



Towards the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network

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The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) is the ITUC network of affiliated trade union organizations, their solidarity support organizations and the ITUC regional organizations. The network aims at better coordination of development cooperation, emphasizes trade unions as actors for development and works toward better coherence in development policies. The ITUC and its Network engage actively with other civil society organizations and in defence of human rights, decent work and social justice. The concept of 'shared ownership' is the basis of the ITUC development cooperation strategy. The ITUC-TUDCN promotes democratic ownership and favours institutionalized dialogue with the international and European and other regional institutions on development cooperation policies.

The TUDCN was created after two years of discussions and strategic planning by the Task Force that met after the Vienna Congress in order to elaborate a concrete way of tackling the development cooperation challenges outlined by the Congress, in the framework of an agreed global strategy.

In this newsletter you will find more on the results of its first formal meeting that took place in February 2009, including the workplan and agenda for the network-operations in 2009 and 2010.

This newsletter will also serve as a platform of information and exchange on development cooperation initiatives and debates within the trade union movement and elsewhere.

It is addressed to all those supporting the trade unions as actors in development. Your contributions are more than welcome.

Guy Ryder
ITUC General Secretary

With the contribution
of the Non State Actors
Programme of
the European Union



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1. Network News

The first official meeting of the ITUC-TUDCN took place on February 17-18th 2009 in Brussels. Around 40 delegates from all partners and affiliated organizations as well as representatives of the regional trade union organizations and Global Unions Federations (GUF) took part in the deliberations. The main points on the agenda were the organizing and planning of the network activities in 2009-2010, the reports and follow-up on the Accra HLF on Aid Effectiveness, the Open Forum on CSO Effectiveness and the Doha Evaluation Conference on Financing for Development. Information on Global Programming in the ITUC and on funding opportunities under the EU Non-State Actors programmes were also on the agenda.

Main conclusions

FOUR PRIORITY WORKSTREAMS

Workstream 1 on *Trade Unions Development Cooperation Effectiveness*, will be addressing the way we are implementing as trade unions our role within development cooperation. This workstream will come up with some guidelines for good practices and allow better shared ownership of trade union development programmes.

Workstream 2 will be assessing the role of *Trade Unions as Actors for Development*. It will look into the specific contribution trade unions can bring to sustainable development. It will also map out the way trade unions are involved at the country level in development cooperation and supported by donor-governments to engage in development cooperation through a variety of support and co-financing systems.

Workstream 3 on *International Development Policies and Aid Architecture* will tackle the trade union contribution to the debates on global development cooperation, its institutional framework (OECD, WB/IMF, UN, G20, ...) and the interaction between aid and development sustainability.

Workstream 4 on *Development Education* will create an exchange and interaction space on the work that affiliates do in order to inform and educate their members on the challenges of international solidarity and international policy developments.

The Network will publicize the outcomes of the workstreams, submit them to decision-makers and use them in further advocacy work.

CONFERENCE ON TRADE UNIONS AS ACTORS FOR DEVELOPMENT

13-14 October 2009 – Stockholm Sweden.

With the support of the LO & TCO Sweden, the Network will organize a policy conference on the contribution of trade unions to sustainable development. The conference will also be looking at establishing interaction with other actors such as the EU Presidency and the newly elected MEP members of the Development Committee, international institutions and CSO platforms.

2. Development Cooperation Policies

OECD/DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE & AID EFFECTIVENESS

The III High Level Forum (HLF) on Aid Effectiveness was held in Accra in September 2008 and adopted [the Accra Agenda for Action \(“AAA”\)](#). The ITUC took part with an important delegation both to the CSO Forum and the HLF itself and put forward [the decent work agenda as an essential contribution to development effectiveness](#).

One of the major breakthroughs of the “AAA” is the explicit recognition of CSO contributions to development and development effectiveness.

The CSO are now invited as full members to the follow up working structures such as the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP Eff) and its different workstreams. The ITUC and TUAC are ensuring the participation of trade unions in the main debates. The ITUC is also member of the CSO [BetterAid Platform](#) and member of its Coordination Group (BA-CG).

The “AAA” insisted also that the CSO development contribution is complementary to the bilateral State to State Aid . The CSO therefore created their own [Open Forum on CSO Effectiveness](#) to assess their own effectiveness and that of the enabling environment for CSO to carry out their activities. The ITUC is member of the Global Facilitation Group (GFG).

THE DOHA EVALUATION CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Doha Conference was meant to take commitments forward after the adoption in 2002 of the Monterrey Agenda on Financing for Development. However, fully hit by the Food, Fuel and above all the Financial crisis, [the Final Doha Declaration](#) did not go further than a flat confirmation of the 2002 commitments.

The ITUC delegation, headed by [ITUC Secretary General Guy Ryder](#) (video) called in its [statement](#) for more ambition and action.

The Doha Conference had asked for a “Follow-up Conference” or “High level Meeting” on the financial crisis and its impact on Development. Although discussions about this meeting are still going on, it is highly probable that it will take place in the beginning of June 2009.

From 25 to 27 March, an “Interactive Thematic Dialogue on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development” took place. For more information please read [the Recommendations by the Commission of Experts](#) and [the ILO contribution](#) to this thematic dialogue.

THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM (UN-DCF)

Launched by the ECOSOC in an attempt to create more coherence and effectiveness in development cooperation, the [DCF process](#) is still very much under construction. A first meeting took place in 2008 and civil society is also re-presented.

The ITUC office in NY ensures the follow-up and will keep you informed.

E-mail: Gemma.adaba@ituc-csi.org. More information can also be found at the UN.Non-Governments Liaison Service ([UN-NGLS](#)).

EUROPEAN UNION

Since 2008 a new [Development Cooperation Instrument](#) has been approved by the EU, including amongst other issues support in the fields of human rights, capacity building for CSO, social and cultural programmes, etc.

One of the new elements is the opening up of the traditional NGO-only approach to new actors, such as political foundations, local authorities, trade unions, etc. The ITUC was awarded for 2009-2010 a grant for setting up its Trade Union Development Cooperation Network.

The ITUC is also represented on the consultations with the European Commission on different aspects of development cooperation policy.

An opinion was adopted on the [European instrument for Democracy and Human Rights \(EIDHR\)](#) with special attention for civil society participation in EU external policies. For more information please read the [opinion of CISL representative Giuseppe Iuliano](#) and the [EESC Press release 03/2009](#).

3. Resources

OTHER IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS/REFERENCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT DEBATE.

ITUC & GLOBAL UNIONS

The "[Global Unions G20 London Declaration](#)", developed by the ITUC and the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) at the OECD, sets out the steps which need to be taken to address the global crisis by the G20 in cooperation with other governments. It is being presented by national trade union movements to their governments and will be formally submitted to the G20 Leaders' Summit in London on 2 April. See on the trade union websites for more news and background (www.ituc-csi.org; www.global-unions.org; www.tuac.org).

OECD-CAD

Find all the relevant information on the work of the OECD and its DAC, including the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the GOVNET (on governance), POVNET (on Pro Poor Growth Strategies), GENDERNET (on gender in development):

<http://www.oecd.org/department/>

UNDP

All you always wanted to know about the UN Development Programme at:

<http://www.un.org/issues/m-devel.html>

EUROPEAN COMMISSION - DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Find out more on the partnership between the EU and the developing world, the diversity of its policies and its relation with civil society in development:

http://ec.europa.eu/development/index_en.cfm

EUROPEAN PARLEMENT - Development Commission

End of mandate, but in anticipation of the European elections, you can find documents and useful links here:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/deve_home_fr.htm

ILO - PARDEV:

Behind this strange acronym you find the ILO's work in technical cooperation and development. Decent Work and Development. Check it out at:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/pardev/>

4. Project Opportunities

EU PROJECT FUNDING:

Please see the EuropeAid website, which has information on funding availability on different programmes and their geographical scope. ([Click here](#)). Use the advanced search engine to narrow down your requests.

The EU has also introduced an ONLINE SYSTEM FOR APPLICANTS called PADOR. This will be a compulsory instrument for all applicants and partners submitting requests for funding to the EU. Think hard and have a go at it; you better start in time ;-). In the Strategy Paper for the Thematic Programme 2007-2013 for 'Investing in People', and under the theme "Promoting social cohesion, employment and decent work", the multi-annual indicative programme 2007-2010 identified the improvement of the labour market information systems as the focus area of intervention for the year 2008.

5. Miscellaneous from the network

The Network will have its own webpage on the [ITUC website](#). You will find the latest news on trade union positions, solidarity actions and update information on activities. Soon 'development cooperation' will also pop up in the main menu.

Twenty-six national centres from around the EU signed up as partners in the Network and many more trade union centres involved in development cooperation from outside the EU are participating in the Network. For your information and possible cooperation, we give you a first list of the trade union websites dealing with development cooperation. More in our next issue. Please send any relevant information for publication in our next issues to the Network Information Officer at: luc.vermeersch@ituc-csi.org

Trade union websites

Belgium

[ACV-CSC Mondiaal](#)
[CGSLB MSI](#)
[FGTB internationale](#)

Bulgaria

[CITUB](#)

Canada

[CLC international](#)

Denmark

[LO-FTF Council](#)

Finland

[SASK](#)

Hungary

[MOSZ](#)

Ireland

[ICTU Global Solidarity](#)

Italy

[CGIL progetto Sviluppo](#)
[CISL-ISCOS](#)
[UIL-PROSUD](#)

Netherlands

[CNV - internationaal](#)
[FNV - Mondiaal](#)

Spain

[CCOO-FPS](#)
[ELA-GARAPENA](#)
[UGT-ISCOD](#)
[USO-SOTERMUN](#)

Sweden

[LO-TCO Biståndsnämnds](#)

UK

[TUC International](#)

USA

[Solidarity Center](#)

Participating organisations in the network

Trade union partners having signed up for the network until now (EU)*

Belgium	Italy
ACV-CSC	CGIL/Progetto
CGSLB	Sviluppo
FGTB	CISL/ISCOS
Bulgaria	Netherlands
CITUB	CNV
Denmark	FNV
LO/FTF	Portugal
Finland	UGT
SAK	Romania
SASK	Cartel Alfa
France	BNS
CFDT	Spain
CGT	CC.OO./FPS
CGT-FO	ELA
Great Britain	UGT/ISCOD
TUC	USO/SOTERMUN
Hungary	Sweden
MOSZ	LO
Ireland	TCO
ICTU	

Other trade unions (non EU)

Australia:
ACTU
Canada
CLC-CTC
CSN
Japan
JTUC-
Rengo/JILAF
New Zealand
NZCTU
Norway
LO
USA
AFL-CIO/Solidarity Center

* affiliates that have not yet indicated their willingness to participate in the EU network project are invited to do so ASAP. Please mail to peggy.declercq@ituc-csi.org and download the [partnership form](#).

Regional structures (invited)

TUCA (Trade Union Confederation of the Americas)
 ITUC-AFRICA
 ITUC-ASIA/PACIFIC
 PERC (Pan-European Regional Council)

TUAC (Trade Union Advisory Committee)

Global Union Federations

BWI	(Building and Woodworkers International)
EI	(Education International)
ICEM	(International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine & General Workers' Unions)
IFJ	(International Federation of Journalists)
IMF	(International Metalworkers' Federation)
ITF	(International Transport Workers' Federation)
ITGLWF	(International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation)
ITUC	(International Trade Union Confederation)
IUF	(International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations)
PSI	(Public Service International)
UNI	(Union Network International)
IAEA	(International Arts and Entertainment Alliance)

6. Agenda 2009

<u>April/June</u>	Seminar for New EU member states	Central Europe
<u>May 19-20th</u>	Working Groups -Trade Union Development Cooperation Effectiveness -Trade Unions as Actors in Development -International Development Policies and Aid Architecture -Final preparation of Stockholm Conference	BRUSSELS (tbc)
<u>June/ September</u>	Seminars Capacity building seminars in the South, in cooperation with ITUC Africa, TUCA and A-P	
<u>13-14 October</u>	Conference -Trade Unions as Development Actors -Prepare Congress ITUC Development Policy -Public event with new Parliament	STOCKHOLM
<u>November/ December</u>	Seminar Update seminar for Development Cooperation responsibles from partners	
<u>November/ December</u>	Seminar Capacity building seminars in the South, in cooperation with ITUC Africa, TUCA and A-P	

For a more detailed agenda 2009-2010-2011, [please click here](#)