



REPORT TUDCN GENERAL MEETING 2022

15-16 June 2022

Background

The TUDCN General Meeting is the yearly global appointment of TUDCN members, aimed at assessing the results of the trade union advocacy on development policies and updating the workplan. The 2022 edition was divided into two days in online mode and counted 61 participants.

Day one, 15 June, was dedicated to: (1) assessing trade union impact in relation to the UN 2030 Agenda; (2) sharing the main outcomes of trade union engagement on the SDGs at global and regional level; and (3) sharing updates on SDGs advocacy at national level from TUDCN members. The second day, 16 June, focused on (1) financing for development in the context of multiple crises; (2) main trends of development cooperation; and (3) the TUDCN workplan 2022-2023.

All meeting documents are available [here](#).

DAY 1

Paola Simonetti (ITUC Director of the Equality Department) began the meeting by welcoming all participants and presenting the agenda. She then set the context in which the General Meeting was held, where the ITUC's narrative on SDG 8 and a new social contract is gaining traction within the United Nations, as reflected both in the UN General Secretary's report "Our Common Agenda" and his initiative of a Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.

This was followed by the first working session, entitled "Take-aways from the UN Secretary General's Our Common Agenda and the Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection". **Beate Andreess** (Special Representative to the UN and Director of the ILO Office for the UN), explained the fundamental role that the ILO is playing as the lead UN agency in the implementation of the Accelerator, particularly in promoting a common understanding among UN agencies of key concepts such as just transition and social protection, but also in defining an implementation strategy able to put jobs creation and social protection at the center of national recovery strategies and support just digital and green transitions.

The next session was devoted to union engagement with the SDGs at global and regional level. **Giulia Massobrio** (TUDCN Coordinator) shared the main results of the work achieved in the last year by the network at global level, including the advocacy around the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the UN Secretary General's Our Common Agenda, the UN Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection, and the UN Commission on Social Development. She was followed by representatives of ITUC Asia-Pacific (**Joy Hernandez**), ITUC Africa (**Eric Manzi**), TUCA (**Natalia Carrau and Marita Gonzalez**), and ETUC (**Giovanni Casale**), who shared the main outcomes of the trade union advocacy in the regional sustainable development fora, the preparations of the national SDG country reports from their affiliates, and the collaboration with ACTRAV to better interact with the UN Resident Coordinators. In particular, ITUC-AP shared the good relationship established with UN-ESCAP (including ITUC-AP participation to the UN-ESCAP Committee on Social Development), while ITUC Africa pointed out that SDG 8 is at the centre of all its political messages on sustainable recovery in Africa. On its side, TUCA highlighted



the importance of a systemic approach to the SDGs and its link with all topics of trade union advocacy. Last but not least, ETUC mentioned its “Sustainable Growth & Decent Work Index”, which is inspired on the ITUC SDG 8 Global Monitor, and flagged that SDGs are a compass of ETUC resolutions related to economic and social governance.

In the next session, TUDCN members from Spain, Costa Rica, Bulgaria, Namibia, Indonesia, Senegal, Ireland, Uruguay, Botswana, Rwanda, and the Philippines shared updates on their national advocacy work on the SDGs, showing different ways to engage with their governments and the UN Development System to promote the decent work agenda in the framework of sustainable development plans.

DAY 2

The first session of the second day, 16 June, was about financing for development in the context of multiple crises. ITUC General Secretary **Sharan Burrow** opened the session with an overview of the current situation and the many obstacles hampering adequate financing for development. She complemented her intervention by presenting the main solutions that trade unions are putting on the table, including: strengthened development cooperation with debt relief; Special Drawing Rights reallocation, liquidity swaps and direct funding support; fair taxation and trade rules, along with due diligence laws for business accountability.

Burrow’s intervention was followed by a presentation by **Navid Hanif** (Director, UN Financing for Development Office), who presented the outcome document of the UN Financing for Development Forum 2022 and his perspective on the key financing challenges to rescue the SDGs. He highlighted the importance of hearing trade union voices as an imperative, and encouraged unions to continue supporting the achievement of the SDGs by (1) ensuring that they are integrated in national development strategies, including financial framework decisions; (2) keeping governments and employers accountable to commit to their development promises; (3) championing the fight against poverty and inequalities by promoting universal social protection and just transition; and (4) keep providing inputs to UN discussions on financing for development.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion on the main trends in development cooperation, led by **Diego López** (Coordinator of Development Cooperation Policies, TUDCN). He explained how development cooperation is reacting to the different crises that are emerging, such as the pandemic, conflicts and looming food and energy crises, and how these crises are affecting the way donors are counting their official development assistance (ODA). He presented the processes in which unions are engaging to promote their views on this matter and provided information about the next steps that the network will follow with the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to the OECD, the European Union and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).

The last item on the agenda was the presentation of the TUDCN workplan 2022-2023 by **Giulia Massobrio** (TUDCN Coordinator), including priorities for national, regional and global advocacy, as well as the timeline of main events foreseen (see [slides 15-21](#)).

Paola Simonetti (ITUC Director of the Equality Department) closed the meeting by thanking all participants for their commitment to the work of the ITUC/TUDCN.

The next General Meeting will take place in 2023.