



Development  
Cooperation  
Network

# TRADE UNION FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT

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



## 1. Editorial

### SPEEDING UP THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION EFFECTIVENESS

From 27 to 30 September 2010, the first Global Assembly of the “Open Forum of CSO Effectiveness and Enabling Environment” took place in Istanbul. The main aim of the Assembly discussed and adopted a draft framework for CSO effectiveness that is based on the national and thematic consultations that took place over the last months.

The outcomes of the GA should be the basis for addressing the governments on the place and contribution of civil society in development cooperation. In many ways this remains a very controversial issue. Governments in many developing countries still see civil society as “opposition” or at least as a strange bird in the national political scenery. Although the trade union movement enjoys, as one of the few civil society organisations, legally framed “freedom of association” (ILO C87-98), the ITUC annual report on violation of trade union freedom does illustrate the fragility of this right to organise and to freedom of speech.

The Accra Agenda of Action, which implements aspects of the Paris Declaration, did recognise explicitly the contribution of CSOs to development, and the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (the official follow-up group) does include, since Accra, civil society on an equal basis as the other stakeholders (governments, donors, multilaterals,...). This important step forward, however, has been made on pragmatic grounds and has not (yet) set out the appropriate rights-based framework for CSO participation.

In order to be effective, there has to be a legal framework that enables the “right of initiative” and allows CSOs to be actors “in their own right”. That is what trade unions learned after more than 50 years applying the ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Right to Organise.

The Open Forum GA is the very first step into the process of redefining the policy and action space for CSOs and trade unions in development. At the same time, the Structured Dialogue with the EU (see previous bulletin) revisits similar questions linked to the EU development policies.

The ITUC has been working intensively on these questions and the results will be made public over the next weeks as a contribution both to the global and the European debates. It is also an invitation to take these positions forward into the upcoming national policy debates on the road to the next High Level Forum on Development Effectiveness to take place in Busan in 2011.

*The TUDCN team*

*“Where unions are able to act freely, to promote collective bargaining, and to play a full role as social partners in dialogue about their nation’s policies and future, then we see democracy at work.”*

Helen Clark at the 2nd ITUC Congress, Vancouver , June 2010

## 2. News from the Network

### TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION NETWORK IN LATIN AMERICA TAKES SHAPE.

The TUDCN-LA (working under the leadership of TUCA, the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas) met on September 12/13 after the Trade Union Development Cooperation Effectiveness Consultation and before the EU-seminar with Latin American Civil Society in Asuncion, Paraguay.

A good twenty delegates from Argentina, Paraguay, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Brazil, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Dominican Republic met together with representatives from TUCA and the ITUC and looked at the follow-up of the discussions earlier this year in the training seminar in May.

The meeting addressed in the first place the consultation on the document: "Trade Union Principles and Guidelines on Development Effectiveness". This exercise is part of the regional consultation process in Africa, Asia and Latin America carried out by ITUC (Paola Simonetti) on themes relating to development cooperation and its effectiveness. The consultation is also supported by the Open Forum on CSOs

development effectiveness. The participants have worked on the contents of the principles as well as on the operational guidelines, elaborating remarks and suggestions that will be instrumental to the finalisation of the document by the end of 2010.

The second part of the event was focused on the participation of the LA trade union movement in the EU civil society seminar in Asuncion later that week. As an element of preparation, the meeting discussed the "Actor Based Approach" as presented in a working document by the ITUC (Jan Dereymaeker). The discussion allowed the drawing up of the main lines of a possible trade union contribution to the EU meeting and concluded on a number of guidelines for an improved support system to the trade union development cooperation while respecting its mission and action and its specificity as part of civil society but also as a social partner engaged with government and employers in the shaping of social and economic development.

On the agenda there were also discussions concerning the setting up of a specific working plan and the Latin American agenda on development cooperation. The 2011-12 congress of the TUCA will have to finalise the policy-discussion, adopting its cooperation strategy. A first draft document was presented to the meeting and discussed to assess its scope and policy proposals.

The meeting also took note of the proposal to create a Trade Union Institute for Development Cooperation to be organised as a specific instrument for TUCA to improve coherence and coordination in trade union development cooperation on the continent. Again, the document was a very first draft, and further discussions will now follow with the affiliates and the TUCA decision-making structures.



### **OESO/DAC BELGIAN PEER REVIEW 2010 (CGSLB Belgium)**

During the period November 2009 to June 2010, the Belgium government was examined and evaluated by the Committee for Development Cooperation (DAC) of the OECD in terms of its development aid. The purpose of the peer review is to assess what progress a Member State is making in its development policy, to verify the effectiveness and formulate best practices. In this particular peer review, Belgium's development policy was reviewed by Canada and Switzerland.

The Commission considers that the Belgian government generally scored well on improving the quality of its development cooperation. The peer review gave a number of recommendations and proposals for future improvement.

During a stakeholder meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2010, the main points and the key challenges were presented by the chairman, Mr. Eckhard Deutscher. He mentioned that Belgium scored well in the following areas:

- In 2009, 0.55% of Belgium's Gross National Income (GNI) was reserved for development cooperation. Belgium aims to allocate 0.7% of its GNI to development cooperation by the end of 2010. This would make Belgium the sixth donor country to reach the 0.7% target.
- The review paid particular attention to the fact that Belgium was one of the few countries that continued to support fragile states at a time when other donors were pulling out.
- The fact was mentioned that Belgium improved efficiency through reform and modernisation assistance, for example, via the agreements with NGOs and universities (also refer to TUDCN newsletter nr. 7 "Have the Belgian NGOs sold their souls to the minister of development cooperation?").
- The reform of humanitarian aid: more and better strategic approach with a large budget increase by 71% since 2004.

The key challenges included:

- Belgium needs to develop new strategies to make its policy more coherent in the future, especially by determining a common vision for all federal and regional authorities providing official development aid.
- Belgium needs to move forward with greater focus on aid effectiveness in the use of "field offices" (to be in the right place with the right expertise), decentralisation and development of an evaluation culture.
- Belgium is also encouraged to raise public awareness to an even higher level.

Belgium is showing an increasing tendency to commit itself in international agreements, and more scope is allowed for self-reflection. Its development policy has now been adjusted, and new implementing decisions are being drawn up. This has enabled Belgium to follow many of the recommendations made in the previous peer review (2005) and placed it in a good position for meeting new challenges.

The CGSLB is pleased to note that during the consultation process of the peer review for 2010, as trade unions, we receive the opportunity to take part in the stakeholder discussions. We also had the opportunity to meet, together with our local partner, the National Transport Workers' Federation, FNTT (Fédération Nationale des Travailleurs du Transport) with the team of OESO/DAC representatives during their field visit to Burundi from 11-15 January 2010. Through this meeting we took the opportunity to emphasise the role of trade unions for the workers from the informal economy. But we regret to note that the final report did not take into account a number of the aspects that we as Belgian trade unions raised during the consultation process or in the field visit. The CGSLB hopes that by the next peer review the input of trade unions will find a more concrete place in the end report.

### **THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD LABOUR (CGSLB BELGIUM)**

Every year the World Day against Child Labour is celebrated worldwide. There are 215 million child workers, 115 of which are exposed to the worst forms of labour as defined by ILO Convention 182.

The most recent and third ILO global report on child labour shows uneven progress globally. Positive trends continue with 172 countries having ratified Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour. Progress was greatest for the 5-14 year olds where the number of child workers decreased by 10% and the number involved in hazardous work decreased by 31%. The number of girls of school going age who are working decreased (-15 %). However, the plight of 15-17 year olds who have reached the minimum legal working age, worsened with a greater number working in hazardous conditions (+20%). At this rate, the 2016 goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour will not be met.

Earlier this year, a tripartite global conference in The Hague adopted a road map to achieve the 2016 objective by focusing on specific industry sectors (agriculture and services) and on the informal economy as a whole.

But more needs to be done to ensure that everyone has access to basic education, enjoys the same social protection and to promote a policy of productive employment so that children are not forced to work. The involvement of the social partners is necessary to ensure that these policies are implemented in an effective and concrete manner.

In conclusion, the current world economic and social crisis should not slow down global efforts in this area. Furthermore, the 2015 Millennium Development Goal of Universal Education and the elimination of child labour are inextricably linked.

A world free of child labour is a world that is educating the adult workers of tomorrow who will play a part in real sustainable development.

[Read the whole text](#) (French only)

## 3. Development Cooperation Policies

### EUROPEAN UNION

#### **A TRANSPARENCY GUARANTEE IN SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**

On 1 January 2010, a transparency guarantee was introduced into Swedish development assistance. The guarantee means that all public documents and public information will be made available online. The information must explain when, to whom and why money has been made available, and what results have been achieved.

*What are the objectives?*

More accessible information on aid is expected to:

- Provide a better basis for planning, governance, decisions and priorities;
- enhance the visibility of development assistance results;
- strengthen conditions for accountability at multiple levels; and
- limit the scope for corruption, duplication and misuse of resources.



### *Summary of the transparency guarantee*

- The transparency guarantee applies to all public actors who have been allocated funds under expenditure area seven (International development cooperation).
- The information includes all documents and data from a chain leading from decisions on the direction and distribution of aid, via decisions, payments and implementation of specific projects to monitoring of projects also at an aggregated level.
- The information will be made available for as many users as possible, for as many purposes as possible. The information will be available to all, free of charge and without licensing or registration requirements.

[Read more](#)

### **DEAR STUDY PUBLISHED**

The EU commission has published the report on the “[Study on the Experience and Actions of the Main European Actors Active in the Field of Development Education and Awareness Raising](#)”. This report has been completed within the context of the structural dialogue on CSOs’ development effectiveness of the EU. The contents of the report will be discussed at the conference on 11-12 October in Brussels, to which CSOs, EU MPs, representatives of the Member States, and Commission services will be present.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **TRADE UNION STATEMENT TO THE 2010 SUMMIT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

As Member States of the United Nations focus on negotiations towards an Outcome Document of the up-coming September Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), trade unions are coordinating their efforts to ensure that indeed their governments will commit decisively to the UN Secretary-General’s call for “Keeping the Promise” of significantly reducing poverty, hunger, unemployment and underemployment, of addressing lack of access to education, health care and social protection, and of reversing environmental degradation by 2015. This is by no means an easy task given the series of crises that have shaken the foundations of social stability in the world community in recent years, while at the same time seriously undermining developing countries’ efforts to achieve the MDGs. At the present moment it is vital that all governments maintain strong efforts to achieve a sustainable end to the economic crisis, rather than taking renewed growth for granted and ceasing their recovery efforts prematurely.

[Read more](#)

### **NGO COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT; SURVEY ON “GOOD PRACTICES FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION/INCLUSION”**

The [NGO Committee for Social Development](#), with the support of the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, recently launched a survey on “[Good Practices for Social Integration/Inclusion](#)”. The aim of the survey is to contribute to the work of the [United Nations Commission for Social Development](#) (CSocD) in 2011 and 2012, as well as to the reports prepared by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in advance of CSocD sessions.

The theme of this year's survey builds upon last year's survey on "Good Practices for Social Integration". This survey resulted in valuable civil society input that provided the content for the report "[Social Integration in Action: Stories from the Grassroots](#)". The report was made available to civil society and representatives of UN Member States in New York, and served as an important advocacy tool during the [48th session](#) of the Commission for Social Development.

[Read more](#)

## 4. Project Opportunities

### **EU PROJECT FUNDING:**

Open calls for proposals:

*Human rights*

- [Enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries and regions where they are most at risk](#)

Please also consult the [page concerning the country-based calls for proposals](#) and the website on [Structured Dialogue - For an efficient partnership in development](#).

## 5. Resources

### **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS PROGRESS CHART SHOWS LARGE DEFICITS IN DECENT WORK**

Progress towards the MDGs is monitored through a set of 21 measurable and time-bound targets and 60 indicators. Most of the targets are to be achieved by 2015 and start from a 1990 baseline. This chart presents an assessment of progress so far for selected indicators and regions, on the basis of information available as of June 2010. The chart shows just how far we still have to go to reach MDG 1B on decent work and how important trade union international development work is.

[Read more](#)

### **BETTER AID PLATFORM POSITION PAPER ON DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS**

The Better Aid platform has finalised for consultation the draft of its position paper on development effectiveness. This documents intends to frame the contributions the civil society organisations would like to bring to the table of the HLFIV in Korea (December 2011), taking the discussions forward from AID effectiveness to development effectiveness and looking forward to a more appropriate development architecture.

[Read draft position paper](#)

## 6. Agenda 2010

|                              |                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>25-28 October</u></b>  | WP-Eff Plenary Meeting (Paris)                                                                                        |
| <b><u>25-29 October</u></b>  | TUDCN Capacity building seminar + III Consultation Seminar on Trade Union Development Effectiveness (Singapore) (TBC) |
| <b><u>10-12 November</u></b> | EU Seminar on Structured Dialogue Asia (New Delhi)                                                                    |
| <b><u>15 November</u></b>    | TUDCN Experts Group on Trade Union Development Effectiveness (Brussels)                                               |
| <b><u>16-18 November</u></b> | TUDCN Network Meeting (Brussels)                                                                                      |
| <b><u>9-10 December</u></b>  | European Development Days (Brussels )                                                                                 |



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