



TU-DAC FORUM

21 MARCH 2017

***The role of the DAC in the changing development landscape
and in pursuit of achieving the Agenda 2030***

SUMMARY REPORT

Meeting documents: www.ituc-csi.org/TU-DAC-forum-2017

SESSION 1: THE DAC IN A NEW ERA OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The DAC's work in the context of the Agenda 2030, multi-stakeholder partnerships

The first part of this session touched upon reforming the DAC to respond to the Agenda 2030. To achieve this, the DAC convened a High Level Panel for a New DAC in a Changing World, which put outreach and engagement among the main pillars of this reform process to improve its work and relevance. The principles of transparency, accountability and inclusivity were emphasised as well as the need to improve engagement with Civil Society.

Recommendations from the panel included improving the quality and outcomes of consultations to make them more meaningful, developing outputs that have an end user focus and increasing Policy Coherence with other work areas in the OECD. It was also highlighted that, as a matter of good institutional practice at the OECD, the participation of trade unions is requested when the private sector is involved.

Also emerging was the idea that the expansive nature of the 2030 Agenda requires a more co-ordinated approach that breaks down silos of policy making and in which partnerships will play an important role.

The second part of the session focussed on multi-stakeholder partnerships in the context of the 2030 Agenda. A representative from the Government of the Netherlands presented their efforts on promoting decent work in global supply chains. These efforts are rooted in a multi-stakeholder approach, with trade unions and civil society, and based on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Following this, the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) informed participants that specific research into the contribution of social dialogue to the 2030 Agenda is underway. The focus of this year's research will focus on the contributions of social dialogue to formalising the informal economy, with a special emphasis on social protection.

SESSION 2: THE DAC ROLE IN TRACKING SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Part I: ODA Modernisation of PSI and the implications

The first part of this session highlighted the broad contours of the discussion on ODA Modernisation of Private Sector Instruments. It was suggested that the main objective of this work is to encourage the use of private sector instruments without inflating ODA or undervaluing investments. Some of the key issues under discussion are additionality, competition safeguards and ODA credit calculations.

A presentation on how the Italian Government has been engaging the private sector in development co-operation followed. The representative informed participants that this has been carried out through the council of Italian co-operation, which brings together private for-profit and non-profit development actors, and included the establishment of a Development Finance Institution (DFI). It was highlighted that the Italian DFI will promote responsible business conduct and include criteria such as the adherence to international and ILO standards, OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises and UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

A key idea which emerged from the discussion was the need to have a risk assessment and risk prevention approach, including due diligence, when there is support to the private sector. It was emphasised that the respect for core labour standards should be a fundamental criterion, backed up by safeguard mechanisms in case of non-respect. As a conclusion to this discussion, it was noted that we cannot separate investment on one side and decent work on the other.

Part II: How do donors support Decent Work and how do they monitor this?

The second part of this session started with an overview of the efforts made by the Development Co-operation Directorate to adjust the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) classifications to help monitor development co-operation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While mapping the CRS classifications with the SDGs is a difficult exercise, due to the fundamental difference in their natures (inputs vs. outcomes), the vast majority of the SDG goals and targets are covered in the CRS classification. Some gaps, however, do exist. Also, because the SDGs are broader than ODA, some adjustments to the classifications may also need to be made for Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD).

This was followed by a presentation of the research undertaken by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) for the TUDCN entitled 'How do donors support the Decent Work Agenda'. The forum was informed that there are no purpose codes capturing the entire Decent Work Agenda so a proxy approach had to be used in this study. The conclusions highlighted that measurement is important even if it is not straight forward, as donors contribute to the Decent Work Agenda but do not label it as such. The key recommendations focused on placing the Decent Work Agenda more centrally in agencies' policies, mapping programmes against the Decent Work Agenda and reporting on the



financial resources to Decent Work commitments. A Decent Work marker was proposed as a way to contribute to this last point and to overcome the main obstacles in tracking progress in this area.

Support for the decent work marker was shown in light of the review of the DAC reporting system. The questions would be where to put it and when to put it, as the Decent Work Agenda is spread throughout the 2030 Agenda. The weak spots are usually the social dialogue and freedom of association elements, so it was suggested to relate it to targets 8.5 and 8.8.

The Government of France's support to decent work through its development policy was discussed, as one of the examples taken up in the research. The representative suggested that there have been important advances with respect to decent work, which is one of the objectives of the French development policy. For example, it was noted that trade unions are now clearly recognised as development actors and a new law on due diligence has been passed. However, in contrast to the overall intention it was noted that funds for decent work have decreased and are low compared to other donors.

The issue of how contributions to the ILO are reported was also discussed. It was suggested to reconcile ILO information with what donors report.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTED WAY FORWARD

The relevance of this forum, as a unique space for dialogue on key development issues, was reaffirmed in the concluding remarks.

The participation of DAC members in the TUDCN future work on evidence-based research on the role of social dialogue in achieving the SDGs was encouraged. The findings of this work will be shared within the next potential forum, highlighting elements for policy drivers.

The willingness of trade unions to take part in the process on the modernisation of ODA was underlined. There was a clear expression of interest on the side of the TUDCN to engage in the process to elaborate principles on blended finance as well as on the definition of engagement criteria with Development Finance Institutions.

The findings and recommendations of the joint TUDCN and ODI research, entitled 'How do donors support the Decent Work Agenda?' offer a channel for potential follow up, especially relating to how the OECD tracks donor contributions. The DAC's role in tracking support to the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda can promote a more balanced approach to employment support and ensure greater policy coherence.

Finally, it was emphasised that the engagement between the DAC and trade unions should be continued and that the ODI study, decent work and social dialogue offer potential areas for future collaboration.