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1. Network News

At the second meeting of the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network last week in Brussels, the workstreams on Trade Union Development Cooperation Effectiveness, Trade Unions as Actors for Development and the International Development Policies and Architecture succeeded in mapping out their work within the Network.

The participants came from SE, FR, IT, BE, IE, UK, SP, FI, DK, DE and RO, as well as ITUC-Africa, TUCA, the Pan-European Regional Council (PERC), JILAF (Japan), the Building Workers International (BWI), TUAC (experts from the OECD, Paris) and the ITUC's New York Office. Many others send apologies and will be working online on the different workstream items.

In the introductory plenary, Jan Dereymaeker, on behalf of the Network Team presented the latest developments on Development Cooperation. The debates, currently dominated by the crises, are being driven by different international institutions since the MDG focussed the debate on poverty reduction and the successive international conferences on Aid and Sustainable Development, (Monterrey, Johannesburg, Paris, Accra, Doha, ...) marked the move of the development cooperation notion from a mere quantitative "aid" discussion (ODA volumes) towards a more qualitative aid governance debate (Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness) and then a more comprehensive and inclusive approach on Development Effectiveness. However the Financing for Development Conference in Doha and, even more, the current developments concerning the impact of the multiple crises on development, including the difficulties in preparing the UN Conference on the subject, demonstrates that the worldwide consensus that was achieved earlier on the objectives and their implementation is now under pressure. The more inclusive policies and the recent broadening to the concept of Development Effectiveness has also opened the path for trade unions and other social movements to engage in the development debates on an equal footing and demonstrate the contribution that trade unions can make as civil society organisations, alongside their fundamental and unique role as social partners.

With the contribution
of the Non State Actors
Programme of
the European Union



**"creating an environment at the national and international levels that is
conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and
decent work as a foundation for sustainable development"**

UN Summit Heads of State 2005 Outcome document #47

The recent developments in the Network were discussed (including the launch of the newsletter and website on Development Cooperation, preparations for the Stockholm Conference and the online launch of the work streams).

LO-TCO presented the [PanAf programme](#) with a view of opening it up to a wider group of cooperating organisations.

MEETING OF THE WORKSTREAMS

Workstream 1 on Trade Union Development Effectiveness discussed the broad Effectiveness agenda and streamlined the specific approach of the trade unions assessing their own cooperation and instruments to monitor and assess its effectiveness. The variety of approaches in the North and the South with regard to evaluation instruments and indicators was mapped out and an initial approach will now be prepared for further discussion among the workstream participants (info/contact paola.simonetti@ituc-csi.org).

Workstream 2 on Trade Unions as Development Actors discussed the added value of trade unions in development cooperation. International trade union solidarity has for many years been making an important contribution to democracy, respect of human rights and empowering of people on all continents. The workstream will look into the different ways in which trade unions participate in the development debates at national, regional and international level; the support given to community services and the various partnerships trade unions have on development cooperation with other partners (governments, NGOs and international institutions, in particular the ILO and the EU). Further discussion will be organised online. A first report should be published by the end of July. (info/contact: mamadou.diallo@ituc-csi.org)

Workstream 3 on International Development Policies and their Architecture discussed the following points on its agenda:

1/The Aid Effectiveness Agenda and the start-off of the OECD/DAC based Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. The WP Eff is the follow-up instrument of the Accra HLF and will monitor the implementation of both the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness as well as the commitments made by governments under the Accra Agenda for Action.

The scope of the various clusters was discussed and commitments made to ensure the trade union movement would get follow-up on its main areas of interest (democratic ownership, multilateral non-governmental development areas, country systems, harmonisation & procurement, anti-corruption and transparency, conditionalities and monitoring development results).

2/ On the EU policies the meeting took note of the various reports on Decent Work published recently by the EU Commission. It also discussed briefly the EU communications on the crisis and development.

3/ Issues concerning the UN Development policies (see below)

4/The Midterm Review of the DCI and the EDF instruments was also discussed in plenary and the recent report of the Court of Auditors was distributed for information and will be addressed further through online discussions.

5/ Lastly, the group briefly discussed possible stepping stones for an ITUC Congress resolution “Towards a Platform for Development Cooperation in the XXI century” to be approved at the 2010 2nd ITUC Congress.

(info/contact: jan.dereymaeker@ituc-csi.org)

During a common session of the 3 workstreams, the ITUC rep in NY, Gemma Adaba, presented the challenges and ongoing discussions for the June UN Conference on the Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development and on the Development Cooperation Forum (for presentation, please see DevCoop page on the ITUC Website). (info/contact: gemma.adaba@ituc-csi.org)

The final plenary took note of the feedback from the different meetings and evaluated the methods of working.

The Director of the Human and Trade Union Rights Department gave an update on the planning of programmes and drew attention to the specific situation of the Burmese trade union organisation. The Head of the Campaigns and Communication Department informed the Network about the plans for the upcoming World Day for Decent Work (07/10/2009) .

2. Development Cooperation Policies

THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS UNIONS'WATCH

In this webpage the ITUC jointly with TUAC gathers articles, statements, press releases and opinions from trade unions on the financial crisis, its causes, the impact on society, the economy and particular groups, the responses and the efforts of states and International Organizations and the solutions, including proposals for world-wide solutions, implementation of the Decent Work agenda and Green Jobs.

The global financial crisis poses great threats to international growth and development, particularly in the world of work. Some governments have introduced measures such as national recovery plans and long-term stabilization strategies to fight the economic recession and the financial crisis. Part of the crisis' impact is shown by the many millions more unemployed, while groups like women and youth have been particularly affected.

[Go to website](#)

UN CONFERENCE ON THE WORLD FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS AND IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN NGLS) has launched a weekly bulletin to inform stakeholders of relevant developments in the lead-up to the UN High-Level Conference (June 2009), to address the global financial and economic crisis and its impacts on development. [Read more](#)

ASSESSMENT OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF EXPERTS ON REFORMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM

The Commission of Experts on reforms of the international monetary and financial system was established by the President of the UN General Assembly at the beginning of the year to “*identify the broad principles underlying needed institutional reforms required to ensure sustained global economic progress and stability.*”

The Commission is made up of governors of central banks, former ministers, high ranking national and international civil servants, academics, from Japan, Western Europe, Africa, Latin America, South and East Asia. It is chaired by Nobel laureate J. Stiglitz. Please [click here](#).

An interim report issued on March 19 contained a set of preliminary recommendations which were discussed in the context of a UN interactive thematic dialogue on the crisis (March 25-27). The final report was issued on April 29 and will be discussed during the UN Conference on “The World Economic and Financial Crisis and Its Impact on Development”, taking place in New York on June 1-3.

[Read the ITUC assessment of the report and a summary of the most important recommendations it contains.](#)

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AT A TIME OF CRISIS – ISSUES NOTE

Recent OECD pledges on trade finance, investment, and aid underscore the importance of rejecting protectionism and of acting counter-cyclically.

Multilateral crisis response initiatives focus on trade finance, employment and social protection and critical infrastructure support, as well as on agriculture and food security, all of which are high on the international agenda. The relevant facilities, which aim to replicate specific sectoral solutions quickly across countries, need to build on national intersectoral priorities and to respect country accountability systems.

For low-income countries, relatively little by way of additional concessional resources has yet been offered, and then only on terms and timing that are not yet certain. Absent such predictable new resource envelopes, the major multilaterals have rightly offered to redeploy their existing programmes quickly toward priority crisis-led needs.

From a partner country standpoint, however, such redeployment entails the risk of exhausting known country allocations sooner.

The crisis needs to be tackled using all instruments available, not just ODA. A wide array of instruments, channels and sources do not now count as ODA, yet deliver important development results.

This includes other official flows, including much non-DAC assistance, and a variety of “innovative finance” and public-private partnership schemes and philanthropic and voluntary contributions, and other sources. It is essential to make the most of possible synergies between these sources and actors and ODA and the DAC.

Legitimate crisis responses involving, for example, safeguarding of employment, social protection and infrastructure investment and maintenance must ultimately support an even stronger focus on long-term growth and the MDGs. Aid provides a bridge to help countries achieve this transition.

[Read more](#)

RESULTS OF THE 2009 DAC SURVEY ON DONORS' FORWARD SPENDING PLANS

Donors now only have a little over a year and a half to deliver their 2010 promises. Recent ODA performance is encouraging: net ODA in 2008 reached its highest annual dollar aid figure ever recorded, but the net ODA increase for Africa is decelerating. To meet their commitments donors will have to increase their 2008 aid levels by USD 23 billion in current terms.

The 2009 Survey on donors' forward spending plans, which is designed to reduce the uncertainties about future aid levels, suggests a real increase of 11% between 2008 and 2010 in country programmable aid (CPA); for Africa it is estimated at 9%.

The multilateral agencies account for half of the programmed increase, despite being only a quarter of total CPA. The multilateral agencies account for nearly three quarters of the programmed increase allocated to LICs and fragile states, whereas most planned increases by bilateral donors are still unallocated.

With a few exceptions, most donors are making progress towards their aid volume targets at the global level. However, for the Gleneagles target on Africa donors are lagging behind. At the global level, USD 14 billion in current terms would be required to close this gap whereas for Africa USD 20 billion in current terms would be required. Exceptional measures to close this gap are needed starting now. If donors were to meet their Gleneagles target for Africa, without exceeding their current targets for total ODA, this would imply a reallocation of resources from other parts of the world, since the gap in delivery to Africa is bigger than the one at the global level.

The Survey's outlook for 2011 is no more encouraging. Aid by 2011 is programmed to increase for Africa by only 7% in real terms compared to the level programmed for 2010, still far short of the Gleneagles targets.

[Read more](#)

TUAC/OCDE MEETING ON 'GENDER, DEVELOPMENT AND DECENT WORK: BUILDING A COMMON AGENDA'

On the 27th April 2009, in the context of the OECD Labour/Management Programme (LMP), TUAC and the OECD organised a meeting on 'Gender, Development and Decent

Work: Building a Common Agenda'. The aim was to examine how to support the employment and empowerment of women in the context of a global labour market in which work is increasingly feminised, informalised and precarious.

It was attended by development and gender experts from the OECD and national governments, together with TUAC affiliates and representatives of the ITUC and the Global Union Federations.

The first presentations focused on policy work being undertaken by the OECD on employment as a major route out of poverty and the informal economy, before turning to the reality of working conditions for women in Thailand and Ghana and the limitations of the decent work agenda. It then examined initiatives aimed at tackling decent work deficits with presentations on the Better Work Programme (ILO), union campaigns against precarious work presented by the International Metal Workers' Federation (IMF) and the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI). The meeting closed with a panel discussion involving representatives of the OECD, donors and trade unions.

EU POSITION ON DEVELOPMENT IN TIMES OF FINANCIAL CRISIS

The European Commission has adopted a communication of the crisis and development and published a number of related working documents concerning the MDG's, the follow up to Accra on Aid Effectiveness, Doha on Financing for Development, Aid for Trade etc... (documents available at <http://www.ituc-csi.org/spip.php?rubrique255>)

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS CRITICAL ON THE COMMISSION'S MANAGEMENT OF NON-STATE ACTORS' INVOLVEMENT IN EC DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Non-state actors are increasingly important in development cooperation. The term non-state actors (NSAs) covers all type of civil society organisations that do not form part of the private sector or the state. In the field of development cooperation, non-state actors include non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and also community-based organisations, farmers' associations, business or professional associations, environmental groups, universities, trade unions, chambers of commerce, and foundations as well as churches or faith groups. The term non-state actors is often used as a synonym of civil society organisations, and it is in that sense that it is used in the report. The report analyses critically the Commissions' management of civil society cooperation and demand for better quality consultations and improved instruments for civil society project management.

[Read the information note of the European Court of Auditors](#)

[Read the special Report No 4/2009](#)

3. Miscellaneous from the Network

The Network has its [own TUDCN webpage](#) on the [ITUC website](#). You will find the latest news on trade union positions, solidarity actions and update information on activities.

Please send any relevant information for publication in our next issues to the Network Information Officer at: luc.vermeersch@ituc-csi.org.

(Please respect the deadline of 15 June for sending info for the next issue)

ICTU LAUNCHES GLOBAL SOLIDARITY WEBSITE

in order to contribute to the aim of the ICTU Global Solidarity programme, the ICTU has launched its "Global Solidarity Website". By doing so they want to strengthen Congress' and the affiliated unions' international solidarity work and play an important role in raising awareness of the causes of exploitation, inequality and climate change. In these times of worldwide recession international trade union solidarity is more important than ever. It is the key to progressive change, for equality and justice in our world.

On the 7th of April 2009 ICTU finished its first Global Solidarity Champions training course. 12 trade unionists received their certificate as "Global Solidarity Champions" from the final speaker at the course, the Deputy General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, Jaap Wienen. The overall evaluation of the 5 day course was very positive. The "Champions" felt committed to develop the international solidarity work in their own union and to take part in the future work of the global solidarity project in ICTU.

Please [click here to read more](#)

TUC SUPPORTS DECENT JOBS CAMPAIGN

In Unilever's last directly-owned and operated Lipton tea factory in Khanewal, Pakistan only 23 employees are directly employed. The remaining 700 are 'temps', many with more than 15 years of service, earning poverty wages, with no job security and no benefits. When they tried to join a union they were threatened with lock-outs and cuts in hours. These are not decent jobs, they are disposable ones.

This is not just the case of a bad apple, but of a bad global strategy. Since launching their 'path to growth' strategy in 2000, Unilever have cut their direct global workforce of 300,000 in half, delivering huge cash surpluses to 'enhance shareholder returns', and little for their global workforce.

[Read more](#)

[Read the speech of Frances O'Grady, TUC Deputy General Secretary, on decent work](#)

Do you want to know more about how TUC contributes to long term development programmes, provides substantial humanitarian relief in emergencies and assists through education the growth of independent trade unions?

Please click [TUC Aid: Solidarity in Action](#).

DECENT WORK CAMPAIGN

During May 2009, actions both within and outside companies will be carried out by the FGTB, CSC and CGSLB unions and the NGOs "Solidarité mondiale" and "Solidarité socialiste", in cooperation with CNCD -11.11.11, the Belgian NGO platforms.

The aim behind the actions is for workers to get behind the campaign for decent work, though also for employers to respect workers' rights and, in particular, freedom of association, not just in their own companies but also in the operations of their suppliers, subcontractors and subsidiaries worldwide, since workers are entitled to a decent income allowing them to enjoy decent living conditions. And a job cannot be described as decent if there is no freedom of association.

[Read more](#)

4. Project Opportunities

EU PROJECT FUNDING:

Open calls for proposals:

[Promoting social cohesion, employment and decent work, improving labour market information systems \(deadline: 4 June 2009\)](#)

[Education, knowledge and skills : Towards demand-driven Technical and Vocational Education and Training \(TVET\) systems \(deadline: 10 June 2009\)](#)

Please also consult the [page concerning the country-based calls for proposals](#).

STOCKHOLM
13-14 October 2009

Development = Social Justice
Trade Unions for Decent Work



5. Agenda 2009

April/June

Seminar

for Trade Union responsibles from New EU member states on Development Cooperation

June/September

Seminars

Capacity building seminars in the South, in cooperation with ITUC Africa, TUCA and ITUC Asia-Pacific



se2009.eu

STOCKHOLMConference
13-14 October

Development is Social Justice

Trade Unions for Decent Work

STOCKHOLM 22-24 October



November/ December

Seminar

Update seminar for Development Cooperation responsibles from the Network

November/ December

Seminar

Capacity building seminars in the South, in cooperation with ITUC Africa, TUCA and ITUC Asia-Pacific

For a more detailed agenda in 2009-2010-2011, [please click here](#)



The TUDCN team:

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