approach to the EU budget support to third countries”

APRIL – International Trade Union Confederation Statement to UNCTAD XIII
APRIL - ITUC input on Social Protection in EU Development Cooperation

APRIL - ITUC contribution to the EC consultations on CSOs in Development

JUNE – Introduction to TUDEP
The video explains the TU Development Effectiveness Profile tool which is designed to support trade unions in the application of the effectiveness principles in their everyday development cooperation practice.

JUNE - ITUC Statement to UNDCF 2012
This statement is the ITUC position for the UN Development Cooperation Forum in July 2012.

SEPTEMBER – European and International Trade Unions Submission to the European Commission Public Consultation on the post 2015 development framework

OCTOBER – Trade unions’ views on working with donor governments in development
The document outlines trade unions’ experience of development cooperation with governmental support in 18 countries. The study also offers a number of policy recommendations to both donors and trade unions on how to improve the effectiveness of these support mechanisms.

OCTOBER – Trade Union response to the EC Communication on ‘The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe’s engagement with civil society in external relations’

OCTOBER – Trade Union response to the EC Communication on Social Protection in Development

OCTOBER – Trade Union response to the EC Communication on CSOs in Development

NOVEMBER – Post-2015 UN Development agenda: towards decent work for all and universal social protection
The document outlines the key challenges as well as key policy proposals (Full employment and decent work as well as universal social protection) for the new UN development framework that will replace the Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015.

NOVEMBER – A new distribution of income and power
The document is the ITUC position paper on how to address inequality in the post 2015 development framework.


NOVEMBER - Trade Union inputs on the Concept Note ‘Investing in People Program’ Annual Action Plan 2013

DECEMBER - ITUC Briefing Note on decent work in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

DECEMBER - Social protection in the Post-2015 Development Agenda
Every month or two, the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network publishes a newsletter: the Trade Union Focus on Development.

The newsletter is sent to trade unionists as well as representatives of civil society organisations and development institutions. It is available in French, English and Spanish.

**The newsletter highlights:**

- Trade union positions on major issues related to development cooperation
- The latest research and/or news on development cooperation
- Trade union development cooperation projects around the world

**You can subscribe to the TUDCN newsletter and download past issues on:**

http://www.ituc-csi.org/development-cooperation
The TUDCN has operated since 2008 with the financial support of its affiliated organisations and of the European Commission. In 2013, the European Commission agreed to support a new four-year programme. This support will enable the TUDCN to include more views from Southern organisations in development cooperation policies.