

Workstream 1

TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

➤ **Background:**

- Since the last decade the main international Stakeholders of Development Cooperation have been working to re-shape the global architecture and practices to deliver international aid. Throughout a series of International Summits, High Level Forums and meetings, Donors, Governments and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are currently attempting to reach agreements on common principles and objectives in order to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation, in relation to the real impact of aid in receiving countries.
- The first relevant step in this direction was taken in 2005, at the High Level Forum (HLF) in Paris, where donor/beneficiary governments and multilateral agencies signed the so called *Paris Declaration* (PD). The PD outlines specific principles to improve aid effectiveness, aimed at 'reducing poverty and inequality, increasing growth, building capacity and accelerating the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In this respect, the PD can certainly be considered as a positive achievement, highlighting the political will of governments in improving cooperation.
- However, CSOs were not involved at all in this process, and they are not signatories of the PD. Following the PD, CSOs organized common advocacy actions in preparation of the next HLF of Accra in 2008. The outcome of this Forum was the *Accra Agenda for Action (AAA)*, where the CSOs finally took part as development stakeholders. The AAA goes beyond the PD, formally recognizing CSOs as relevant development actors together with governments and donors, and also shifting the objective from 'aid effectiveness' to 'DEVELOPMENT effectiveness'. Also Trade union Organizations took part to this process, highlighting decent work as vital element to reach development effectiveness. Following Accra HLF, CSOs committed to provide their own criteria and principles to define development effectiveness, to be finalized by the next HLF in 2011.

➤ **Objectives of the workstream:**

In the framework of global revision of the concept of development effectiveness, Trade Union Organizations are called to develop their own criteria for development effectiveness. Therefore, the specific objectives of this work stream will be oriented at:

- Improve the effectiveness of Trade Union Cooperation in terms of results, impact and contribution to sustainable development
- Improve relations and cooperation among trade union partners based on equality and political respect
- Consolidate shared views and understanding on development cooperation within ITUC and member organizations
- Increasing the role of Trade Unions in development effectiveness among the CSOs towards international donors (Institutions; Multilateral agencies; governments)

➤ **Activities of the workstream:**

According to the objectives of this work stream, we should develop specific **GUIDELINES** on Trade Union's approach to development cooperation. The Guidelines should be used both as an INTERNAL and EXTERNAL instrument:

- INTERNAL instrument: common reference tool for TU organizations when operating at international level to improve the quality/impact of their actions. In this sense, the Guidelines will contain *INDICATORS* to measure the concrete contribution of international support provided by Trade Union Solidarity Organizations
- EXTERNAL instrument: developing *INDICATORS* will also be useful for providing international donors with specific points of reference for coherent evaluation of the actions implemented by TU organizations

In order to elaborate the guidelines, we will have to identify 'key themes' on which we will develop our work. Here below, we highlight some proposals (*to be shared with working group members*):

- *Ownership-Partnership: is there a dichotomy between ownership and partnership? How can they be defined? Whom is the action for?*
- *Alignment- Independence: who is accountable to whom? How the priorities have been assessed?*
- *Harmonization -Autonomy: political coherence/complementary with other interventions? What coordination has been put in place with other organizations/ITUC?*
- *Accountability of results: who is accountable to whom?*
- *Sustainability: how can we define the impact of our action? Can we identify objective indicators?*

➤ **Methodology of the workstream:**

- **Working language:** English
- **Working group participants*:** SASK; ITUC-AF; FNV; ELA; AFL-CIO; LO-TCO; CGT; CGSLB; FGTB; ITGLWF;TUC
**to be confirmed by 17th of APRIL*
- **Working tools:**
 - Online divided in two sections 1) discussions 2) library containing reference documentation
 - Working Group Meetings: in 2009 and 2010
 - Facilitator: Paola Simonetti paola.simonetti@ituc-csi.org

The work will be carried out with two complementary instruments: online work and WG meetings.

➤ **Work Timeline (please refer to the Work Plan Agenda):**

- ***April-May 2009, online work***
Expected Outcomes: finalizing subscription to WS and setting the context/objectives
- ***19-20 May 2009, WG Meeting in Brussels***
Expected Outcomes: selection of common criteria and contents definition
- ***June 2009-September 2009, online work***
Expected Outcomes: draft of the structure of the Guidelines
- ***October 2009, WG Meeting in Stockholm***
Expected Outcomes: adoption of the structure of the Guidelines
- ***November 2009-February 2010, online work***
Expected Outcomes: I draft Guidelines
- ***March 2010, WG Meeting in Madrid***
Expected Outcomes: II draft Guidelines
- ***April 2010-October 2010, online work and WG Meeting in Brussels***
Expected Outcomes: finalization and presentation of the guidelines
