

TRADE UNION MESSAGES TO THE GPEDC SENIOR-LEVEL MEETING

New York, USA, 13 – 14 July 2019



2019 SENIOR-LEVEL
MEETING (SLM)

13-14 JULY, NEW YORK



The 2019 Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) Senior-Level Meeting (SLM) will be an important step towards better alignment of the development effectiveness agenda with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the framework of this meeting, trade unions remain committed to the principles of the Partnership and believe it can be strengthened by:

- Scaling up its contribution to the UN **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)** through making development cooperation more effective;
- Reaffirming the **aid and development effectiveness principles and commitments** since the Paris, Accra, Busan, Mexico and Nairobi aid effectiveness fora as the foundation of the GPEDC;
- Continuing to strengthen the **monitoring process** on the implementation of the effective development cooperation commitments to better align it with the SDGs, simplify it and adapt it to specific contexts;
- Continuing to champion **decent work**, the **human rights-based approach**, and the **enabling environment for civil society**;
- Promoting and learning from **social dialogue** as an established multi-stakeholder partnership that links the development effectiveness principles to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Implementing the **Kampala Principles** as a tool that ensures that private sector engagement is in line with the development effectiveness principles and internationally agreed human rights norms and standards; and
- Strengthening and renewing the **GPEDC work streams** through a more inclusive participation and a specific focus on the enabling environment for civil society organisations and the “unfinished business”.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

The GPEDC plays a specific role in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AAAA by living up to the principles and fulfilling the commitments that are at the basis of its existence, namely improving effective development cooperation.

Reaffirming the Aid and Development Effectiveness Principles and Commitments

The 2019 Progress report shows that challenges still remain in the areas of an enabling environment, the alignment to country systems, the predictability of aid and the untying of all aid. These are core elements of the development effectiveness agenda and are part of the “unfinished business” that needs to be addressed to move forward in effective development cooperation for the SDGs.

Strengthening the Monitoring Process in Order to Strengthen the GPEDC

The monitoring framework is the cornerstone of the GPEDC and is unique in its orientation towards contributing to behavioural change. In this sense, the monitoring process should continue to be strengthened to better reflect the totality of the aid and development effectiveness commitments. To guarantee an effective participation of all the different GPEDC stakeholders, the process should be simplified with indicators that are more adequate, and the framework should be adapted to different country contexts. More alignment between the 2030 Agenda Voluntary National Reviews and the monitoring process is needed.

Pursuing Decent Work, Respecting Human Rights and Providing an Enabling Environment for Civil Society

As stated in the Nairobi Outcome Document, “Our vision is consistent with agreed international commitments on environmental sustainability, human rights, decent work, gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination.” For trade unions, inclusive development means creating decent work and undertaking a human rights-based approach to development. Human rights serve as the foundation of the 2030 Agenda, and the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) underpins the development effectiveness agenda. Fundamental to this is an enabling environment for trade union organisations: one that is grounded in the promotion and respect of fundamental rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining, and the right to organise, as well as in facilitation of dialogue with institutions contributing to governance and accountability. The GPEDC needs to continue to be a champion of the enabling environment for trade unions and civil society, particularly at the national level and through development cooperation efforts.

Promoting Social Dialogue for an Effective Development Cooperation

Social dialogue between governments, employers’ and workers’ representatives is a key multi-stakeholder partnership that makes a fundamental contribution to the principles that are at the heart of the development effectiveness agenda, namely those of ownership, inclusive partnerships and accountability. As reflected in the Nairobi Outcome Document, social dialogue is a fundamental part of the development effectiveness agenda, and it is a fundamental tool to guarantee that the development effectiveness principles contribute to achieve the SDGs.

The Kampala Principles for Private Sector Engagement

The Kampala Principles recognise the importance of the respect for freedom of association and collective bargaining, the need to perform due diligence and the respect for core labour standards and responsible business conduct instruments when engaging with the private sector in development cooperation. The Kampala Principles constitute a consensus within the GPEDC for the engagement of the private sector and should be followed up and implemented by its constituents. To monitor their implementation, a revision of the current indicator three of the monitoring process on the contribution of the private sector to development should be made on the basis of the Kampala Principles.

Strengthening and Renewing the GPEDC Work Streams

Since Nairobi, the GPEDC has been maintaining momentum through the different work streams. The work streams constitute spaces for the GPEDC stakeholders to continue their engagement between High Level Meetings (HLM); however, the level of engagement and success has been varying between different work streams. Renewing and strengthening the work streams to guarantee an effective participation of all stakeholders should be a priority until the next HLM. The renewal of the work streams should look into the “unfinished business” of the GPEDC. Tackling the enabling environment for civil society organisations, the alignment to country systems, the predictability of aid and the untying of all aid should be a priority for the GPEDC in this period, considering the poor results shown by the 2019 progress report in these areas.

The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) is an initiative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), bringing together affiliated trade union organisations, solidarity support organisations, regional ITUC organisations, the Global Union Federations (GUFs), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC). TUDCN's objective is to bring the trade union perspective into the international development policy debates and improve the coordination and effectiveness of trade union development cooperation activities.

Le Réseau syndical de coopération au développement (RSCD) est une initiative de la Confédération syndicale internationale (CSI) réunissant des organisations syndicales affiliées, des organisations de solidarité, les organisations régionales de la CSI, ainsi que les Fédérations syndicales internationales (les fédérations sectorielles - FSI), la Confédération européenne des syndicats (CES) et la Commission syndicale consultative auprès de l'OCDE (TUAC). Le RSCD a pour but de traduire la perspective syndicale dans les débats sur la politique en matière de développement international et d'améliorer la coordination et l'efficacité des activités syndicales dans le domaine de la coopération au développement.

La **Red Sindical de Cooperación al Desarrollo (RSCD)** es una iniciativa de la Confederación Sindical Internacional (CSI), que agrupa a diversas organizaciones sindicales afiliadas, organizaciones solidarias (OS), organizaciones regionales de la CSI, las Federaciones Sindicales Internacionales (FSI), la Confederación Europea de Sindicatos (CES) y la Comisión Sindical Consultiva ante la OCDE (TUAC). El objetivo de la red es aportar la perspectiva sindical a los debates políticos y mejorar la coordinación y la eficacia de las actividades sindicales relacionadas con la cooperación al desarrollo.



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