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



1. Editorial

FROM AID TO DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS: THE DEVELOPMENT FATIGUE?

The Road to Busan will be uphill and full of ambushes.

Next year in November, the development world will be gathered in Busan (Korea) to discuss the future of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (Paris 2005) and the accompanying Accra Agenda of Action (Accra 2008). The Working Party on Aid Effectiveness gathered last October in Paris to discuss and prepare this fourth high level conference. Whereas in Accra there was the political climate and the willingness to deal with the issues in a broad policy concern, the mood has completely changed.

The multiple international crises of the deregulated globalised economy do affect the political climate worldwide and affect in particular the commitments taken on development cooperation in many capitals. At the same time, many of the champion donor governments have seen in the meantime significant changes in government and reshufflings of priorities in external relations. The pressure for economic fallback on southern governments has also moved the agenda back to the (illusionary) "fundamentals" of private sector based economic growth, with human rights if possible, without if necessary. The worldwide restrictive measures on civil society do show clearly the drive of many governments to restrict policy space for social and civil-society actors and move away from the AAA engagement to engage with CSOs and recognise them as development actors in their own right.

Whilst the political scenario has become regressive, the international aid architecture has taken a Frankenstein shape: UN based Development Cooperation Forum (UNDCF) is now, with the demands of the MDGs summit follow-up on its agenda, competing with the OECD based Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP Eff) on the effectiveness and accountability agendas. The IFI and other UN bodies increasingly mingle in the development agendas based on their mandate (WB and regional development banks) or behind the scenes. And lastly, the Korean host of the G20 has now proposed a development agenda and consequent workplan to be discussed at the upcoming meeting in Seoul, putting the private sector again prominent on the development strategy agenda and engaging with new actors such as China, Brazil and international global funds and foundations (Gates, Ford, etc.).

"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

All this doesn't help to create momentum for what should be and has to be a crossroad for development. Instead of being part of the problem, Busan could be part of the solution in designing an ambitious political plan to overcome the inhibitions for a truly effective in-country development approach based on democratic ownership (including rights-based policy space for civil society) and in line with international engagement on human rights, gender equality, decent work and ecological justice.

The perceived downplaying of the preparatory process at the last WP Eff meeting, and the laidback position of the EU, closing the debate into the narrow, technical toolbox of the in-country aid delivery, does announce an uphill fight for civil society and progressive governments (north and south) to regain momentum for the broader political development agenda. All the evidence that has been collected over the last decades, including the Paris Declaration surveys and evaluation exercises show that no sustainable development can be facilitated by aid delivery; on the contrary: aid delivery without the broader development agenda becomes an instrument of oppression and exploitation, of economic enrichment of the few (with or without corruption) and of growing inequalities and destabilised social relations - at best a short term relief for ongoing systemic failures. We are conscious as civil society and in particular as trade unions that a legitimate multi-stakeholder policy dialogue based system (with accountability mechanism) will not be an easy objective to gain.

In the light of growing inequality and instability due to the lack of development effectiveness in the world's economic, social and political system, we cannot but propose to all actors to go for a ambitious Busan declaration that calls for an inclusive, rights-based and accountable instrument for ensuring effective development as a right for people all over the world.

2. News from the Network

REPORT OF THE ITUC CONSULTATIONS, ASUNCION (12-14 September 2010)

As reported in the [Newsletter Issue 13](#), the second regional consultations on Trade Union Principles on Development Effectiveness took place in Asuncion. As previously explained the TU consultations are also contributing to the Open Forum process, highlighting the primary role and position of unions in development.

The consultations are aimed at:

- 1) discussing and analysing the content of the Principles from the perspective of Southern organisations;
- 2) strengthening common approaches/visions regarding development cooperation criteria among trade union organisations (partnership/coordination...);
- 3) supporting effectiveness at national, regional and global level;
- 4) gathering contributions for the drawing up of operational guidelines (putting the principles into practice and monitoring our working methods);
- 5) contributing to the overall consultation process of the Open Forum, based on the experience of the trade union movement.

Results of the consultations:

** Consultation on the Principles and Operational Guidelines*

One general point on which all the participants agreed was the need to include the issue of dialogue and consultation in the discussion, as well as the issue of decent work, decent life, bearing in mind the need to promote and strengthen unity of action.

* *Consultation on the Enabling Environment for CSOs*

The AAA recognises that CSOs play a specific role in development cooperation and also recognise their autonomy. How can this be translated into practice?

An enabling environment is a set of interrelated conditions — such as legal, bureaucratic, fiscal, informational, political, and cultural — that impact on the capacity of development actors to engage in development processes in a sustained and effective manner.

Please follow the links below to see detailed report:

<http://www.cso-effectiveness.org/-thematic-consultations,050-.html>

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3. Development Cooperation Policies

INTERNATIONAL

ISTANBUL PRINCIPLES ON CSOs' DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

The first global assembly of the Open forum on CSOs' development effectiveness took place in Istanbul from 27 to 30 September 2010. The CSOs reached consensus on a set of eight global development effectiveness principles (the so called [Istanbul Principles](#)) and on essential elements for Enabling Environment¹. The principles and the elements on enabling environment constitute the actual 'Framework for CSOs development effectiveness', which is supposed to be the basis for the over-all advocacy strategy and goals of the Open forum. The latter has been discussed and approved by the [Open Forum GFG](#), in which both ITUC and TUCA are now represented in the quality of global and regional networks, in order to promote CSOs role in development in the light of the 4th High Level Forum on aid effectiveness 2011 in Busan.

Indeed, Busan represents the paramount appointment for CSOs, since the main criteria for aid effectiveness (as enunciated in [the Paris Declaration in 2005](#)) will expire and therefore will need to be evaluated and revisited. Thanks to the [Accra Agenda for Action](#) (approved during the 3rd HL 2008, reviewing progress of PD implementation) a big step forward was taken, recognising CSOs as 'development actors in the own rights' and to whom an 'enabling environment' should be granted in order to be able to operate. However, these undoubted openings towards CSOs are not formally recognised in an appropriate legal framework (such as a Declaration or an international Convention), being still exposed to eventual less-conducive governmental political orientations.

This is why the role of the Open Forum and Better Aid (see below), both expressions of CSOs, seem to be fundamental in the road to Busan: the Open Forum on one hand providing criteria for effective CSOs contribution to development, and Better Aid on the other hand promoting the role of CSOs and vision on development effectiveness within the international aid architecture.

¹ The three categories are: a) fundamental elements provided by a government in any country (industrialized or developing) such as a legal and regulatory framework to CSOs to operate freely, freedom of association, speech, etc.; b) those provided by a donor government to CSOs in the donor country and to CSOs in developing countries such as treating CSOs as strategic partners and providing appropriate funding mechanisms that are not burdensome; and c) those provided by recipient governments arising from government and CSO engagement in development such as engagement of CSOs in the formulation of the country's national development strategy.

The [political strategy of the Open Forum](#), to be implemented towards Busan, is streamlined in two main objectives:

1. Endorsement of Istanbul Principles by governments and donors as measurement criteria of CSOs contribution to development initiatives;
2. Promotion of enabling environment elements (negotiation process) with governments and donors.

It is crucial to underline that the endorsement of the elements of the EE by donors and governments are pre-conditions for the endorsement of the principles. The primary targets of this strategy are of course governments' representatives at national level (especially those who will be present in Busan); governments and donors that are members of the Task Team on CSOs development effectiveness and the [Working Party on Development Effectiveness/OECD members](#);

Finally the Open Forum and Better Aid will coordinate together to incorporate the same messages (in particular on enabling environment) into the overall advocacy strategy of Better Aid in the run-up to Busan (see below).

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DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: A RIGHTS-BASED PERSPECTIVE

This document, produced by [BetterAid](#), starts from the premise that the current system of international development cooperation cannot singlehandedly address the present and growing needs evident around the world. There should be a new approach to development cooperation focusing on development effectiveness rather than aid effectiveness. Development cooperation should be assessed for the real impact it has on the well-being of all people, particularly poor and disadvantaged individuals, many of whom are women. Citizens' voices — of women and men — and their concerns must be the primary basis for national development plans, policies and processes. Effective development requires an equitable, democratic and inclusive multilateral architecture.

The document hands over five building blocks for a new framework for development cooperation:

- A human rights-based approach;
- Commitment to eradicate the root causes of poverty and inequality;
- A truly democratic, inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach;
- National development priorities and plans aligned with global and regional Commitments; and
- Policy coherence for inclusive development and just global governance.

[Read the whole BetterAid document](#)

EVALUATION OF OUTCOMES OF THE SUMMIT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (UN, New York, 20-22 September 2010)

The United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) concluded on Wednesday 22 September, 2010, with the adoption of the Summit Outcome Document - [Keeping the Promise: United to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals](#).

Trade Union Participation in the Summit

A trade union delegation led by ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow participated actively in various events at the summit, while some participants engaged in dialogue with

their government representatives, to signal the keen interest of the trade union delegation in seeing real and accelerated progress aimed at achieving the MDGs by 2015, particularly with respect to poverty eradication through decent work and social protection.

This was also the key message communicated by Sharan Burrow to Round Table 4 of the summit on 21 September, devoted to the theme: "Emerging Issues". (For Burrow's speech, as well as other presentations by representatives of Civil Society, [please click here](#))

Burrow also spoke at a number of side events, namely, an ILO Realizing Rights event on "*Accelerating Achievement of the MDGs through Decent Work*", an ITUC/SOLIDAR Event entitled "*Decent Work and the MDGs – Keeping the Promise*" and an ITUC/UBUNTU event entitled "*Innovative Financing for the MDGs: A Precondition for Success*".

[Read the whole evaluation here](#)

EUROPEAN UNION

STRUCTURED DIALOGUE – BRUSSELS

The fourth Brussels meeting of the Structured Dialogue took place on 13-14 October. Delegates from the ITUC were present (Martha Ayala, TUCA; Frederique Lellouche, CFDT; Patrik Bergvall LO/TCO; Henrik Als, LO/FTF; Paola Simonetti, ITUC; Jan Dereymaeker, ITUC).

The themes addressed were:

- WG 1: *territorial approach to development & enabling environment for CSO&LA*. The ITUC was asked to deliver a [presentation on EE – Istanbul GA](#).
- WG 2: *mutual accountability & right of initiative of CSO&LA*
- WG 3: *EU delivery mechanisms-DCI*. [ITUC on Needs and Support Systems for Trade Unions in Development](#)

Extensive reports of the meetings (working groups 1, 2 and 3) can be found on the Cisoeh website. [Please click here](#).

The EC is going to release a final report on the results of WG 1 and WG 2, on the occasion of the European Development Days (December 7, 2010). The ITUC delegation participants will work jointly to compile a common response and input to the Commission report.

ON-GOING PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON EU DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

The EU is currently launching core communications concerning development policies. Please see the links in attachment for:

[Green Paper on the Future of EU Budget Support to third countries](#)

The ITUC secretariat is calling for eventual input and comments from you in order to draft a common and shared reaction!!

EU INSTRUMENTS - PROGRAMMING

EIDHR

DG EuropeAid convened a consultation meeting with CSOs on EIDHR Annual Action Plan 2011, which took place on September 27, Brussels, 2010, and to which the ITUC secretariat participated.

The lack of coherence of the proposed AAP 2011 with the objectives/priorities of the Multiannual Strategy Paper 2011-13 of the very same instrument (EIDHR) is striking. It should be remembered that the Strategy Paper constitutes the primary framework on which the following Action Plans should be laid down. The promotion and protection of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (ESCR), as well as social dialogue importance, seem to be drastically decreased if compared to the overall orientations embedded in the Strategy Paper.

The ITUC and the ETUC reacted jointly to this proposal, sending recommendations to the EC to revive core messages for the final adoption of the AAP 2011.

For more details see:

[ITUC/ETUC recommendations](#) [AAP 2011](#) [Multiannual Strategy Paper 2011-13](#)

NSA/LA

DG Development invited the platforms of the CSOs based in Brussels for an information session on the next Strategy Paper 2011-13 of the programme NSA/LA. There will not be much difference from the previous Strategy Paper, as real changes are expected to happen with the finalisation of the Structured Dialogue process, which is indeed aimed at the overall revision of the financial instrument of the EU in development cooperation (DCI). However, it was confirmed that the introduction of 'framework agreements' would already be possible within this programming 2011-13. This is true specifically concerning objective 2 and 3 of the NSA/LA. Finally, another change (which is not very conducive for trade unions) will be the elimination of 'multi-country programs' – under objective 1 – in favour of national program support. More details on the [contents can be found here](#) (French only). The actual text of the document is still not available.

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2010 EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS

The European Development Days is the leading European forum where the questions and issues about international development cooperation are debated. The 5th edition will be hosted in Brussels, Belgium, on 6-7 December 2010. If you want to attend, do not forget to register on-line (a photo is required) before 15 November.



The scope and scale of EDD are growing every year, as links with new networks and new partners are made, and new platforms are created. The first four EDD events have established some important characteristics:

Participation and involvement

At every level, participants, hosts, moderators, debaters, exhibitors, whether they're from the North or the South, can all take part, put forward their ideas, examine creative solutions and question responsibilities. Male and female politicians, parliamentarians, representatives of international institutions, local authorities, NGOs, business leaders, researchers, journalists, artists and students... all share their knowledge and their experiences. The debates are in plenary sessions or in bilateral meetings, in workshops or in the framework of parallel events, in quiet lounges or before the press.

[Register](#) (before 15 November!!!) [Agenda](#) [More information on the 2010 EDD](#)

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](#)
- [Fundamental Rights and Citizenship](#) (deadline 23/11/2010)

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

DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS LAUNCH BIG PUSH BACK TO COUNTER 'AUDIT CULTURE'

Development practitioners and researchers severely criticize the monitoring and evaluation obsession (measurable “value for money”, etc) by donors and launch a call for a Big Pushback to counter the “audit culture” and to create more space for development that leads to social transformation.

They considered the following as ways forward:

- Building 'counter-narratives' that emphasise accountability to those for whom international aid exists;
- Developing innovative communication channels in order to better communicate with the public the complex nature of development;
- Developing different methods of reporting, so that the requirement for aggregated numbers at Northern policy level captures the character of programming in complex development contexts;
- Collaborating with people working for change inside donor agencies;
- Re-claiming the term 'value for money';
- Enhancing organisational learning and reflective practice to nurture out-of-the-box thinking and approaches; and
- Scrutinising the role of big business in development aid and its impact on discourse, quality and accountability.

[Read more](#)

6. Agenda 2010

<u>10-12 November</u>	EU Seminar on Structured Dialogue Asia (New Delhi)
<u>15 November</u>	TUDCN Experts Group on Trade Union Development Effectiveness (Brussels)
<u>16-18 November</u>	TUDCN Network Meeting (Brussels)
<u>7-8 December</u>	EU Working Group Meeting (Brussels)
<u>9-10 December</u>	European Development Days (Brussels)



The TUDCN team:

Jaap Wienen (ITUC Deputy General Secretary), Jan Dereymaeker (Network Coordinator), Mamadou Diallo (Program Officer), Paola Simonetti (Policy and Advocacy Officer), Luc Vermeersch (Information Officer) and Peggy De Clercq (Assistant).