



# TUDCN OPEN COORDINATION MEETING (OCM)

25-26 OCTOBER 2017 – RUE HAUTE 42 (FGTB), BRUSSELS

## REPORT

Background Documents: <https://www.ituc-csi.org/TUDCN-OCM-2017>

The Open Coordination Meeting of the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) is an annual meeting that takes place halfway between the General Meetings of the network. It aims to provide an update on recent developments and to make any adjustments on the orientation of the work of the TUDCN for the following six months. It is open to all members of the network.

In addition to almost 30 member representatives, the meeting featured presentations by guests Carlien Van Empel of the ILO's Partnership and Field Support Department (PARDEV) and Kostas Papadakis of the ILO's Social Dialogue and Tripartism Unit (DIALOGUE).

### WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2017

Following a welcome and introduction of participants, Paola Simonetti, coordinator of the TUDCN, explained the aims of the meeting and went through the agenda, which was then approved by the participants.

#### *SESSION 1: Updates from the TUDCN Global and Regional Secretariats*

Participants were reminded of the recent activities of the TUDCN by region/thematic:

At regional level, the principle advocacy activities were the participation in the UN regional forums on sustainable development as well as establishing the country reports. Other recent regional activities included participation in the [Africa Union-European Union CSO Forum](#) and in regional ACTRAV academies as well as the undertaking of research on capacity assessment methodology (Africa) and on how the SDGs relate to Trade and the broader development agenda (TUCA). In addition, the TUDCN working group on EU development policies reported on its work on enhancing the OECD-DAC's Credit Reporting System.

Focussing on institutional level engagement, the Voluntary National Reviews and the [High Level Political Forum](#) work more broadly was reviewed, as well as the focus on monitoring and the official SDG indicator-setting process. TUDCN engagement with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) was also reviewed in detail.

The ongoing work towards establishing criteria for private sector engagement by donors was also reviewed and a summary of the discussions of the working group on trade union partnerships meeting, which had taken place the previous day were provided (see report [here](#)).

More details on each of the updates are available in the [meeting slides](#). The discussion highlighted the following:

- The positive impact of taking up roles within CSO alliances (with examples of CSO engagement mechanism for MERCOSUR, Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism).
- The issue of due diligence was raised in discussion. One example of engagement was provided of a review of complaint mechanisms for EIB projects in which ILO conventions breached. A potential future opportunity for this type of review was highlighted in the World Bank new research project on Decent Work, in partnership with a number of Development Finance Institutions.
- The increased relevance of local authorities on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was raised. This notably increases the relevance of increasing sub-national trade union engagement on the 2030 Agenda.
- The private sector engagement criteria has relevance beyond Official Development Assistance (ODA) and should also be targeted at other public initiatives that impact development (e.g. [BRICS trade union forum](#)).

#### *SESSION 2: Trade union engagement on the SDGs: improving our strategy & increasing our impact*

The updated [TUDCN Strategy on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) was presented. The ensuing discussion focussed on a number of operational questions.

**Diversifying outreach:** it was highlighted that there was space for further engagement of national development agencies. Clarity was also sought on the channels that exist for official responses to the voluntary national reviews. The private sector is being given a prominent role in the implementation process and participants sought ways of engaging with them, both through social dialogue and in its promotion. Sensitising other civil society organisations (CSOs) to labour issues was also highlighted as a way to further the reach of trade union priorities within SDG debates.

**National trade union SDG progress reports:** a number of participants expressed the will to undertake the national trade union SDG reporting with increased regularity; the global and regional TUDCN secretariats will support these efforts. Including an assessment of the foreign policies of donor governments was also seen as important. The possibility of reflecting contributions that trade unions make through their solidarity initiatives and campaigns was mentioned. It was suggested to explore how the national trade union SDG progress reports overlap with other monitoring initiatives to see if there are opportunities for mutual reinforcement. In addition, further guidance was sought on how to deal with missing or outdated data.

#### **Institutional preparation:**

##### UN Regional Forums on Sustainable Development

Trade union country profiles will be prepared in time for these forums. In order to increase impact, it was suggested that a preparatory trade union meeting be organised as well as to further engage sub-regional institutional actors.

##### UN High Level Political Forum

- 2018: while none of the trade union priority goals will be reviewed, SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) is seen as presenting good potential for engagement, as well as linking to the ILO's future of work discussions.

- 2019: four of the six trade union priority SDGs will be reviewed: SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). TUDCN will prepare a global report and explore strategies for playing a major role.

### *SESSION 3: How can we improve our communication and visibility?*

An [updated version](#) of the TUDCN Communication Strategy was presented (see slides [here](#)). The objectives, principles, target audiences and tools were reviewed. Finally, the discussion focussed on the actions to be undertaken by both the TUDCN secretariat and the members. Participants agreed to follow up on the actions listed [here](#), and added the following:

- Explore pros and cons of different social media platforms.
- Increase the coordination work of the TUDCN global and regional secretariats and the communication teams of the TUDCN members' organisations.

### *SESSION 4: 2018 ILC discussion on effective ILO development cooperation and implications for TUDCN work*

This session began with a [presentation](#) by Carlien Van Empel (ILO PARDEV). An overview of the ILO's development cooperation work, including its sources of funding, strategy and means of implementation was provided. The current ILO strategy on development cooperation runs until 2018 and has four 'building blocks': focus, effectiveness, capacity development and resource mobilisation. Throughout the presentation, the ILO's work in this area was framed by how it relates to broader development agendas such as the 2030 Agenda and the Financing for Development discussions.

The presentation featured a summary of the contents of the International Labour Conference (ILC) 2018 report entitled 'Effective Development Cooperation in Support of the SDGs'. While development cooperation used to be a recurrent discussion, there has not been a specific ILC discussion on it since 2005. While the report is in its early stages, participants expressed an interest to obtain more information on the report as it becomes available.

The discussion covered a number of points. In particular, some scope for improving the ILO's capacity development support was identified. Regarding selection criteria of different partners, increased participation of trade unions, in their role as social partners was sought as well as awareness of these issues. Due diligence criteria exist for private sector actors. In cases where specific expertise is required, NGOs can also be involved. On reporting modalities, the Decent Work Country Profiles (DWCP) and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) will increasingly complement each other.

THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2017

*SESSION 5: ILO's work on social dialogue and the 2018 ILC recurrent discussion on social dialogue*

The second day of the meeting began with a recap of the TUDCN's work on social dialogue in development.

Following that, Kostas Papadakis (ILO DIALOGUE) [presented](#) the ILO's work on social dialogue and tripartism. Situating the promotion of social dialogue as a priority aim of the ILO, the presentation outlined how building capacity of the actors is a central component of this work. It presented the ILO's Plan of Action, as well as the structure of the report currently being elaborated for the next ILC discussion on social dialogue (which is a recurrent ILC discussion). It was subsequently noted that the 2018 discussion will include a High Level dialogue on mainstreaming social dialogue in the work of other international and development organisations.

The ensuing discussion provided an opportunity to input into this process and centred on three topics: the role, the requirements and the opportunities/threats for social dialogue. The role of social dialogue in tackling informal sector issues, which linked in to the need to ensure the adequate participation of representative social partners was discussed. The need to incorporate social dialogue into the decision-making processes of international institutions was repeatedly raised. Finally, the need for an assessment of the quality of social dialogue as well as of its outcomes was highlighted.

*SESSION 6: Plenary discussion on trade union strategy to push social dialogue in development*

Promoting social dialogue within different institutional platforms on development is a priority of the network. Diego López González (TUDCN) lead the discussion, presenting the following spaces for engagement:

- ILO: Recurrent discussion on social dialogue
- GPEDC: Recognition within strategic documents and implementation of the TUDCN [Global Partnership Initiative on social dialogue in development](#)
- OECD: Trade union and OECD-DAC Forum
- UN/SDGs: High Level Political Forum
- European Commission: Policy Forum on Development and other development forums

Much of the input focussed on the Trade Union-DAC Forum. On the agenda of the forum, the volume of issues tackled was seen as very broad. While the agenda items are influenced by the DAC agenda, which tackles issues year by year, promoting a focussed political discussion was seen as key. It was also suggested that there be more time for discussion of the issues around formalisation. Engaging individual governments around the TU-DAC forum was seen as instrumental to increasing the uptake of trade union proposals.

## *SESSION 7: Trade union SDG monitoring template*

Liina Carr, ETUC Confederal Secretary chaired the session in which Joan Lanfranco (TUDCN) presented the [revised template](#) for the national SDG monitoring by trade unions. The aim of the revision was to simplify the process, the number of indicators was notably reduced from 47 to 40, including 24 trade union indicators (not included in the official SDG indicators).

The discussion featured input from Marco Cilento (ETUC) on the EU's harmonising of the SDG indicator process with the indicators for the 'European Semester'. This provided an example of how to leverage the SDG indicator process for a more social focus of regional monitoring processes.

Some technical and process clarifications were sought, notably around which data should be included. Integrating an assessment of the development work of donor countries was also discussed. The priority is to highlight the trade union contribution and flag where it is being obstructed. This applies as much to internal as to external implementation of the SDGs. As such, it is an exercise in internal coordination of trade unions.

Participants then separated into two working groups to address the following questions (with input summarised):

What are the indicators in the template that we should further prioritise taking into account relevance and availability of data?

All the indicators are deemed important, particularly those on SDG 8. The focus of the analysis will depend on the national context. If the suggested data source is not adequate, members are encouraged to find alternative indicators. Additionally, it is important to indicate the date of data analysed.

How could the global and regional TUDCN secretariats better support the process technically?

The summarising of the analysis into national profiles was well received, with one suggestion to provide a more nuanced visual indicator for the three primary criteria. Participants requested that the process should be initiated early. Where national members do not have the capacities, the secretariats can provide additional assistance.

How could we strengthen intra and inter trade union cooperation to elaborate the template?

While coordination between different departments proved a valuable process, experience showed that it is time-consuming. In cases where more than one member undertake the analysis work together, they should work in close collaboration from the start.

## *CLOSING SESSION: Review of working plans and closing of the meeting*

The regional and global work plans for 2018 were presented and accepted (available [here](#)), the priority actions are:

On the 2030 Agenda:

- Adapt final 2018 version of the template for the SDG country reports by trade unions
- Undertake national SDG reports in time for the UN Regional Forums on Sustainable Development.
- Participate in the UN Regional Forums on Sustainable Development.
- Trade unions from reporting countries participate in the High Level Political Forum.
- Increase coordination with ACTRAV SDGs Academies.

Social dialogue in development:

- Actively participate in the ILC 2018 discussion on social dialogue and its preparation.
- Pursue the Global Partnership Initiative on social dialogue.
- Pursue work on the integrating Decent Work into the OECD- DAC CRS reporting system.
- Research – proceed with country case studies on Costa Rica, Argentina, Kenya and the Philippines as well as synthesis study.

Private sector in development:

- Finalise trade union criteria for private sector engagement by donors and promote it among donor governments.
- Active participation in the ILC 2018 discussions on development cooperation.
- Research – undertake mapping of donor policies on private sector engagement and case study based analysis of the role of the private sector in development cooperation.

This work will be integrated to the ongoing work of the regional networks and of the thematic working groups.

Participants were invited to give their feedback on the meeting through anonymous surveys and the meeting was then brought to a close.

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