



Report on the 5th Biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)

21-22 July 2016 (side events on 20 July 2016)

Attendees: Joan Lanfranco (TUDCN), Giulia Massobrio (CSA-TUCA), Alex Nkosi (ITUC Africa)

The Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) sent a delegation to the 5th Biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Forum (DCF) which took place at the UN headquarters in New York. Apart from the many activities that took place, the TUDCN team was invited to be part of various panel discussions where various critical topics were discussed and trade union positions promoted. What follows is a brief report highlighting the TUDCN engagement during the meetings.

20 July 2016

CPDE, UNDP and Reality of Aid organised the DCF side event “[Enhancing accountability and policy coherence in SSC: Monitoring quality and documenting impact at country level](#)”. Giulia Massobrio (CSA-TUCA) participated as discussant, highlighting trade union experiences in South-South cooperation (SSC) and how trade unions promote the development effectiveness principles, as well as the role of SSC as a trigger of regional integration. She stressed that South-South cooperation requires an enabling environment, including human and trade union rights. More information here: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/DCF2016-side-event-SSC>.

21 July 2015

At the **DCF intro session**, Germany showed support for domestic resource mobilisation and the Addis tax initiative.

As the **DCF session on Conceptualizing development cooperation in the SDG era**, Wu Hongbo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, outlined the 7 main points of the [2016 Report of the Secretary-General on “Trends and progress in international development cooperation](#):

- Development cooperation includes a wide variety of international actions and actors. It should focus on developing countries efforts to complement SDGs, to LNOB, especially poorest and more vulnerable;
- SDG era requires a change of mind set for all actors in development cooperation (DC). Need to look at interlinkages, break down silos, tailor actions better to local needs and build MSH partnerships. DC can serve as integrating force to realise A2030.
- All existent ODA commitments must be matched. ODA is small proportion of finance for total needs. Yet remains important driver of DC in developing countries. It should be prioritized and used better to help peoples in LDCs. ODA to non-emergency situations fell in 2015. Due to increasing cost of humanitarian aid and in donor refugee hosting.
- ODA can act as catalyst to mobilise other resources. This year’s cycle has focused on ODA as a leverage tool for DRM, statistical capacity and developing PPPs in developing countries. Effectiveness needs to be revised. Blended finance should support national development. This is part of a broader effort to engage the private sector in DC. Need to better report on quantity, quality and effectiveness of blending.



- DC including SSC and TrC should take a prominent role in unleashing the transformative power in the science and innovation. UN will continue to support efforts from southern partners on how to achieve better DC results
- Achieving country ownership will require shift in development frameworks. Programme based approaches for achieving country owned sustainable development. National sustainable development plans should be embraced by whole societies that engage all stakeholders including parliaments.
- Monitoring and review of progress of DC commitments in the 2030 agenda and AAAA through intensified knowledge sharing and enrooted accountability of governments to their peoples. This will require increased resources. Supported by effective global, regional follow up and review mechanisms.

Brazil mentioned the importance of decent jobs.

The **DCF side event** “[The future measurement and monitoring framework for development finance in support of the A2030 – Total Official Support for Sustainable Development \(TOSSD\)](#)” discussed the TOSSD initiative. Thomas Gass (UN DESA) said TOSSD may serve to establish a common framework in to measure A2030/AAA commitments. A number of technical issues on definition remain open: humanitarian assistance, accounting for loans. Participation of other stakeholders needs to be operationalised. Maher Mamhikoff (Development Finance Statistics for Global Affairs, Canada) outlined differences between ODA and TOSSD: ODA is a statistical measure of data provided by OECD DAC countries / TOSSD catches all providers; ODA is measured as grant equivalent / TOSSD is the full face value of financial instruments; ODA has a very succinct eligibility criteria / TOSSD eligibility criteria is the support to SDGs and A2020; ODA has accountability frameworks such as 0.7 commitment / no target associated to TOSSD. Jose Antonio Alonso (Universidad Complutense) said TOSSD was created to measure A2030, measuring external finance including all flows that promote sustainable development, regardless of their concessionality level. DAC should offer an appropriated narrative. DAC presents TOSSD as a response to A2030, but OECD agreed in 2012 a new measure, before A2030, to complete a more satisfactory account of funds, particularly in the wake of SSC, and more attention to quality than quantity. Available statistics are not sufficient. Better to recognize that flows are different in nature and generate different impact. He quoted the [Report of European Court of Auditors on blending 2007-2013](#). Amy Dodd (UK Aid Network) said traditional donor country want to inflate figures in a non-developmental way. Safeguards are crucial: not only about creating jobs, but also decent jobs. Take into account environmental impact, etc. In Q&A time, Jesse Griffiths (Eurodad) said TOSSD purpose is indeed about transparency. 1) We should have transparency about ALL financial flows. 2) Lets make sure that is it about actual flows. 3) got to have a recognition of good and bad in flows.

At the **DCF session on Supporting national efforts to achieve the full ambition of the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind**, Belgium said ODA should be used as seed money for the creation of innovative financing and to support DRM. He mentioned a research paper by ILO: to eradicate poverty by 2030, non-LCDs will have to commit 3.8%, otherwise no transformation.

Anita Nayar (Regions Refocus, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation), pledged to recover the principle of solidarity in DC. DC has moved away from top up capital of social and infrastructures need, to leverage neoliberal policies. Need to reclaim the initial conception of ODA as solidarity money. ODA should not



dictate trade or macroeconomic policy. While policy autonomy of recipient country is limited, citizens have to be involved in the planning and policy formulation, we need CSO mechanisms. Not only ownership, also citizen autonomy. Unless marginalized communities are involved, A2030 won't be realized. It can't be implemented on their behalf. Untied aid becomes essential. See: https://twitter.com/TUDCN_rscd/status/756214262771617792

At the **DCF session on Aligning development cooperation to contribute to the different aspects of the 2030 Agenda**, Riikka Laatu, Deputy Director General, Development Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland, outlined Finland's DC priorities, among which reinforcing developing countries' economies to generate more jobs, livelihoods and wellbeing. See: https://twitter.com/TUDCN_rscd/status/756233972443676672

Adriano Campolina, CEO of Action Aid advocated to bring the poverty of poverty and exclusion to the level of systemic change. If inequality is the question, the solution is redistribution and decent jobs and reduce the gender pay gap. Quality public services and fair taxation systems are the way forward. See: https://twitter.com/TUDCN_rscd/status/756236120799797248

Michael O'Neill, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy said transparent budgeting processes are needed, as well as ensuring that all sectors of society are included in policy formulation and implementation. He also stressed the importance of the GPEDC, and of an enabling environment and capacity and inclusion of stakeholders, including trade unions. See: https://twitter.com/TUDCN_rscd/status/756240600538701828

At the DCF session on Southern partners advancing mutual learning and envisioning the contribution of South-South Cooperation for sustainable development, Joao Almino, Director of the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC) said governments from developing countries should set the example, respecting each countries policy space and leadership in the formulation of national development policies.

Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) said problems of SSC are mainly political, because sometimes it is hard for developing countries to justify giving resources to other countries.

A representative from the ILO mentioned the [ILO academy on SSC and TrC](#).

Giulia Massobrio intervened from the floor on behalf of Trade Unions, stressing the need for democratic ownership, participation of CSOs in monitoring and implementation, readiness of trade unions to participate in SSC. She also mentioned enabling environment as a pre-condition for CSO participation, commitment with human rights, and fiscal space for developing countries, as well as symmetric trade relations between north and south. Video available here: <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/watch/41th-meeting-development-cooperation-forum-ecosoc-high-level-segment-2016/5046605553001> (from 1:10:15) and here: https://twitter.com/TUDCN_rscd/status/756264518402072576. Report: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/DCF2016-side-event-SSC>



22 July 2016

At the DCF session **Monitoring and review of development cooperation in the 2030 Agenda: quality, effectiveness and impact for sustainable development**, Brenda Killen, Deputy-Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD, quoted the preliminary findings of 2nd GPEDC monitoring round: progress in using country led results framework. According to a May 2016 survey, donors ready to align results to SDGs. Parliaments should be more involved, to achieve more accountability and DRM. GPEDC a good framework to discuss all these issues.

Mexico praised the GPEDC as already existing space for monitoring and effectiveness. Italy also mentioned the importance of working towards GPEDC HLM2.

At the DCF session on Development cooperation by the private sector, other non-state actors and blended development cooperation, Magdalena Gerger, CEO of the Swedish Leadership for Sustainable Development made the equation *business goals + development goals= intersection of opportunities for collaboration*, but with very soft commitment to private sector accountability. See: <https://twitter.com/GiuliaMassobrio/status/756531961322168320>

Matthew Martin (Development Finance Institute) mentioned different CSO initiatives to measure impact and effectiveness of DFIs, and the importance to focus on DFIs ownership, transparency, and results, with an emphasis on economic growth, public services and decent jobs.

Alejandro Gamboa, Director, Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation, mentioned the convergence of A2030 with Peace Agreement. He quoted the triangle of success: public, private and CSOs in all projects.

John Finnigan, Head of Citi Group Development Organizations Corporate and Investment Banking, saw blended finance is viable, as interest of private funders and development are aligned. He mentioned a **WEF and OECD sustainable development investment partnership, and a WEF recently-launched blended finance toolkit**.

Cordelia Lonsdale, Development Initiatives, said it is important to know how much finance is coming from the developed countries and how much is ODA. Most blended finance is going to MIC, only 11% to LDCs. Only function of ODA seems to be de-risk investments. MSH partnerships are beyond money. See: https://twitter.com/TUDCN_rscd/status/756521799194640384

Joan Lanfranco (TUDCN) [intervened](#) from the floor, offering a more critical view on blending and PPPs, based on the recent TUDCN study on the [development effectiveness of supporting the private sector with ODA funds](#). He highlighted the alarming shortfalls in how these institutions operate, that can seriously undermine international development goals, and stressed the need of the state to be the main protagonist and guarantor of development and cooperation policies, based on collective priorities. Video: <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/watch/42nd-meeting-development-cooperation-forum-ecosoc-high-level-segment-2016/5046816579001> (1:27:20) and https://twitter.com/TUDCN_rscd/status/756584660591935488.



General assessment: although participation of CSOs was limited in terms of speakers and focus of discussions, it was a good opportunity to network and promote our evidence-based research on salient issues like blending and PPPs. There are some duplications between DCF and GPEDC, but the latter, given its multi-stakeholder nature, remains more open to CSO, and its monitoring framework (including private sector indicator) should serve as example to the DCF.