

## Trade Union comments on the European Commission DISCUSSION PAPER IN PREPARATION OF THE FUTURE THEMATIC PROGRAMME ON GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS AND CHALLENGES 2014-2020

*The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN), an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), bringing together affiliated trade union organisations, solidarity support organisations, the regional ITUC organisations from Africa, Latin America, Asia Pacific and Europe, the Global Union Federations-GUFs (sector unions), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC), took note of the above-mentioned discussion paper and offers the following inputs:*

1. Following the definition of “public” goods provided by UNDP (p. 3), we would like to stress that Global Public Goods (GPG) management must respond to public interests and priorities, to ensure everybody’s access to GPG as a human right. Collective rights are public rights and therefore should be based on human-rights commitments, respecting policy coherence for development.
2. We recommend that the three mutually supporting dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental) are fully reflected throughout the whole paper. The document mentions “inclusive sustainable growth” and “inclusive green growth” (both World Bank’s concepts), instead of referring to the “sustainable development” holistic framework. Growth in terms of GDP increase is neither able to solve the multiple crises we face, nor to ensure human rights of current and future generations within planetary boundaries.
3. We are worried about the reference to “better jobs” creation as part of the human, social and economic development (page 6). Whenever the EC refers to jobs creation as an objective of its development programmes, we call for a direct, explicit reference to the ILO Decent Work definition, based on four strategic pillars (fundamental rights at work, employment opportunities, social protection and social dialogue) and two crosscutting principles (gender equality and non-discrimination); this is coherent with the EC Agenda for Change.
4. We deeply regret their omission in area three (Human, Social and Economic Development, p. 6). We strongly demand prioritising the role of social dialogue and social partners specifically referring to themes like employment, social protection and social inclusion. We advocate the inclusion of capacity development support and capacity building of social partners in the interest of reinforcing national social dialogue structures and processes as cornerstones for effective and inclusive development.
5. We propose an additional theme to be included in the Flagship Programmes on "Decent Work and Social Protection". This would bring a holistic, inclusive and rights-based approach (coherence between rights at work, social protection, social dialogue, decent employment creation and equitable growth) responding to the sustainability of development as opposite to isolating “jobs” only as a production factor. The increasing labour market deregulation in Europe itself (informality, exploitation, working poor) proves this need true. This flagship programme should see social partners as direct implementers both at global, regional and national level.

6. We are profoundly concerned about any partnership involving the private sector in GPG management, as the private sector's profit-driven approach is hardly compatible with the human-rights based approach needed in order for GPG to be "public" and "global". In this respect we reiterate our messages<sup>1</sup> on private sector involvement: compliance with ILO labour standards and environmental commitments, social dialogue, corporate accountability/transparency, country ownership, and development effectiveness principles must be the key compulsory criteria for any participation of private-sector actors in development programmes.
7. Likewise, we are afraid that promoting a "mix of aid modalities" (including "innovative financial instruments", "grants and loans") will blur delivery responsibilities, transparency and accountability of development effectiveness, while facilitating public goods privatisation and overlooking risks associated with "blending", in particular the potential that public finance becomes in practice a new instrument for tied aid and public subsidy to European businesses operating in developing countries.
8. Finally, we recommend that the role of CSOs takes a more prominent role in the GPGC programme. CSOs contribute to inclusive and sustainable global development outcomes as actor of development on their own right, their own mandate and their own specificity (as in the case of social partners). The effective recognition of access to GPG as a RIGHT requires clear commitments and sound regulation both at the national and international level. We consider that CSOs contribution in designing and monitoring such regulation framework is essential.

Brussels, 18/12/13

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<sup>1</sup>See trade union response to the EC Roadmap on the 'Communication on "Strengthening the Role of the Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries" [http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/tu\\_statement\\_ec\\_roadmap\\_private\\_sector\\_inclusive\\_sustainable\\_growth .pdf](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/tu_statement_ec_roadmap_private_sector_inclusive_sustainable_growth.pdf)