

TUDCN EU WORKING GROUP

“HALFWAY TO 2030: A TRADE UNION TAKE ON THE EU AND SDGs”

9-10 MAY, 2023 BRUSSELS

Background

In the framework of the [Trade Union Development Cooperation Network \(TUDCN\)](#), European trade union organizations have been actively engaged in advocacy on the SDGs, with the joint support of the ITUC and the ETUC.

Since 2019, the ITUC [Time for 8 Campaign](#) has been putting forward the importance of SDG 8 in the recovery from the current multiple crises. ITUC affiliates' engagement in this campaign translated into an [incredible mobilisation of trade union leaders and workers](#) to emphasize the role of the trade unions as development actors and the importance of SDG 8 to leverage the overall Agenda 2030. The Campaign has also been a space to voice the priorities of European trade unions towards their governments and the European Union to accelerate action on the SDGs both at country level and through EU development cooperation.

An important component of our action has been focused on SDG monitoring, through the [SDG trade union country reports](#) (which provide an independent assessment on the state of play of SDGs in European countries) and the EU [SDG 8 Index](#) (which monitors the level of achievement of SDG 8 in the European Union and provides policy recommendations to accelerate action). At the same time, we have been monitoring EU development cooperation policies and providing guidance to foster their alignment with the 2030 Agenda and SDG 8 in particular.

In this context, 2023 offers key opportunities to analyze the EU performance on the SDGs: for the first time the EU will present its Voluntary Review on the SDGs (EU-VR) to the UN [High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York](#) (July 2023), which is the official UN monitoring mechanism of the 2030 Agenda. In response to the EU-VR, the ITUC and ETUC will produce a joint trade union “shadow” report with the trade union view on where the EU stands on the SDGs; the first draft will be discussed in the TUDCN EU Working Group Meeting, to be finalized by June and launched at the HLPF.

Moreover, this year the European Commission will conduct the mid-term review of the main instrument on EU Development Cooperation (NDICI-Global Europe), which overarching objective is to promote the SDGs and the Paris Agreement through EU development cooperation. The TUDCN EU Working Group will then discuss the state of play of EU development cooperation (NDICI-Global Europe, Global Gateway, private sector in development cooperation) and provide a space to update the advocacy strategy.

Objectives

- Share updates on trade union advocacy on the SDGs at the national and European level
- Provide inputs to the draft of the TUDCN SDG Report on the EU (shadow report of the EU Voluntary Review on the SDGs to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York), which first draft will be discussed in the meeting, to be finalized by June to be launched at the HLPF;
- Discuss the state of play of EU development cooperation (NDICI-Global Europe, Global Gateway, private sector in development cooperation) and provide a space to finetune the advocacy strategy.

TUESDAY 9 MAY, 2023

9.00-09:	Participants' welcome Introduction of meeting objectives	Paola Simonetti, Director, Equality Department, ITUC Liina Carr, Confederali Secretary, ETUC
09.30-11.00	Are EU policies SDG proof? Introduction to the ITUC-ETUC Shadow Report to the EU-Voluntary Review 2023 and discussion on 1 st part of the Report	Luigi Di Marco, Coordinator, Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASVIS) Marco Cilento, Head of Institutional Policy, ETUC Q&A and discussion in plenary
11.00-11.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11.30-12.30	State of play of SDG 8 in the EU: discussion on 2 nd part of the ITUC-ETUC Shadow Report to the EU-Voluntary Review 2023	Federico Olivieri, Senior Researcher ASVIS Giovanni Casale, Advisor, ETUC Discussion in groups
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14.00-15.30	The EU as a global player: midway to 2030	Ambassador Silvio Gonzato, Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
16:00-17.30	Updates on trade union national advocacy on the SDGs	TUDCN members

JOINT DINNER

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY, 2023

9.00-10.30	The EU Voluntary Review and Preparations of the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: Dialogue with the European Union	Elisa Roller, Director, Twin Transition, Economic & Social Affairs, Secretariat General, European Commission Viggo Barmen, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU Gabriel Castañares, Director General of Lever Policies for Fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030, Spain Moderated by: Liina Carr, ETUC
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:00-11:30	State of play of EU Development Cooperation Policies	Diego Lopez, Development Cooperation Policy Coordinator, ITUC
11.30-12.30	The EU “Global Gateway”	Farwa Sial, Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer on Development Finance, Eurodad
12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00-15:00	Trade union priorities in government development cooperation strategies	TUDCN Members
15:00-15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15:30-16:30	Tools and approaches for private sector accountability in development	Priscilla Boiardi, Policy Analyst, Private Finance for Sustainable Development, OECD Thomas Böhler, Policy Analyst, Global Partnerships and Policies Division, Development Co-operation Directorate Q&A
16:30-17:00	Conclusions and next steps	Marco Cilento, ETUC Paola Simonetti, ITUC

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