

# SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN DEVELOPMENT

## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

### Context

The TUDCN's global strategy, established social dialogue as one of the priority themes of the Network for which evidence-based research will be undertaken to support mobilisation and engagement of trade unions in advocacy and policy making processes. One avenue for such engagement is the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), which brings together donor governments, partner governments and other stakeholders (including trade unions and the private sector). To push for a greater role for social dialogue in the elaboration and implementation of development policies, a Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on social dialogue in development was presented to the GPEDC in 2016. This GPI is aimed at putting forward the benefits and use of social dialogue as an instrument to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), on the basis of the development effectiveness principles and commitments.

### Objectives

Our objectives for this GPI are the following:

1. To share the findings of evidence-based research that promotes the contribution of social dialogue to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. To increase the number of stakeholders supporting the role of social dialogue in the elaboration and implementation of development policies.
3. To promote multi-partner initiatives to support social dialogue as an instrument for sustainable development.

### Actors

A number of stakeholders have already joined our efforts or shown interest in taking part in this work on social dialogue in development:

- **The ILO** (social dialogue and tripartism unit) has strongly engaged with us in this process. We have undertaken and are undertaking joint evidence based research that shows the contribution of social dialogue to the SDGs. This research will be a fundamental part of the GPI.
- **The European Commission** (DG-DEVCO) has shown special interest in the topic. It participated actively in a workshop we organised and has taken a proactive role to support social dialogue in development in various fora (Policy Forum on Development, Partnerships' Forum, ...)
- **The OECD Development Centre** also participated in our social dialogue workshop and has shown a willingness to coordinate efforts in this field
- Certain **governments** such as those of Belgium and Sweden have also shown interest in our initiatives on social dialogue in development

The Global Partnership Initiative should further engage these actors and contribute to bring in other actors, especially other governments from donor and partner countries, but also the private sector.

### **Method of work/expected outcomes of the GPI**

#### *1. Creating a knowledge sharing platform*

Creating a platform to share and exchange best practices on how to support social dialogue in development (e.g. the Global Deal)

#### *2. Undertaking evidence-based research on country experiences*

Evidence-based research will be undertaken each year showing how social dialogue contributes to different themes related to the SDGs (e.g. social protection, minimum living wages, collective bargaining, formalising the informal economy, just transition, decent work compliance in supply chains, elimination of slavery...).

#### *3. Presenting and discussing the conclusions of the research with other actors*

The findings of the research will be presented and discussed with other actors that are part of this GPI in yearly meetings. In these meetings, joint recommendations will be elaborated on how the outcomes and conclusions of the yearly research could be incorporated in development policies. The specific theme and the priorities for the research of the next year will also be established.

### **Timeline and expected outputs**

- **March 2018: Trade Union-DAC Forum**  
Joint workshop to present and discuss the outcomes of the research on the contributions of social dialogue to the formalisation of the informal economy in the context of Agenda 2030
- **Throughout 2018**  
Evidence based research on the contributions of social dialogue to a Just Transition in the context of Agenda 2030: 3 country case studies and a synthesis report.
- **July 2019: High Level Political Forum**  
In the framework of the thematic review of SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth a high level event could be organised together with the different actors of the GPI to push for a stronger role of social dialogue in Agenda 2030.