



## ACTIVITY REPORT

### Africa Trade Union Development Network Steering Committee Meeting FOPADESC CENTRE LOME – TOGO 6th and 7th OCTOBER 2016

#### Participants List:

No	Name	Organisation	Gender	
			Male	Female
1	Wellington Chibebe	DGS – ITUC Brussels	√	
2	Kwasi Adu-Amankwah	SG – ITUC Africa	√	
3	Adrien Akouete	DGS – ITUC Africa	√	
4	Hilma Mote	ITUC – Africa		√
5	Alex Nkosi	ITUC – Africa	√	
6	Cecile Coly	UN SAS – Senegal		√
7	Kamadji Demba Karyom	UST - Chad		√
8	Naomi Chakanya	LEDRIZ - Zimbabwe		√
9	Rhayem Nawfel	Tunisia	√	
10	Guy Hunt	ITUC – Africa	√	
11	Chris Uyt	NLC – Nigeria	√	
12	Paliani Chinguwo	SATUCC - Botswana	√	
13	Stephano Mwaiko	EATUC - Tanzania	√	
14	Theodore Morrissey	ITUC – Brussels	√	
15	Diego Lopez	ITUC – Brussels	√	
16	Mamadou Coulibaly	Mali	√	

#### Apologies:

1	Kwabena Otto	TU - Ghana	√	
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#### Absent:

1	Zanele Matebule	TU – South Africa		√
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#### 1. Introduction

##### Opening Remarks:

The meeting started with an opening reflection led by Alex Nkosi. This was followed by opening remarks by Comrade Kwasi Adu-Amankwah, the General Secretary of ITUC – Africa. In his remarks he stressed on the pivotal role that the ATUDN steering committee ought to play in coordinating and steering the Africa Trade Union development network. He also highlighted the importance of the **Equipping African trade unions for inclusive development policy engagement project** vis-à-vis how it will go a long way in enabling the African trade unions to effectively engage in development discourse. This was followed by remarks by Comrade Wellington Chibebe the Deputy Secretary General of ITUC. He started off by saying that TUDCN is a coalition of the willing and is



structured in a manner that ensures decentralisation. In his remarks, he dwelled on the potential outcomes that the aforementioned project ought to bring to bear and how the ATUDN Steering Committee can facilitate that process. He highlighted the fact that the focus of the project is on the regional development networks as representatives of the global south. Comrade Adrien wrapped up the opening remarks by welcoming all the participants to Lome and insisted on the importance of delivering the results for the project.

### **Objectives:**

The meeting aimed at:

- a. Taking stock of ATUDN members' engagement on Agenda 2030
- b. Launch the work on monitoring and implementation of Agenda 2030 at national and sub-regional level
- c. Present the ATUDN work plan and highlight key priorities for the coming year

### **Attendance:**

The meeting was attended by 16 people of which 12 were males and 4 were females. There was 1 apology and 1 person did not attend.

## **2. Background**

The steering committee met in relation to the Equipping African trade unions for inclusive development policy engagement project. This project aims at developing and strengthening the capacity of African trade unions for active engagement in the African development agenda in favour of economic structural transformation, employment creation and equitable economic development at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. The Steering committee, being the coordinating body of ATUDN, met to review its previous work and strategize for the project implementation. There was also a capacity building component to the meeting on communication and advocacy.

## **3. Description of the activity**

### **➤ ATUDN work and recap of previous meetings:**

Hilma Mote facilitated the recap of ATUDN previous meetings. She started by stating that we want to contribute to a new development paradigm. And for that to happen, there is an urgent need to enhance capacity of the Trade Unions for able engagement in development discourse noting that currently the capacity thereof is not very strong in Africa. It was also observed that the ATUDN network is functional and working very well. While the work of the network is critical, it was pinpointed that the network is only a starting point, but the action for the project will mainly be at national level. Then she went ahead to present a brief report on the work that the network has done (Ref. Annex 3) after which the objectives for the meeting were presented.

**Observation/Conclusion:** It was observed that the project has barely started but already has registered tremendous progress in preparation for its implementation. It was thus hoped that once it is up and running, it will effectively contribute towards bolstering the trade union's participation in the agenda 2030 and ensure that all key trade union priorities enshrined therein are implemented and monitored with due Trade Union's participation.



### **Overview on the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN): global strategy 2016-2020.**

Diego highlighted the main achievements of TUDN to date, and these included the following:

- Trade Unions priorities included in development policies
- Trade unions recognised as development actors in their own right
- Trade Unions influence CSOs and development community
- Innovative trade union international solidarity partnerships
- Regional development networks are created
- Trade Unions engage in advocacy oriented research

And the challenges which confront the TUDN were also highlighted and included the following:

- Very weak willingness to tackle systemic coherence of policies
- Vague commitments
- Voluntary accountability mechanisms
- Strong role of business/privatisation/tied aid
- Diverting ODA resources

After which he talked about some strategies in strengthening coordination and synergies across global, regional and national levels. This included the following:

- The role of the regional development networks (RDNs): Elaboration of engagement strategies and work plans on both contents and governance
- National organizations' increased involvement in development discourse and they need to be proactive at national level, as well as, in contributing to the life of the network i.e. working groups and other gatherings of the network
- Outreach and visibility strategy (internal/external-Equal Times)
- Increased synergies across relevant areas (i.e. trade/human rights etc.) to grant holistic approach to development

### **The implementation of Agenda 2030 in Africa: the role of regional and sub-regional institutions, and mobilization on Agenda 2030**

Alex Nkosi made a presentation on the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Africa: the role of regional and sub-regional institutions, and mobilization on Agenda 2030. He started by saying that we need to know how the regional and sub-regional institutions operate. He then presented the AU Structure, AU organs, UNECA, ADB, RECSs structures and talked about the AU 54 member states. After that he talked about convergence of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs and demonstrated how the 2063 Agenda is actually in sync with the aspirations of the Agenda 2030.

Regarding the engagement of regional and sub-regional governments Alex highlighted the need to find entry points and appropriate strategies to use, stressing that different institutions require different strategies. He then gave examples of entry points i.e. different commissions: National assembly portfolio, Ministries of Finance Planning and Development, National budget consultation forum, National employment committee, Social security or protection commission, National climate change committee, SDG Committee, Social dialogue platform or labour advisory forum.



Regarding the strategies to use, he highlighted the following:

1. Petitions, (b) lobbying MPs, (c) workshops with MPs on Agenda 2030, technical support.

He then mentioned the critical initial steps in ensuring that the Agenda 2030 is implemented at the national level. These are:

- Domestication of SDGs, facilitate the incorporation of A2030 into national plans.
- Popularisation of the SDGs by building awareness.

### **What sub-regional Organisations are doing on SDGs:**

During this session, different Trade Union sub-regional organisations were asked to share their experiences in working on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – highlighting the successes registered and challenges faced – and how these can be amplified (successes) and ameliorated (challenges).

### **East African Community (5 countries active member):**

Stephano Mwaiko reported that regarding the domestication of SDGs to integrate them with the national development plans, Uganda has started with brainstorming workshops on how to include SDGs in the plans. Some unions have been involved in these meetings, but they lack capacity to ably engage on SDGs. He further mentioned that EATUC is considering building their capacity to engage on SDGs. The same issue of weak capacity was noted with unions in Tanzania. Regarding the way forward, EATUC plans to build the capacity of its affiliates.

### **Southern Africa:**

Regarding Southern Africa, Paliani Chinguwo reported that the space is available for trade unions to engage. At the sub-regional level, there is the SADC observatory (established in 2013 as an MSH forum for monitoring the MDGs, now the focus is Agenda 2030 and 2063). The body provides regional best practices and information on what is happening in each country. However, he mentioned that there is lack of participation of Trade Unions, or where they are involved, there is no meaningful engagement. Having said that, there's been an initiative to institutionalise the engagement of TUs and CSOs in this process but the process has been very slow and the mechanisms haven't been finalised. This is still in the consultation process.

Encouragingly, Southern African TUs collaborate with CSOs and convene annually at the CSO forum, to provide inputs. One of the issues discussed is Agenda 2030 and how TUs and CSOs can collaborate. An action plan was developed collectively on how to move ahead. Points of action for the next year are:

1. Ensure that TUs (through SATUCC affiliates) enables their affiliates to participate at national level.
2. Collect and disseminate information on A2030 and AU A2063, to report to the sub-regional level.
3. Agreement to come up with a baseline of poverty indicators.



### **Central Africa**

Comrade Demba intimated that in Central Africa there is an observatory status in the CEMAC, 3 unionists are working there. They are trying to see what the expectations of States are on this. The challenge now for States is to adapt the 2063 Agenda at the national level.

### **Western Africa**

Comrade Christ reported that Nigeria has a project on climate change and would like to use it to engage governments on the issue of climate change. They are also engaging in coalitions with CSOs and they have been involved in discussions with governments regarding the domestication of SDGs.

### **Presentation of the results of the exploratory survey:**

Alex presented the results of the exploratory survey which was administered to the members of the Steering Committee. Recommendations and conclusions are presented. These included the following:

#### **Conclusions:**

- The results show that there is considerable knowledge regarding the Agenda 2030 among the trade unions.
- Trade Unions have clear understanding of Agenda 2030 priorities.
- Trade Unions are cognizant of the implications of the Agenda 2030.
- There are already efforts being made by Trade Unions to engage governments on the 2030 Agenda.
- Advocacy and general capacity to engage is generally wanting.

#### **Recommendations:**

There is need to strengthen the following:

- Advocacy skills.
- Training: simplified materials or training manuals for trade unions specifically on agenda 2030
- Training in evidence-based advocacy
- Training in (a) policy making, (b) advocacy and (c) policy brief development

### **Reactions from participants on survey results:**

Anne Cécile: the survey was useful in showing the organisation's leadership in as far as participation in the implementation of the SDGs is concerned. The results clearly show that that people were not yet fully engaged on the 2030 Agenda. This only urges us that something has to be done on Agenda 2030.

Naome: Trade unions have to research to see what the government is doing and on the basis of that engage the government. The SDG ILO Academy was very useful and people need information, so she used the information she got to share knowledge with people in her union. There was a resolution on SDG 8 in the ZCTU Congress.



### **TUDCN Strategy on Agenda 2030**

Diego presented on the TUDN strategy on the Agenda 2030. He highlighted that the strategy aims to meet three objectives, namely:

1. Mobilization and engagement: this ensures familiarization with the Agenda 2030.
2. Advocacy and Implementation: Trade union influence on the Agenda 2030, especially through social dialogue.
3. Monitoring and Reporting: Trade union reports on SDGs.

He also enumerated the Trade Unions priorities in the Agenda 2030 and highlighted the following goals as priorities: (a) SDG1: poverty, (b) SDG5: gender (c) SDG 8: decent work (d) SDG10: inequality (e) SDG13: climate (f) SDG16: inclusive societies

### **Participants inputs to the strategy presentation:**

The participants welcome the TUDN strategy but also suggested concrete steps through which the strategy can be made more effective i.e. by writing policy briefs, press statements, the use of media and social media, advocacy meetings. There was also a mention of the fact that trade unions have been more consumers of information but now, they ought to be suppliers of information.

Some of the challenges which were flagged out in making the engagement more effective are: Mass actions, research, creation of alliances, capacity development, financial resources, macroeconomic environment; limited or lack of political will from governments, but also from trade unions: affiliates focus on the issues of wages, but we need to increase awareness among unions. Forge political interest among SDGs. Use our voice and numbers for advocacy.

### **Communication and Outreach**

Alex, Theodore and Joan presented on communication and how it is cardinal to the popularisation and implementation of the Agenda 2030. Alex's presentation focused on why a communications strategy is important. It highlighted the internal and external communications, steps in a communications strategy, learning from others: good and bad strategies and why it is important to be both proactive and reactive in communications. Theo and Joan went on to explicate the TUDN communication tools and how such can be utilised.

### **Reactions from participants on communication presentations:**

Anne Cecile: She pointed out that coordination is crucial for the project to work. She mentioned that there is need for more training on communication, given the interest it has generated and that it is important that all members have the basic knowledge on topics and tools.

Adrien: He pinpointed that the steering committee has a big role to play, as their members represent all sub-regions and countries therein. He further noted that this work plan must allow us to move forward.

Hilma shared participation in meetings related to ATUDN work. She mentioned that promoting the work of ATUDN can be done at informal and formal level and encouraged people to subscribe to social media platforms, particularly the Facebook Group that will be created. Reporting is important, also when activity is not organised by ITUC Africa. Mobilization and building partnerships with other networks is very useful.





### ATUDN modus operandi: roles and responsibilities:

It was observed that the primary membership of ATUDN is the individual, not an organization; however, the first does not override the latter. Membership is voluntary. To that effect, participants were asked what the role of the steering committee should be. Below are the responses proffered.

### What should be the role of the SC?

French Group	English Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Share the vision, mission and experience</li> <li>▪ Implementation of 2030 Agenda strategy</li> <li>▪ Communicate with members and among SC members</li> <li>▪ Find solution for decent work</li> <li>▪ Leadership for functioning of SC</li> <li>▪ Conception of strategy for the ATUDCN to work: training, communication, advocacy</li> <li>▪ How to participate in awareness raising on development policies, with stress on A2030 at all levels</li> <li>▪ Training campaign with and within network members, at national level</li> <li>▪ Advocacy for permanent presence of unions in regional and sub-regional organisations</li> <li>▪ Partnership with other networks via ITUC, ITUC Africa and others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Coordinating the implementation of activities and its reporting</li> <li>▪ Representation of the network at sub-regional level</li> <li>▪ Dissemination of information from national to regional level and vice versa</li> <li>▪ Participating in national platforms discussing issues related to SDGs</li> <li>▪ Influence policy development process</li> <li>▪ Awareness raising on SDGs, global trade union agenda, climate change, etc. Can use existing media platforms at national level (newspapers)</li> <li>▪ Research, provided there are resources available</li> <li>▪ Training, profiting from past experiences with international partners. Time to conduct our own trainings</li> </ul>

#### 4. Methodology

The meeting was an intensive 2 days working session in plenary and breakout sessions. Different facilitators guided the sessions.

#### 5. Conclusions

Moving forward, the meeting agreed to undertake a number of activities by way of implementing the project. A proposed workplan (see annex 4) was adopted but also the following activities were to be undertaken:

- Complete the exploratory survey for those who are yet to complete
- Secretariat to expand the target group for the survey
- Administer a rolling survey to the members of the Network (time frames)
- Pamphlet of the strategy will be sent to all SC members next month: for awareness raising and mobilising of members and leadership
- Advocacy toolkit in the next two months (to be sent)
- Engagement with national governments on the basis of the advocacy tool kit
- Finalisation of the webpage
- Prepare for the HLM2



Comrade Adrien made closing remarks. He talked about the broader challenges that Africa faces. These include governance challenge and democratic ownership, security, fragility and resilience. He then encouraged the meeting to think of ways in which we can tackle some of these challenges while implementing the project. He then thanked ITUC, the Steering committee members and the secretariat for organising a successful meeting. Comrade Wellington Chibebe wrapped up the meeting by intimating that power or rights are not given on a silver plate, we have to fight for them. If people are not aware of their rights, we should blame ourselves. Very few know water, electricity, education are rights.

ENDS.