

## FSG MEETING

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**12 December 2011 - Florence**

### Report

#### Participants:

Gemma Arpaia, ISCOS-CISL  
Kijeld Jakobsen, TUCA  
Maurice Bossuat, CFDT  
Thierry Aerts, FGTB  
Wellington Chibebe, ITUC DGS  
Jan Dereymaeker, ITUC HQs/TUDCN Coordination  
Paola Simonetti, ITUC HQs/TUDCN Policy Officer

#### Main discussion issues:

- The FSG approved the report on the previous meeting
- The secretariat provided the activity report (narrative) on the last year, 2011
- The FSG discussed the results of the monitoring exercise on the TUDCN work (see filled in questionnaires):

#### **Strong points registered**

- In general the TUDCN is following the work plan within the time line agreed;
- In particular, Policy and advocacy activities at international and European level are adequately implemented and are responding to the strategic objectives of the network;

- Communication and information are very positive assets: there is a lot of updates and info sharing among the members of the network;

### **Issues to be tackled more strongly**

- *COMMUNICATION* Although the flow of updates is permanent and to the point, there is always the risk to limit the participation to the same people/organisations within the network because the issues addressed are often highly technical and therefore difficult to follow if not well prepared in advance. Often affiliate organisations (even the most active ones in the North) do not have enough dedicated human resources at their disposal ;
- *POLICY*
  - o Regions and national affiliates in the south are still too 'far away' from the policy debates on development cooperation. Capacity building is not sufficient to create political engagement. Political buy inn is needed both at HQs and at the regional level to uphold the strategic relevance of development cooperation within the political priorities of the organisations. This is crucial for the near future since decentralisation will be reinforced: national organisations in the south will need to be prepared to participate in policy dialogues at national/regional level (see post Busan global Partnership and EU agenda for change).
  - o Relevant non-European donor organisations in the North are still not actively participating to the TUDCN, (Japan, Australia, Korea, ...). These organisations need to be involved. A solution could be to find more convenient venues for meetings exploiting at most the back to back modality in order to limit overseas travel.
  - o The work of the TUDCN should be more prominent in the ITUC General Council agenda and discussions;
- *COORDINATION and COHERENCE*
  - o Affiliates both in the North and in South seek for more effectiveness in their development cooperation interventions. This requires higher levels, and multilateral coordination among partner organisations and specific/qualitative implementation standards. The TUDEP, elaborated within

the TUDCN, should be visible, known, and used by trade union partners both in the north and in the south. Evaluation exercise will need to be done.

→ The FSG prepared the TUDCN meeting, including roles and tasks of FSG members for chairing the different sessions

## Follow up:

⇒ The secretariat will tackle in depth the question on how to make best use of the capacity development/capacity building seminars in the South: a concept note will be drafted and submitted to the FSG (main objectives: political awareness on development cooperation and the use of the TUDEP as organisational development support tool);

⇒ The secretariat will organise a conference call/ad hoc meeting of the FSG in January/February, to discuss the concept note and define a work plan.