



# 6<sup>TH</sup> TRADE UNION-OECD DAC FORUM

30 NOVEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT

## THE ROLE OF ODA IN ENSURING AN SDG DRIVEN RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

The 6<sup>th</sup> Trade Union-DAC Forum was launched with a high-level panel involving the General Secretaries of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC), the Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the Director of the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate (DCD).

In her intervention Susanna Moorehead, DAC Chair, highlighted the importance of SDG 8 and decent work for youth and women. She underscored the challenges for Official Development Assistance (ODA) to better contribute to SDG 8. In a context of falling ODA, resources need to better target Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and there is a need to work better with the private sector. Mrs Moorehead also emphasised the need to rethink development to fight the crisis and the importance of a global recovery.

Jorge Moreira da Silva, DCD Director, underlined the importance of job creation and maintaining ODA levels, but also emphasised the role of external finance and blending, which needs to become more than crowding in public and private money and overcome the business-as-usual approach in order to reach the least developed countries and target social sectors. Mr Moreira da Silva also presented the role of transition finance and how ODA needs to be combined with different sources of finance in distinct ways at the various stages of development.

Sharan Burrow, ITUC General Secretary, emphasised the need for an inclusive recovery that builds the foundations against future shocks. She highlighted that in response to the crisis, governments should be investing in sustainable jobs to build trust. Specific investments should be undertaken in the care economy and in green jobs. Care jobs provide a capacity for good jobs and free women to participate more globally in the economy. Investments in jobs in the clean energy sector could help close the financing gap to guarantee energy access. But these need to be accompanied by social dialogue, support to universal social protection and Just Transition measures. Mrs Burrow also emphasised the importance of taxation and of debt relief with SDG alignment as the single conditionality.

## OPEN DEBATE BETWEEN DAC MEMBERS AND TRADE UNIONS

The high-level panel was followed by an open debate that started with the intervention from the Swedish DAC delegate, who showed how Sweden is working to support social dialogue and the Global Deal initiative.

The need for universal social protection as a basis for recovery in Africa was underscored by the representative from the East African Trade Union Confederation who also emphasised the



importance of adequately covering informal economy workers and looking for sustainability through a Global Fund for Social Protection. This was echoed by the DAC delegate from France who insisted on the importance of having strong social protection systems and presented the initiative on social protection for all. He also informed that France will be increasing its ODA.

The representative from the Argentinian trade union CGT (General Confederation of Labour) highlighted the urgent need for debt relief and the importance of building a resilient economy towards a Just Transition for more sustainable societies. She introduced the contribution of Argentinian trade unions which presented their government with a programme that aims to create four million jobs, decentralising the country, integrating and connecting villages and cities, and building a resilient economy in agriculture.

The Spanish DAC delegate emphasised the importance of concessional finance to strengthen health, education and social protection systems and the urgent action needed to support decent work, ensure the respect for labour rights and strengthen social protection.

Challenges in the fight against inequality in middle income countries were put forward by the trade union representative from Chile, who showed that although Chile is one of the richest countries in Latin America, it is also one of the more unequal countries in the region.

The importance of job creation was emphasised by the DAC delegate from Finland, who informed that her country would increase ODA and explained how her country is putting forward market-based solutions to provide jobs, ensuring private sector instruments focus on job creation.

Wrapping up the discussions, TUAC General Secretary, Pierre Hubbard, among others highlighted the underfunding of development cooperation and the fact that most countries are “off-track” in achieving the SDGs. He further stressed that the Covid-19 recovery must have social dialogue at the centre and should be employment rich and sustainable, taking into account social protection and the protection of the environment and climate.

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTED WAY FORWARD

At the end of the meeting, concluding remarks pointed to decent work creation, social protection and the fight against climate change as key elements in future collaboration between the DAC and TUAC. The Creditor Reporting System (CRS) [purpose codes on the Decent Work Agenda](#) adopted by the DAC in 2018 should be actively used to help us track DAC members’ efforts in these sectors.

Trade unions will contribute to these areas of work through their engagement in the DAC Community of Practice on Private Finance for Sustainable Development and the future Community of Practice on Poverty and Inequalities, in which SDG 8 should play an important role together with SDGs 1 and 10.

Avenues for future collaboration between trade unions and DAC members around the fight against climate change through investments in green jobs and a Just Transition should be further explored.