

# GOOD PRACTICES IN TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

16 NOVEMBER 13.00 -15.30 PM CET

WEBINAR

## Report

Co-organised between the TUDCN and the three Belgian trade unions (CSC, CGSLB and FGTB), the event had two main objectives:

- **To share best practices in trade union development cooperation interventions and exchange on ways to improve our ways of working**
- **To discuss ways of capitalising good practices in trade union development cooperation.**

After a short presentation of the work the TUDCN is doing on the SDGs and how the network supports its members, the focus of the discussion shifted to how we can capitalise good practices in trade union development cooperation and how to improve the visibility of these best practices of the network to showcase trade unions' positive contribution to the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Thereafter, 14 organisations presented their best practices.

Losi Zingiswa, president of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) talked about the work that unions have accomplished to bring home a common national minimum wage for all workers, replacing the previous system which was suffering from the heritage of the apartheid period and improving the life of millions of workers.

The Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL) and the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU) have joined forces against child labour in Somalia. The project provides local actors with a comprehensive eight-step action plan to structure their work in this field.

On the same topic, the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) presented the project that they have been running across the country to eradicate child labour in cocoa plantations and gold mines. This work is done together with their affiliated organisations at regional and local level, and has led to broader alliances with local civil society organisations.

In Indonesia, the Confederation of All Indonesian Trade Unions (KSBSI) is strengthening women participation across its structures throughout the country. This work is supported by the Belgian CSC.

The president of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Burundi (COSYBU), Celestin Nsavyimana, presented the work that Burundi's trade unions are doing on Just Transition with the support of the CGSLB.

In India, the Self Employed Women Association (SEWA) has developed a new organising strategy that is transforming the way women active in the informal economy are

organising themselves, putting more emphasis on the local connectivity among women active in different sectors rather than on the sectors themselves. This project is supported by the Swedish solidarity support organisation Union to Union.

Meanwhile in Africa, the Rwanda Workers' Trade Union Confederation (CESTRAR) told about the innovative project it is running in collaboration with the ministry of education. The aim is to identify informal workers who have the practical skills to pursue a trade or profession and provide them the necessary training to be officially certified by the ministry of education. This certification enables them to engage in salary negotiations and access their rights.

Still on informality, Senegal's General Confederation of Workers (CNTS) spoke about the work they have done to ensure that the government includes an informal economy perspective in the review of the national labour law and related legislations.

From the Dominican Republic, the Autonomous Confederation of Christian of Class-conscious Trade Unions (CASC) talked about a project to help and support young workers entering the labour market. This project is supported by Belgium's CSC and its solidarity organisation We Social Movement (WSM).

In Benin, the Autonomous Confederation of Trade Unions (CSA) made a successful use of social dialogue to convince the government to expand a social protection programme that was meant to benefit the poorest among Beninois nationals to also include migrants residing in the country, most of whom are working in the informal economy in very difficult conditions.

The Danish Trade Union Development Agency (DTDA) presented an innovative project on strengthening social dialogue in East Africa, which includes the involvement of Denmark's both social partners. Initially, the programme has been developed to support Uganda's social partners (NOTU and FUE), the good results of this project have led to implement it in Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Rwanda and Burundi.

Vocational training was the topic of the project presented by the Confederation of German Trade Unions (DGB). The aim is to strengthen trade unions' role in the governance of vocational training and improve the quality of such trainings through social dialogue and the development of dedicated tools.

Several representatives from the Argentinian trade unions (CGT, CTA-A, and CTA-T) described the union-led civil society alliance for sustainable development that led to the creation of the Argentinian Platform to Monitor the 2030 Agenda (Pampa2030) and the work that this platform is currently doing with cities and local communities to implement the 2030 Agenda at local level.

Finally, ASI Venezuela talked about the several projects and campaigns they are conducting to promote the implementation of the SDGs in the country and strengthen unions' profile as central actors of development, including impacting positively the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Venezuela.

At the end of the event, participants agreed that there are many good practices within the network, and that there is a need to capitalise these and explore ways to better accompany existing processes in order to enrich the trade union movement.



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