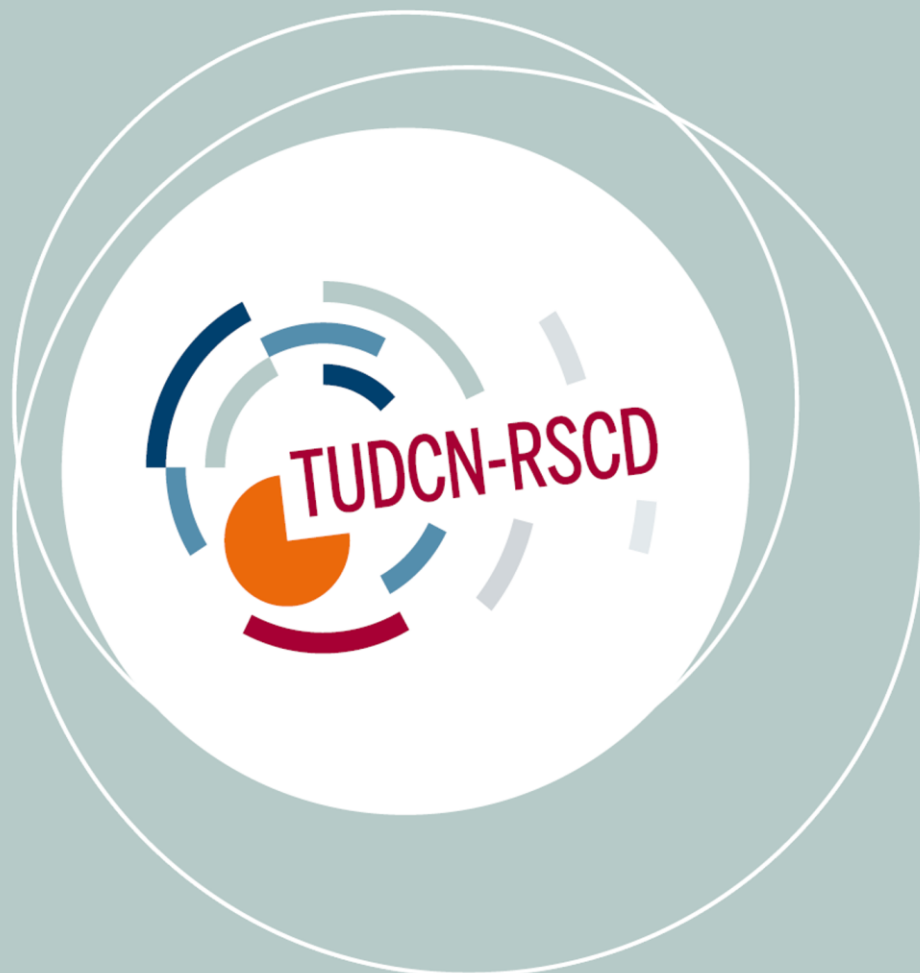


TUDCN General Meeting 2017

Meeting report

Lomé, 19-21 April 2017



DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2017

The meeting was opened by ITUC-Africa General Secretary, Kwasi Adu-Amankwah and ITUC Deputy General Secretary Wellington Chibebe. This was followed by the approval of the 2016 General Meeting report and the presentation of the agenda of the meeting.

PART I: PROGRESS REPORTS

The TUDCN Secretariat presented the progress report for the last year touching upon the different work streams: Agenda 2030, Financing for Development, OECD/DAC (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development – Development Assistance Committee), Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), social dialogue in development, European Union (EU) development policies, trade union partnerships and outreach and communication. This was followed by the presentation of the progress report from the regions: TUCA, ITUC-Africa and ITUC-AP.

After the presentations from the global and regional secretariats, the TUDCN members presented progress in their work since last year. The situation with respect to implementation of Agenda 2030 was presented for different countries. Members described how they are approaching this process and the specific challenges they are facing.

Overall, the usefulness of TUDCN materials for the work of the members was highlighted and special reference was made to the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) pamphlet, advocacy oriented researches, and the TUDEP (Trade Union Development Effectiveness Profile).

Conclusions on 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.

PART II: TRADE UNION INVOLVEMENT ON AGENDA 2030

The afternoon session started with the presentation from Bartholomew Armah, Chief of the Renewal of Planning Section in the Macroeconomic-Policy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Mr Armah introduced the relation between Agenda 2030 and African Union's Agenda 2063. He compared both agendas and showed the points of overlap in the targets. He then presented ECA's toolkit for integrating Agenda 2063 and the SDGs in national planning, and analysed the challenges of monitoring and data availability. Mr Armah, finalised his presentation framing the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

Following the presentation, a discussion in regional groups took place to structure trade union participation and establish key messages in the United Nations Regional Forums on Sustainable Development.

The African group highlighted the need to fill in the reporting template. They established an internal deadline for this and for the elaboration of the key messages to the Forum.

The group from Asia Pacific (AP) assessed the past Regional Forum and their participation within the AP RCEM (Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism). They highlighted the need to build the capacities of national organisations and to raise awareness on Agenda 2030 amongst AP affiliates.

The Latin American group analysed the challenges they will face in their Regional Forum. They considered that what certain governments will report will not reflect the reality of the countries, so the government reports will need to be confronted with the trade union reports.

The European – UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) group underlined the specificity of this region, including the US and Canada. They highlighted that the Forum will be preceded by a CSO preparatory forum, which will start a new CSO engagement mechanism. Priority messages were put forward around gender, wages, social protection and social dialogue.

DAY 2 – THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2017

PART III: TRADE UNION SDG MONITORING NATIONAL REPORT

The second day started with a presentation of the trade union SDGs monitoring national report template by Diego López and Matt Simonds. In their presentation, they emphasised how the report could be used as an advocacy tool to engage with national governments in the implementation of the SDGs and that it should not be a technical exercise, but a political one. They went through the different sections and explained how to complete the template.

The presentation was followed by a discussion on the tool in which participants remarked the challenges with respect to data availability and the fact that we will need to test and adapt the template. The inclusion of an extra section on what trade unions are doing to implement the SDGs was requested. The need to ensure that national statistical capacity is improved with support from the TUDCN secretariat in filling out the template was put forward. A webinar and model of filled up template will be provided for this. The need to include Global Union Federations (GUFs) working on specific SDGs was underlined and it was stated that countries with more than one national centre should coordinate to complete one country report.

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.

PART IV: ILO DISCUSSION ON EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The ILO discussion on effective development cooperation that will take place in the International Labour Conference (ILC) of 2018 was presented by Pawel Gmyrek, Senior Operations and Policy Analysis Officer, Office of the Deputy Director-General for Field Operations and Partnerships of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Mr Gmyrek introduced the timeline and consultation process towards the ILC discussion. He explained that it will be a general discussion for guidance (which implies that no instrument is planned as an outcome) and that it will feed into the ILO development cooperation strategy beyond 2018. The main topics will be rights and development; results and sustainability; role and capacity of constituents; multi-stakeholder partnerships; development cooperation modalities for country typologies; environmental sustainability. The main chapter of the report should tackle the future of the ILO's development cooperation within the 2030 horizon, going into issues such as how to adjust to: the Future of Work, the big data revolution, the role of constituents, multi-stakeholder partnerships, how global and regional structures can complement country work and environmental issues.

After the presentation the participants broke up into groups to discuss inputs to ILO discussion on effective development cooperation.

Pawel ended the session highlighting that the report should focus on a maximum of three topics that all constituencies would agree on.

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.

PART V: EU-AFRICA SUMMIT

The afternoon session started with a presentation by Alexandre Giraldez, Political Advisor at the European Union Delegation in Togo on the key issues, perspectives and process towards the 5th EU-Africa Summit that will take place in Abidjan on 28-29 November 2017. Alexandre Giraldez presented the background to the Summit, including the current priorities of the EU-Africa partnership: peace and security, good governance, human development, and sustainable development and climate change. Concerning the Summit, he highlighted that although the themes are not yet defined, the main thematic that has been proposed is: investing in youth. Other issues that could be discussed would be security, increasing economic growth and employment creation.

There will be side events that will feed in to the Summit: there will be a CSO Forum, a Business Forum, a Youth Forum, and the European Economic and Social Committee will also organise a preparatory event.

Following Alexandre Giraldez's presentation, Liina Carr, Confederal Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), remarked that the conclusions of the latest formal and informal summits and council meetings show that the EU is not trying to strengthen the reception of immigrants but rather looking at closing borders and keeping migrants outside EU countries. She highlighted that the focus should be on strengthening the labour market and she raised concrete concerns on human rights violations and how the EU is tackling the issue of asylum seekers.

She also questioned the EU External Investment Plan's capacity to create jobs, given that jobless growth can also occur, and she emphasised that when jobs are created we need to make sure that these are quality jobs. In addition, she remarked that for investments to benefit African countries there is a need for institution building, strengthening institutions that can fight corruption.

An open discussion with the floor followed in which participants voiced concerns over who sets the agenda, the guarantees that will need to be in place to make sure that quality jobs will be created and the relation to formalisation of the economy. The fact that the African aspirations are more around structural transformation was raised, given that failure to industrialise is related to limited job creation, which in turn creates migration and draws youth to terrorism. The problem of conditionalities for aid to African countries, which in some cases have come with labour market flexibilities or harmed decent jobs, was also put forward.

5th 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 5th EU-Africa Summit, the different spaces for engagement were described.

- Trade unions need to engage in and around the preparations of the 5th 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.

PART VI: OVERALL EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF TUDCN 2014-2017

The third day begun with a presentation of the overall evaluation and assessment of the TUDCN work during the years 2014 to 2017 by Paola Simonetti. Paola Simonetti showed how, through advocacy work underpinned by evidence-based research, trade unions have been recognised as actors in their own right and their priorities included in the development policies of international institutions. She highlighted that Regional Development Networks have been consolidated, visibility and outreach of trade union positions has increased and trade union solidarity partnerships have been supported. This work has been recognised and framed in specific resolutions of the ITUC and its regional organisations.

The presentation was followed by group work to assess the relevance, effectiveness, governance modalities and future developments of the TUDCN's work. The groups presented the following points with respect to each category:

Relevance

The objectives of the TUDCN are relevant and have been achieved. The TUDCN has played an important role in influencing development policies, it has created spaces for the participation of trade unions and given them a voice in development fora.

Effectiveness

The TUDCN has bridged many gaps – raised capacity, awareness and visibility. An important achievement has been the setting up and strengthening of Regional Development Networks. It has had significant influence in international development fora through trade union delegations that put forward trade union priorities with one voice. The inclusion of concepts such as decent work and social dialogue in these fora is highly recognised, but these now need to be applied.

Governance modalities

The TUDCN governance modalities have been recognised as adequate although there is a need to strengthen the involvement of the GUFs within the Network and to review and clarify the role of the steering committee.

More commitment is needed from the members in terms of active participation and improving the response time to the work of the secretariat.

Future developments

The TUDCN should:

- Continue building alliances with CSOs to share good practices and have a more significant impact.
- Link better the global, regional and national levels for greater synergies. The Networks presence in regional fora needs to be increased and its members need to take the TUDCN tools to the national level.
- Continue to explore other thematic areas and give stronger focus to partnerships work.

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.

PART VII: TUDCN GLOBAL AND REGIONAL WORK PLANS

In the last session of the General Meeting the Global Work Plan 2017-2018 was presented by Paola Simonetti. This was followed by the presentation of regional work plans for 2017-2018 for the Cooperation Network of the Americas by Daniel Angelim, the ATUDN by Alex Nkosi and the APTUDCN by Haridasan Parayarikkal.

TUDCN global and regional work plans 2017-2018:

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

Following the presentation of the work plans, the final conclusions were presented and the meeting was concluded with final remarks from the ITUC Deputy General Secretary Wellington Chibebe.

The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) is an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), bringing together affiliated trade union organisations, solidarity support organisations, regional ITUC organisations, the Global Union Federations (GUFs), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC). TUDCN'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.

Le **Réseau syndical de coopération au développement (RSCD)** est une initiative de la Confédération syndicale internationale (CSI) réunissant des organisations syndicales affiliées, des organisations de solidarité, les organisations régionales de la CSI, ainsi que les Fédérations syndicales internationales (les fédérations sectorielles - FSI), la Confédération européenne des syndicats (CES) et la Commission syndicale consultative auprès de l'OCDE (TUAC). Le RSCD a pour but de traduire la perspective syndicale dans les débats sur la politique en matière de développement international et d'améliorer la coordination et l'efficacité des activités syndicales dans le domaine de la coopération au développement.

La **Red Sindical de Cooperación al Desarrollo (RSCD)** es una iniciativa de la Confederación Sindical Internacional (CSI), que agrupa a diversas organizaciones sindicales afiliadas, organizaciones solidarias (OS), organizaciones regionales de la CSI, las Federaciones Sindicales Internacionales (FSI), la Confederación Europea de Sindicatos (CES) y la Comisión Sindical Consultiva ante la OCDE (TUAC). El objetivo de la red es aportar la perspectiva sindical a los debates políticos y mejorar la coordinación y la eficacia de las actividades sindicales relacionadas con la cooperación al desarrollo.



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