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## 1. Miscellaneous from the Network

### SOTERMUN: A DECADE OF ACTIVE SOLIDARITY WITH WORKERS IN POOR COUNTRIES

In August 1994, a non-governmental organisation for development (NGOD) promoted by the Spanish trade union centre Union Sindical Obrera (USO) was legally established under the name SOTERMUN ("Solidarity with the Third World") to provide development cooperation and foster solidarity between peoples.

This association, set up specifically for the purpose of development cooperation, emerged as the continuation of a long process of international solidarity. Having reaped the benefits of international solidarity since its formation over 40 years ago, the USO formalised its commitment to the principle of solidarity by becoming a donor organisation.

In 1988, it established an international solidarity fund, Fondo de Solidaridad Internacional (FSI), an internal solidarity instrument fed by a percentage of the fees paid by the union's affiliates, and formally committed to establishing an organisation or entity with its own legal status.

[Read more](#) (Spanish)

[Cooperation projects in Central America](#) (Spanish)

[Cooperation projects in South America](#) (Spanish)

[Cooperation projects in North Africa](#) (Spanish)

[Cooperation projects in Sub-Saharan Africa](#) (Spanish)

[Cooperation projects in Asia](#) (Spanish)

### THE SOLIDARITY CENTER SUPPORTS TRADE UNIONS AROUND THE WORLD IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOR

For more than 200 million children, today is a workday, not a school day. Children as young as five years old are part of the global workforce. In factories and in fields, children work up to 15 hours a day, seven days a week. Matches, rugs, soccer balls, leather goods, paper cups, toys, shoes, fireworks — all of these products are made by tiny hands.

Child labor is one of the worst forms of exploitation. Child workers are deprived of schooling, forced to work in dangerous situations, beaten and sexually abused, and crippled by work-related illnesses and injuries.



Children are sold or indentured to employers who pay impoverished families for the use of their children. An ensuing cycle of poverty pushes adults from their jobs and drives down wages worldwide.

Although most countries have laws against child labor, and it is banned by officially recognized conventions of the United Nations and the International Labor Organization, child labor exists everywhere in the world. Child labor is most common in countries where there are no unions and where other worker rights violations, such as pay inequity, discrimination, and lack of health and safety measures, are widespread. The Solidarity Center and our partners around the world are exposing the problem of child labor, pushing for policies that prepare young people for the workplace, and promoting more effective national action plans to curb this intolerable abuse of worker and human rights. Thanks to Solidarity Center programs, more kids are staying in school — while their parents earn decent wages so their children don't have to work.

[Go to the website](#)

### **HIV/AIDS: DISCUSSIONS ON A NEW LABOUR STANDARD BEGIN AT ILO CONFERENCE**

In days between 3 and 19 June 2009 in Geneva the International Labour Conference (ILC) held the first sitting on the proposed new instrument on HIV/AIDS and the world of work.

This years' discussion concentrated on the form and content of the proposed standard. Second discussion will follow in June 2010 with the aim to adopt the instrument (2/3 majority will be required).

The tripartite Committee was chaired by Ms. T Nene-Shezi (Government member, South Africa), assisted by vice-chairpersons: Mr. Patrick Obath (Employer member, Kenya) and Mr. Jan Sithole (Worker member, Swaziland).

As for now, it has been decided that the instrument will take the form of a Recommendation. It would include provisions on prevention programmes and anti-discrimination measures at national and workplace levels, and on strengthening the contribution of the world of work to universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

The Workers' group managed to negotiate important rights and protection clauses, covering issues related to the prohibition of HIV/AIDS testing in the workplace, the right to privacy and confidentiality, recognition of HIV/AIDS as occupational disease as well as linking HIV/AIDS to poverty. However on a number of important points (i.a. protection of migrants, measures for maternity protection, and privacy issues linked to OHS motivated testing) are not yet covered by the current draft and will have to be put again on the agenda for the final discussion next year.

The existence of an instrument focusing solely on HIV and the world of work will give new impetus to anti-discrimination policies at national and workplace levels. If adopted in 2010, this standard will be the first international human rights instrument to focus explicitly on HIV/AIDS. Therefore, it is now crucial for the labour movement to strategically prepare for works at the second sitting of the HIV/AIDS Committee in June 2010.

The ITUC will now take the initiative together with the Global Unions AIDS Programme in the preparation of the forthcoming ILC discussion in 2010. We keep you posted on those initiatives and consultations. For more info contact the HIV/AIDS coordinator: Zuzanna Muskat-Gorska: [zuzanna.gorska@ituc-csi.org](mailto:zuzanna.gorska@ituc-csi.org).

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### **WORKING PARTY ON AID EFFECTIVENESS (WP EFF) ON TRACK; CLUSTER WORK STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION.**

Following the Accra HLF on Aid Effectiveness, the new Working Party has launched its activities and is now proceeding on defining the work of the different workstreams.

The ITUC has shown a particular interest in the work of Cluster A on Ownership and Accountability focusing on the democratic governance as one of the main issues to guarantee sustainable development. This cluster workstream on ownership (we call it democratic ownership) will focus on the [AAA articles 13 a, b and c](#) as well as on other points that are related such as the [AAA article 20](#) on the CSO effectiveness.

We are still struggling to compose with all ambitions on the one hand and the limited time and resources to come to tangible results on the other hand. Workstream 3 of the TUDCN will be more closely involved in these issues in order to feed in with relevant point into the work of the different clusters.

### **MULTISTAKEHOLDER MEETING IN PRAGUE on 23 June.**

A “coalition of the willing” donor group took the initiative to propose a multistakeholder workgroup on CSO Effectiveness to ensure that further implementation is given to the challenges spelled out in the AAA article 20. The group that is headed by Sweden (SIDA) also has representation from Canada, Finland, Denmark, Austria, Ireland, UK and US (other governments showed interest: Netherlands, Belgium, and Spain). The EU also joined the group as the most important donor in the world. There is also a representation from Southern Countries (Mali, Senegal and Bangladesh). Also a number of CSO are representing both the Better Aid Platform (Policy) and the Open Forum on CSO Effectiveness. The meeting studied the support for the two CSO platforms that are organized to give follow up to the AAA on the one hand and on the other discussed and approved the possible workplan for the next months that includes the enabling conditions for CSO Effectiveness and donor practices related to CSO.

The ITUC is part of the CSO delegation and we will keep you posted on further results of this “multi-stakeholders” work.

### **GLOBAL FACILITATION GROUP (GFG) MEETING on 21-22 June , IN PRAGUE.**

The GFG is the steering body of the [Open Forum on Development Effectiveness](#), which at present brings together over 70 Civil Society Organizations (<http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/>), including the ITUC.

The Open Forum was created one year ago in Paris, with the objective of setting *ad hoc* criteria when addressing development effectiveness for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This process finds its roots following the Paris Declaration (2005), when Governments and Official Donors adopted their own criteria to assess Aid Effectiveness. However, these criteria were not accepted by CSOs (as considered too much centered on efficient aid delivery procedures) that aimed at reframing the whole debate on ‘effectiveness’ on the basis of the actual impact of CSOs projects/actions in development cooperation. The High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra (September 2008) endorsed this CSO led process.

Therefore, a long and challenging process was started, which will engage CSOs in elaborating their own criteria, principles, implementation methodologies in order to define and improve their effectiveness in development cooperation.

ITUC, representing the trade unions both in the North and in the South, equally engaged in development cooperation, is taking active part in this process.

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During the meeting in Prague a roadmap was planned to organize field consultations both at country, regional and sectoral level. Besides the trade union participation in regional and national consultations, specific consultations are reserved for trade unions through the ITUC, throughout 2010 and 2011, with the aim of elaborating a shared approach on Trade Union Development Effectiveness (in connection to the Work Stream 1 of the TUDCN). Finally, the process will culminate with multistakeholder initiatives (involving besides the CSO community also governments, donors and other actors) towards the High Level Forum in Seoul in October 2011.

For more information please contact: [paola.simonetti@ituc-csi.org](mailto:paola.simonetti@ituc-csi.org)

## 2. Development Cooperation Policies

### **ITUC STATEMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE WORLD FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT**

The world community is in the throes of a severe and deepening financial and economic crisis that is undermining developing country efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and people's prospects for working their way out of poverty through decent jobs. The ILO talks of a veritable jobs crisis leading to a social recession, and it is clear that the impacts on developing countries are particularly severe.

These development challenges need to be taken up in an inclusive forum where the representatives of the developing countries that are bearing much of the brunt of the crisis have a say in policy-making and a search for solutions to restore growth and sustainable development. The United Nations provides such a forum. The United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, which was mandated by the Doha Declaration of December 2008 on Financing for Development, is therefore of critical importance for the international community.

[Read more](#)

### **DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE (DAC)**

#### ***Employment and Social Protection***

The DACPOVNET documents on Employment and Social Protection state that productive employment and decent work need to be a key objective of development co-operation. Key recommendations for donors include:

- Taking specific measures to improve employment, productivity and working conditions in the informal economy, facilitate formalisation, encourage entrepreneurship and promote more, productive and decent employment in the formal economy.
- Increasing the participation of women and young people in the labour market, including by addressing the discrimination, constraints and barriers that women and young people face and by strengthening measures to improve access to demand-driven vocational training.
- Supporting developing country efforts to improve knowledge and sex-disaggregated statistics to strengthen evidence-based policy making and involving other stakeholders in that process.
- Supporting developing countries' own efforts to build the political commitment and policy processes needed to develop and implement social protection systems.

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- Committing to a long term partnership, including financial and technical support, to underpin developing countries' efforts to build social protection systems.
- Investing in developing country initiatives to develop and share knowledge on the effective design and implementation of social protection systems.

### **Reflections on DAC**

A report will be published summarizing a reflection exercise on the future role of the DAC within the context of a new global governance framework for development. The report identifies the following four strategic priorities for global action:

- Successful development needs more than aid.
- The global institutional framework for development must evolve further to make it more effective and to broaden its support. Development commitments need to be stepped up
- Agreed global development goals, including halving global poverty by 2015, require more decisive action and need to be followed by arrangements for the post-2015 period.
- It calls for significant changes in the DAC and notes that the UN Development Cooperation Forum is likely to have an important role in the future and that the DAC's Working Party on Aid Effectiveness provides a foundation on which to build and draw lessons for the wider debate.

So far these reports are not public. (See next newsletter)

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "EFFECTIVENESS IN DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING" PRAGUE, on 28 - 29 May**

The conference was organised in cooperation with the Development Education Forum of [CONCORD](#) and with the support of the European Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

Among the participants were members of the Development Education Forum and other CONCORD members, European development NGOs, research institutes and international organisations. Furthermore, the relevant ministries from EU member states and the European Commission were represented.

The conference was one of the key events organised by NGDOs within the Czech EU Presidency. The [Czech NGDOs](#) have chosen the development effectiveness of civil society as one of their main topics during the presidency and this conference strives to contribute to increasing the quality of development education and awareness raising practise.

The aim of the conference was to provide a forum to different stakeholders for sharing best practises on development education and awareness raising actions, on strategic frameworks for their implementation and on diverse tools for increasing the quality of development education and awareness raising actions. It also aimed at contributing to the ongoing processes focusing on evaluation and effectiveness of development education and awareness raising.

[Read the final report](#)

### **ILO SUMMIT ADOPTS GLOBAL JOBS PACT**

Following a three-day Global Jobs Summit with some 4,000 delegates from 183 countries, the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted on 19 June 2009 in Geneva a [Global Jobs Pact](#) to guide national and international policies to refocus crisis recovery efforts around the Decent Work Agenda: creating jobs, safeguarding rights, protecting people, promoting voice, participation and sustainable enterprises.

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The Pact is designed to offset the prospect of prolonged global increases in unemployment, deepening poverty, the systemic risks of a deflationary wage spiral as well as contribute to building the foundations of a fairer and greener, more balanced global economy.

The Global Jobs Pact amounts to the most urgent and wide-ranging response to an economic crisis ever adopted by the ILO, which marks its 90th anniversary this year. Among the Heads of State and Government that addressed the Summit were: Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France; Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil; Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of Argentina; Armando Guebuza, President of Mozambique; Bruce Golding, Prime Minister of Jamaica; Lech Kaczyński, President of Poland; and Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland.

[Read more](#)

### **CHILD LABOUR WORSENING DUE TO GLOBAL CRISIS**

Millions of children, especially girls, risk falling out of education and into work as the impact of the world economic crisis deepens, the ITUC warned.

“With rising poverty and inequality, and funding for schools under pressure in developing and transition countries in particular, the economic crisis is likely to add even more children to the 200 million who are already at work instead of getting a proper education. This is a tragic scenario just ten years since the ILO adopted Convention 182 on eliminating the worst forms of child labour,” said ITUC General Secretary Guy Ryder.

[Read more](#)

### **DAC AND NON-DAC OECD DONORS RESPONDING TO GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AT A TIME OF CRISIS:**

DAC High Level Meeting Action Plan

Donors attending a High Level Meeting of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), held at the OECD in Paris on 27 and 28 May, 2009, adopted an Action Plan for responding to the global economic crisis, which will feed into other major international forums, such as the upcoming OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, G8 Summit, UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis, the G20 Summit and the UN General Assembly.

Member countries are deploying a wide range of policies for crisis recovery and sustainable growth, which will have major development impact. Policy coherence is all the more important in the crisis context. Recent OECD and DAC pledges on open trade, trade finance, aid, and the Doha Declaration on financing for Development underscore the importance of rejecting protectionism and of acting counter-cyclically. ODA reached record levels in 2008, and is now some 80% of the projected 2010 level implied by our current commitments. The shortfall remains significant and aid to Africa is falling well behind pledges. We all recognise the need for further collective momentum. We also recognise the risk of pressures towards additional aid tying as a result of the crisis.

[Read the whole document.](#)

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### **RESULTS OF THE 2009 DAC SURVEY ON DONORS' FORWARD SPENDING PLANS**

The Survey on Donors' Forward Spending Plans is a unique instrument. It is the only regular process at the global level that brings together most bilateral and multilateral aid spending plans, one to three years ahead. The Survey identifies potential gaps, overlaps and opportunities in future aid allocations.

This report is intended both for (i) policy makers in partner countries, as a guide to overall planning for use of aid and (ii) managers in donor countries and international agencies, in their allocation decisions.

The Survey is also designed to reduce uncertainty about future aid flows at the global, regional and national level. The data presented in this document are indicative estimates of possible increases or decreases in aid to any particular country, region or income group. Only total estimates per recipient country are given. Individual planning figures between one donor and one recipient country are not shown, as these are issues for discussion by countries with their donors collectively and bilaterally.

[Go to the Survey](#)

### **EU U-TURNS ON AID**

As poor countries face the full impact of the economic crisis, European governments are falling short by nearly €40bn on their aid promises, a new report from CONCORD, the European confederation of development NGOs, reveals.

As Development Ministers prepare to meet in Brussels next week, the report shows that European governments will not meet their 2010 aid target until 2012 unless serious action is taken now.

Many governments are still inflating their aid levels by counting money that does not reach poor people. Missed targets and non-genuine aid will mean poor countries will have missed out on nearly €40bn by 2010 – enough to increase the income of 380 million Africans living in absolute poverty by one quarter.

Official figures show that in 2008, Europe allocated 0.40% of its gross national income (GNI) to aid. However, CONCORD's 2009 [AidWatch report: Lighten the load: in a time of crisis](#), European aid has never been more important, shows that most European donors have provided misleading aid figures.

Out of almost €50bn provided as aid in 2008, close to €5bn went to debt cancellation, €2bn to hosting foreign students and close to €1bn to hosting and repatriating refugees. Real European aid amounted to only 0.34% of collective GNI.

[Read more](#)

### **G8 DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS' MEETING**

The impact of the economic crisis is going to be the leitmotif of the G8 Development Ministers' Meeting, scheduled to be held in Rome under the Italian presidency on 11 and 12 June 2009. The meeting comes at a particularly difficult time in view of the serious impact that the economic crisis is having on [developing countries](#), even going as far as to jeopardise the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. At the recent [G20](#) Summit in London on 2 April 2009, several measures were announced in the hope that they would be capable of providing solutions in the short term to the difficulties that the developing countries are having to face. But a great deal still remains to be done, especially for the most vulnerable and heavily indebted countries. In that context, the G8's crucial role is returning in full force as the leading international forum for debating issues relating to the real economy and to development.

[Read more on the website](#)

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## **A STRONGER, CLEANER, FAIRER WORLD ECONOMY: THE OECD MUST ACT AND CHANGE FOR THE FUTURE**

*TUAC STATEMENT TO THE OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL – Paris, 25-26 June 2009*

OECD Ministers are meeting as the world economy is trapped in the worst economic crisis of our times. It has unleashed a jobs and social crisis that will deepen over the years ahead. G20 Leaders' meeting in London in April committed to take "whatever action is necessary" to "restore growth and jobs". The OECD Ministers, operating in a broader framework, must take action on jobs in the months ahead. Beyond this the OECD must revise its own analysis and actions to ensure that the policies that led to this crisis are not repeated. A new model of growth that is fairer, more environmentally sustainable and balanced between regions must emerge. This will require a paradigm shift in economic thinking at the Organisation.

[Read the statement](#)

Background documents (Paris, 25-26 June 2009):

[OECD Declaration on Green Growth](#)

[OECD Ministerial Conclusions](#)

[OECD Outlook June 2009](#)

[Talking Points by John Sweeney, TUAC President](#)

[Evaluation of the Ministerial Conclusions by the TUAC Secretariat](#)

## **STIGLITZ WEIGHS IN ON UN CONFERENCE OUTCOMES**

Many of the strong, pro-development recommendations of the Report of the UN Commission of Experts on the global crisis had failed to make it into the final consensus Outcome Document of the recently concluded UN Conference on the Global crisis. Despite this, the Commission's Chair, Joseph Stiglitz maintains a fairly optimistic take on the conference outcomes. In an article appearing in the Taipei Times of 6 July, he hails the conference agreements as "remarkable." He highlights a number of critical development issues raised in the Conference outcome Document which, he maintains, did not receive adequate attention in the G20 discussions. These include the need for grants rather than IMF loans for developing country stimulus packages, in order to avert a new debt crisis, and reform of the current global reserve system which is contributing to the suppression of global aggregate demand. Stiglitz hails the UN, "notwithstanding its flaws" as providing an inclusive forum for discussing how globalization could work for the benefit of everyone. He welcomes the agreement in the Outcome Document to establish a Working Group to follow-up its agreements and chart the way forward to restored global growth. The [ITUC's Statement to the UN Conference](#) had highlighted the main findings of the Stiglitz Commission Report, and called for their full incorporation into the final outcome document.

[Read the whole article](#)

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### 3. News from the network

The Network has its [own TUDCN webpage](#) on the [ITUC website](#). You will find the latest news on trade union positions, solidarity actions and update information on activities.

Please send any relevant information for publication in our next issues to the Network Information Officer at: [luc.vermeersch@ituc-csi.org](mailto:luc.vermeersch@ituc-csi.org).

(Please send your info for the next issue before 15 September)

#### **REMINDER MIDTERM REVIEW**

Dear All,

*The European Commission is currently undertaking the mid term review of the major financial instruments on development cooperation: Development Cooperation Instrument and European Development Fund.*

*It is very important that Trade Unions are involved in the consultation processes that are taking place at country level. Therefore you are strongly encouraged to contact the EC Delegation in the country where you are working.*

*[Clicking here you will find a brief explanatory note and a questionnaire](#) which you are kindly asked to fill in and return by June 30.*

*Thank you in advance for your collaboration*

### 4. Project Opportunities

#### **EU PROJECT FUNDING:**

Please consult the [page concerning the country-based calls for proposals](#)

### 5. Resources

Several links in Newsletter 3 were not clickable. Here are the clickable links:

#### **THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS UNIONS' WATCH**

#### **UN CONFERENCE ON THE WORLD FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS AND IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT**

[ITUC assessment of the final report of the commission of experts on reforms of the international monetary and financial system and a summary of the most important recommendations it contains.](#)

#### **GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AT A TIME OF CRISIS – ISSUES NOTE**

#### **RESULTS OF THE 2009 DAC SURVEY ON DONORS' FORWARD SPENDING PLANS**

#### **TUAC/OCDE MEETING ON 'GENDER, DEVELOPMENT AND DECENT WORK: BUILDING A COMMON AGENDA'**

the [Better Work Programme](#)

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**ICTU LAUNCHES GLOBAL SOLIDARITY WEBSITE**

**TUC SUPPORTS DECENT JOBS CAMPAIGN**

[Read more](#)

[Read the speech of Frances O'Grady, TUC Deputy General Secretary, on decent work](#)  
[TUC Aid: Solidarity in Action.](#)

**DECENT WORK CAMPAIGN** (French)

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## 6. Agenda 2009

### June/September

#### Seminars

Capacity building seminars in the South, in cooperation with ITUC Africa, TUCA and ITUC Asia-Pacific

### 7 October

#### World Day for Decent Work

ITUC broad global mobilisation for a new globalisation



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### STOCKHOLM Conference 13-14 October

## Development is Social Justice

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STOCKHOLM 22-24 October



### 19-21 October

#### 1st ITUC World Women Conference (Brussels)

Decent Work, Decent Life for Women: Trade unions taking the lead for economic and social justice & gender equality

### November/ December

#### Seminar

Update seminar for Development Cooperation responsables from the Network

### November/ December

#### Seminar

Capacity building seminars in the South, in cooperation with ITUC Africa, TUCA and ITUC Asia-Pacific

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



The TUDCN team:

Jaap Wiene (ITUC Deputy General Secretary), Jan Dereymaeker (Network Coordinator), Mamadou Diallo (Program Officer), Paola Simonetti (Policy and Advocacy Officer), Luc Vermeersch (Information Officer) and Peggy De Clercq (Assistant).