



# ITUC CONGRESS SIDE EVENT – DEVELOPMENT

## “Rethinking Trade Union International Solidarity within the SDGs framework”

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

### Background

Major changes have taken place in the global development landscape since the last ITUC Congress in 2014, the most significant of which is the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by all the United Nations member states. The 2030 Agenda is a rights-based universal agenda, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets that covers the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

Trade unions have established specific policies to guide their action in this changing landscape. In 2015, at its 15<sup>th</sup> General Council, the ITUC adopted a resolution on Trade Union Priorities for Development<sup>1</sup>, which shapes the path for trade unions in the international development agenda. This resolution is further supported by those adopted by the Regional Organisations of the ITUC in Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific.<sup>2</sup>

### Objectives

This side event aims to contribute to position trade union international solidarity in the context of Agenda 2030.

Through the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN), we have already a set of modalities in terms of:

- “partnerships” building: through our work to foster better coordination and more effectiveness of trade union development cooperation, including the trade union development effectiveness principles<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See: [https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc-15gc\\_e\\_11-resolutionanddeveloppement-en-05.pdf](https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc-15gc_e_11-resolutionanddeveloppement-en-05.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> ITUC-Africa Congress 2015: [http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/resolution\\_atudn\\_english-revised2.pdf](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/resolution_atudn_english-revised2.pdf)

TUCA Congress 2016: <http://www.csa-csi.org/3CongresoCSA-Documentos-8848>

ITUC-AP General Council 2015: [http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/13rgc\\_agenda\\_12-1\\_-\\_formation\\_of\\_the\\_ituc-ap\\_tudcn.pdf](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/13rgc_agenda_12-1_-_formation_of_the_ituc-ap_tudcn.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See: <https://www.ituc-csi.org/tu-development-effectiveness-10464>

- “capacity support”: through our work on the development of a Trade Union Organisational Capacity (TUOC) tool.<sup>4</sup>
- “mobilizing”: through our advocacy efforts to influence decision makers on development policies.

These modalities should contribute to shaping our work in the context of the SDGs, which reflect many of our key priorities and are an opportunity for the trade union movement. This is also linked to the work which is being undertaken by the ILO in reshaping its development cooperation in the context of Agenda 2030 (2018 ILC discussion), for which it is consulting its constituencies.

The side event will tackle the following questions:

- How can trade unions use the above-mentioned modalities in order to scale up SDGs implementation?
- When it comes to the implementation (the “how to”) of Agenda 2030, social dialogue is our pillar<sup>5</sup>. What does this mean for trade union international solidarity? How can trade union international solidarity best support the implementation of Agenda 2030 goals and targets such as those of SDGs 8, 10 , 1 etc.?
- What role should trade unions in donor countries play?

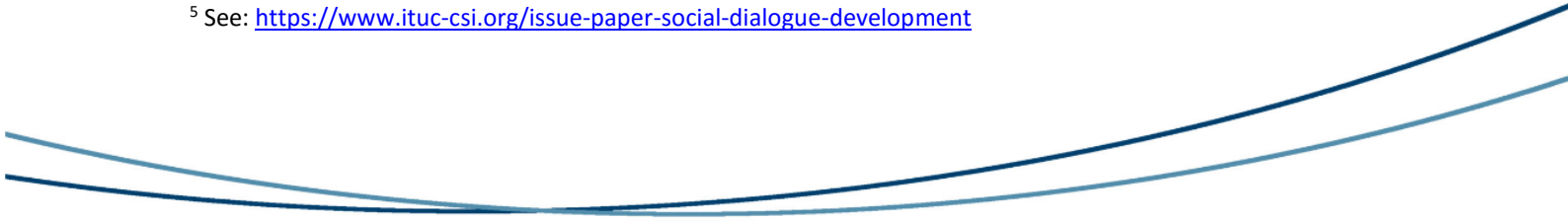
### **Modality**

The side event will consist of a moderated panel with institutional and trade union speakers that will give way to an interactive discussion with participants on the above-mentioned topics.

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<sup>4</sup> See: [https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/tuoc\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/tuoc_guidelines.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> See: <https://www.ituc-csi.org/issue-paper-social-dialogue-development>

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