



TUDCN OPEN COORDINATION MEETING

15- 16 NOVEMBER 2016 – INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION HOUSE (ROOM B), BRUSSELS

Report

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Session 1: Updates from the TUDCN secretariat

This session featured updates on the different work streams of the secretariat (see ppts: http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ocm_-_general_presentation_all.pdf):

- **Agenda 2030:** The final adoption of the indicators is still pending. The trade union strategy on Agenda 2030 focusses on the three pillars of mobilisation & engagement, advocacy and implementation, and monitoring and reporting.
- **The Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC):** TUDCN was very involved in the planning of the HLM2 and in providing input to its outcome document. Trade unions will remain members of the steering committee and are heavily involved in the monitoring process. The launching of the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on social dialogue in development, a space for different members of the GPEDC to exchange on and promote the topic, gives additional visibility to the role of trade unions as development actors.
- **Development Advisory Committee (DAC) – OECD:** Mention was made of the new DAC chair from Sweden's development agency SIDA. Trade unions participated in the first High Level Meeting of the DAC and organised of the [Trade Union DAC forum](#). An update was also provided on:
 - modernisation of ODA with the inclusion of aid allocated to private sector instruments. Blended finance is set to be a major part of the DAC's upcoming work cycle;
 - the role of the new total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD) measure: trade unions are very cautious regarding the possible uses of TOSSD and warn against any attempt to substitute it for ODA.

More information on trade union positions available [here](#).

- **Social Dialogue in development:** Research in this field was boosted by the launch of [three country case studies](#) on the impact of social dialogue in development. It was now a question of building on this research and of using this material to lobby donors and multilateral organisations to mainstream social dialogue in their policies.

- **Trade Union Partnerships:** Feedback was provided on the partnerships meeting which had taken place the previous day. The Trade Union Organisational Capacity (TUOC) tool was presented and discussed. Members of the network were encouraged to find spaces for their implementation.
- **Outreach and Communication:** TUDCN content was also diversified and material is now available in audio ([soundcloud](#)) and visual ([flickr](#)) format online. New layout templates were also created and the daily news report is also available and gives TUDCN members a roundup of relevant news items. A working group meeting is to be held during the general meeting.

The ensuing discussion raised the following points:

- The role of social dialogue as a means of implementation was highlighted (in contrast to being simply a result of development cooperation policies). The TUDCN advocates for the strengthening of social dialogue in developing countries but, crucially, also its role in determining effective development policies. As such one specific recommendation of the TUDCN is to include trade unions on the boards of development agencies that involve the private sector.
- The need to include the informal economy is vital to tackling the problems in certain countries. The focus on social dialogue must be careful not to exclude informal workers that are not unionised and must not overshadow the importance of other pillars such as social protection.

Session 2: State of Play of the Regional Development Networks

Americas – presented by Giulia Massobrio (TUCA):

- The context in which trade unions operate in the Americas has changed significantly: two of the major allies of trade unions have disappeared with regime changes in Brazil and Argentina.
- Notable advocacy highlights include:
 - Global: TUCA's Cooperation Network has been engaging on Agenda 2030 with a presence at the HLPF. It was also present at the EU Policy Forum on Development (PFD) and
 - Regional: The network has been active at the OAS and CEPAL levels.
 - National: Increasing trade union engagement with notable examples of Brazil, Venezuela, Chile and the tripartite debate on indicator in Argentina. Possibilities of engaging with EU delegations at national level were identified.
 - Alliances: involvement in the CPDE and tax justice movements.

Africa – presented by Hilma Mote (ITUC-Africa):

- First meeting of the steering committee of the African Trade Union Development Network (ATUDN), African trade unions made major progress on the coordination on development issues.
- Advocacy is centred on elaborating trade union policy positions, and focusses on the following institutions: African Union, UNECA, UN and European Union. Mapping activity had been undertaken on advocacy opportunities on the AU's Agenda 2063 and on the UN's 2030

Asia-Pacific – presented by Haridasan (ITUC AP):

- The regional meeting of the AP TUDCN had a strong participation. Input was provided on the indicators for the trade union progress report on the SDGs.
- A steering committee was set up with the aim of supporting of elaboration of the overall strategy and annual plans of the network and taking up representational tasks in regional and international fora.

Session 3: Towards a TUDCN strategy on Agenda 2030

The [TUDCN strategy on Agenda 2030](#) was presented. An overview of current progress on each of the key parallel building blocks of the strategy was provided (more information in the [presentation](#)):

- **Mobilisation & engagement:** raising awareness of the importance and the relevance of the 2030 Agenda contents for the trade union movement. The Exploratory Survey on Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals Pamphlet were presented.
- **Advocacy & implementation:** engagement of trade unions with relevant institutional stakeholders on policy making processes related to 2030 Agenda goals and targets. The tools presented include the Rolling survey, the advocacy toolkit, advocacy focussed training and evidence-based research to anchor trade union positions.
- **Monitoring & reporting:** production of a yearly national SDGs trade union reports, to be realised at country level. (see session 4).

The following points were raised in the discussion:

- The need for coordination of this strategy with other fora was highlighted with particular importance given to Financing for Development.
- Connecting this work with other movements was important. Special mentions were made of civil society, employers and youth movements.
- On mobilisation, the need to raise political interest in this work within national trade unions was highlighted with mention of the relevance of the commitments taken by governments. In addition, the involvement of GUFs on issues that concerned them specifically was advised.

Liina Carr (ETUC, Confederal Secretary) reported on her meeting with Frans Timmermans, Vice-President for the European Commission. The EU is to have a particular focus on equality issues. In addition, the external aspects of the 2030 Agenda are to be managed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO).

Session 4: Focus on Agenda 2030 monitoring framework: Trade Union national reports on SDGs implementation

An outline was given of the monitoring work of trade unions on Agenda 2030 progress. Input to the proposed indicators was then solicited of participants who formed breakout groups.

- **Group 1:**
 - SDG1 (ending poverty): Consent was given to the proposed indicators. Additional indicators on salary, quality of life, food basket and quality of public services were suggested. A question on the timeframe of data acquisition was raised and it was noted that in most countries there is a delay in obtaining the relevant data.
 - SDG10 (reducing inequality): It was highlighted that social protection and minimum wage play an important role in reducing inequalities. In addition, there are some qualitative issues on the proposal indicator of social partner involvement (target 10.7). The example of Venezuela was provided in salary determination involves social dialogue. However, the decisions were essentially made in a way that undermines this process. Another suggestion for an additional indicator was on how now legislation has affected social dialogue.
- **Group 2:**
 - SDG 8 (decent work): The proposed indicators were judged to be feasible at national level. It was noted that at EU level, the data was already available through Eurostat. The question of how much time unions would have to dedicate to this exercise was raised. For Latin America, it was

advised to involve union research centre and universities. Where gaps might occur in Africa, data provision could be provided by UNECA and the World Bank. In addition to that, it was suggested to maximise the use of data collected advocacy arenas. Share information about information unions already produce. It was advised that a list of priority countries be agreed on at ITUC level on which to focus initial efforts.

- **Group 3:**
 - SDG 5 (gender equality): ILO Conventions is easy to measure. It is suggested that target 5.4 include the ratification and implementation of Conventions 103, 106 and 109. While it was noted that measuring implementation can be more cumbersome, the ILO's implementation guidelines could be used as a guide. Convention 111 on discrimination could be added to the list.

Stock Taking Session on DEAR – European Organisations

An addition stock-taking session was held on Development Education and Awareness Raising. The recent news that the application of the TUDCN to and EU project on DEAR had not been successful was shared with participants. On the whole the experience was considered positive, some recommendations were suggested:

- That there be additional focus on the unique added value of trade unions with mention of social dialogue at the level of multinational enterprises.
- It was suggested that additional focus be placed on the impact on consumers.
- The 2018 call for proposals would be an opportunity to build on this experience and make initial contact to get some feedback on some initial ideas and observe the successful projects from this call.

Session 5: Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation: expectations for Nairobi HLM2 and beyond

An update was given on the preparation for the Second High Level Meeting ([HLM2](#)) including on the Outcome Document and on the renewal of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) mandate. Further information was provided on the launch of the [Global Partnership Initiative](#) on Social Dialogue for Development presented by the ITUC/TUDCN. It is an initiative within the GPEDC which can be an avenue for engagement on the issue.

The trade union input to the Nairobi Outcome Document and to the updating of the GPEDC Mandate was the focus of group work. Participants provided the following input:

- Mention social dialogue in the text.
- Strengthen the monitoring provisions with a focus on accountability mechanisms. Include statistics for the monitoring process.
- Increase the focus on vulnerable groups such as gender and informal workers.
- Give additional weight to the pillars of decent work, in particular to social dialogue and to social protection. In the third paragraph, refer specifically to tripartite social dialogue.
- In order to give more weight to the GPEDC it's should be clearer. The basic mandate should be its role in monitoring development investment.
- The fact that half of ODA money spent goes back to donor-country based companies must be addressed.

Further points that were made during the discussion:

- Governments make commitments to social dialogue but this does not necessarily lead to changes on the ground. Trade unions have a role in claiming that space.
- The self-standing role of the GPEDC should be defined in its monitoring function.

Session 6: next steps on EU Development Policies

A recap of the recent activities of the TUDCN's working group on EU development policy including the working group's meeting and the application to the DEAR call for proposals. An overview of trade union inputs on EU development policies was made with reference to the EU Global Strategy, the Multiannual Financial Framework, the External investment plan, the European Investment Plan, the European Parliament position on HLM2, the European Economic and Social Committee position on the SDGs.

The session then focussed on the ongoing updating of the EU Consensus on Development. An advocacy timeline was detailed:

- 25 November 2016: TUDCN quick assessment by 25 November 2016 for MEPs and national governments.
- 30 November 2016: European Civil Society consultation.
- December 2016: The European Parliament submits its position.
- January 2017: Trialogue starts in: during which members will be solicited to lobby national governments.

Adoption of the new Consensus is foreseen by the end of June 2017.

The next steps for the TUDCN's advocacy work on EU Development were outlined:

- Preparations for post-Cotonou negotiations.
- February 2017: TUDCN WG EU meeting.
- January-February 2017: Consultations on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and on external financial instruments.
- Methodology for shadow monitoring of 2030 Agenda in development policy of EU and Member States.
- 22-23 March 2017: PFD Global meeting.
- 25-27 April 2017: HLPF/UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.
- end May-early June 2017: EU Partnerships Forum.

Session 7: Advocacy oriented research and related strategies

The different research work streams of the TUDCN were discussed and recent publications were reviewed. The focus was placed on looking at how the publications are being used:

- Business accountability - two publications were reviewed:
 - [Business Accountability FOR Development](#)
 - [The development effectiveness of supporting the private sector with ODA funds](#)

The existing research was used for advocacy in a number of fora:

- EU level: Policy Forum on Development (both at the global and regional meetings) as well as the EU CSO Forum.
- At intergovernmental level: HLPF, development cooperation forum, OECD-DAC, the HLM2
- As a reference for think-tanks and CSOs: DI, ECDPM

There was also a mention of the new CPDE Working Group on the Private Sector which is chaired by the TUDCN and will result in further research.

- Role of social dialogue in development:
 - [The relevance of social dialogue in development](#) country case studies of Ghana, Indonesia and Uruguay.

Case studies were being used for evidence-based policy advocacy with a number of stakeholder including the ILO, the European Commission, the OECD and donor governments. It also was used in trade union input on policy documents including the HLPF submission and input to the European Commission. It also serves for reference in event interventions including at the HLM2.

- Official Development Assistance:
 - Participants were updated on the ongoing research on ODA for Decent Work which is being undertaken in collaboration. Initial analysis suggests that it will provide good evidence for advocacy on Agenda 2030 as well as with OECD donors. The aim is to have the research published for Spring 2017 and the TU-DAC Forum.
- Organisation Capacity:
 - The TUDEP and TUOC tools (outlined in Session 1), helped to map the organisational capacity of affiliates by ITUC-AFRICA.

Discussion on further research streams revealed the following:

- The discussion highlighted a lack of a generalised uptake of the research in national advocacy efforts. While some national trade unions provided good examples of their use of the material for highlighting trade union issues with national governments, this was a minority of cases. These research streams are designed to highlight the needs of trade union in the development process. In order to make them more impactful, a better uptake by all members at the advocacy level is needed.
- A suggested option for an additional research stream identified was to explore the impact of trade policies on the SDGs.
- Another option for a research stream was to look at the impact of the digital economy. This was noted as an increasing focus of donor countries.

Session 8: Planning ahead (work plans 2016-2017), Evaluation and Conclusions

The final session began with a presentation of working plan with a breakdown of global and regional planned activities. In the ensuing discussion, the following points were noted:

- A temporary working group is to be set up for the coordination of the work on refining the indicators/Agenda 2030. Volunteers are welcome, and should contact the secretariat.
- Inputs to the HLM2 will be provided according to the inputs received.
- Wellington Chibebe, Deputy General-Secretary of the ITUC will report to the Global Council in Vienna on Agenda 2030 progress.
- On EU Development policies: the TUDCN will seek cooperation with the ETUC and explore opportunities to liaise with MEPs through the intergroup. Creating a smaller coordination on the multilateral development banks, for role of PS, PPP and blending.
- On research: Greater evidence is needed for reporting on how research is used for advocacy purposes at national level. Positive feedback was noted and suggestions on the digital economy are noted.

The opportunity was given to participants to provide an evaluation of the Open Coordination Meeting. The following points were noted:

- There was a high quantity of content covered and some participants noted that an extra half a day would have made this more manageable.
- On South-South Cooperation: further planning work was recommended. In particular, in determining an advocacy strategy for its promotion and in encouraging it amongst TUDCN regional networks. A suggestion was made for a seminar on South-South cooperation.



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