



**AFRICA'S REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
UNION CONFEDERATION (ITUC-AFRICA)**

**Report for the Africa Trade Union Development Network (ATUDN) General Meeting.**

**Held on:**

**30th to 31st January 2018**

**In**

**Arusha, Tanzania.**

*"Gearing the Africa Trade Unions for Development Policy Influence from a labour perspective"*

**Annexes (see attached):**

- i. Participant list
- ii. Presentations
- iii. Concept Note
- iv. Programme for the meeting

**Meeting Objectives:**

1. To report on and evaluate the 2017-18 implemented ATUDN activities and map out implementation strategies for the New Year.
2. To further orient the ATUDN members on the use of the TUDCN monitoring template for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) country shadow reports.
3. To prepare for the ATUDN's participation at the UNECA Sustainable Development Goals regional summit through orientation to UNECA integrated regional indicator framework for monitoring both Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.
4. To orient members to the Africa Union's Agenda 2063 and other initiative implemented by other solidarity organisations.

**Meeting Expected Outcomes:**

1. Approved 2017-18 ATUDN workplan and implementation strategies/responsibilities shared and agreed.
2. Knowledgeable and capacitated ATUDN members ready and able to use the agenda 2030 monitoring template.
3. Knowledgeable and prepared ATUDN steering committee members ready and able to meaningfully articulate the trade union development priorities in international forums.
4. Enhanced knowledge regarding the UNECA monitoring processes for the Agenda 2030 and 2063.

## **Introduction**

In 2017 ATUDN carried out a number of project activities by way of building capacity, strengthening networking and influencing development policies at national, sub-regional and regional level. The ATUDN general meeting was convened to give an opportunity and space for the network members to share their work accomplishments and challenges, foster cross-learning of experiences and plan for the year 2018.

### **a) Presentation and recap of ATUDN since the last steering committee meeting**

Key highlights on ATUDN included:

- *The background, objectives, pillars and advocacy goals of the ATUDN.*
- *Regarding work done on capacity building, the emphasis was made on capacity building sessions that were carried out on Development Financing and the SDGs.*
- *Partnerships with like-minded organisations were considered critical to the work of the ATUDN. In this light, it was share that the network is striving to reach out to critical institutions on the continent and that now efforts have been made to cement the working relationship with UNECA and the AU. During the same reporting period, ATUDN secretariat had also reached out to the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), which is the specialised agency of the AU. It is hope that the networking with ACBF will further augment the work that the network is doing on the Agenda 2030 and 2063.*
- *Progress report also highlighted a number of activities being undertaken by at national level following the capacity building of the network members.*

Plenary:

A question was raised on the relationship between ATUDN and African CSOs. In response, it was noted that ATUDN values networking and building alliances with African CSOs whose objectives and interests aligns with those of ATUDN. Such networking and alliances were of critical importance to ATUDN as they facilitate safeguarding of workers' rights and interests in various sectors and continental discourse.

### **b) Presentation and recap of TUDCN work since the last steering committee meeting**

Key highlights on TUDCN included:

- *TUDCN facilitated the establishment of regional development networks in the different regions which include Americas, Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe.*
- *TUDCN activities at both global level include advocacy and partnerships.*
- *The advocacy leg deals with development of positions of trade unions with development policy debates. Thematic areas include SDGs, financing for development, private sector development and social dialogue.*

- *The advocacy programmes targets the OECD (club of the rich), EU Commission as the biggest donor.*
- *The partnerships leg focuses on complementing and ensuring coherence of the trade union partnerships with the aim of bringing together spaces of coordination, complementing each other's works and contributing to global, continental and national processes.*

### **c) Presentation on ACTRAV – Mr Kabu Mban**

Key highlights on ACTRAV presentation included:

- *ACTRAV is the main link between the International Labour Office and the workers and its mission is to maintain close relations with the trade union movement throughout the various countries.*
- *The key role of ACTRAV is to develop capacities of the trade unions through worker education and training on various aspects that pertain to workers welfare and the global economy so that workers are better equipped to deal with challenges they encounter.*
- *ACTRAV is charged with training on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and so far a Global Academy was undertaken in Turin as well as continental training programmes in Africa (Cape Verde).*
- *The role of ACTRAV also entails taking stock of changes occurring at national levels so as to make informed decisions and matching priorities and realities.*
- *ACTRAV is committed to supporting the work of ATUDN and this commitment was exemplified during the Continental SDGs academy where half of the participants were drawn from the ATUDN network and two of the facilitators came from the same.*

Plenary:

- *A question was asked on the nature of the academies: it was noted that ACTRAV undertakes training for workers unless the trainings are tripartite where it can then work with other similar units of the ILO. ACTRAV focuses on workers because of the underrepresentation of workers due to lack of resources. Thus, ACTRAV programmes are not paid for worker participants. Participants were urged to source more funding at national levels on SDGs through various national organisations such as FES or other organisations in the north. Workers are allowed to also raise training needs to the ACTRAV offices. However, it was noted that there has been a decline in resources for ACTRAV and it now has to compete for resources with other ILO units especially in the wake of the global economic crises.*
- *On the question on whether ACTRAV undertakes assessments of trained workers, it was highlighted that ACTRAV undertakes impact assessment programmes every 6 months after a training programme to ensure continuity and sustainability of the programmes.*

- *A question was raised on whether ACTRAV works with the sub-regional offices. It was noted that sub-regional offices are critical in the work of ACTRAV and are always part of ACTRAV programmes.*

**d) Presentation - National activities on Agenda 2030, by ATUDN Steering Committee members**

Presentations were made by SATUCC, EATUC, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mali, Senegal, Kenya, Nigeria, Nigeria and Chad (*attached PowerPoint presentation*). Below are actions presented in plenary:

<b>Country</b>	<b>SDGs Activities</b>
Nigeria	<p><b>SDG 8</b> <i>NLC is part of the Steering Committee assigned to work on child labour in the informal economy</i></p> <p><b>SDG 16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Undertook a research on the number of workers killed by the Boko Haram group and the extent to which workers families were affected</i></li> </ul>
Chad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Undertook sensitisation awareness campaigns and developed popular materials on SDGs</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Developed a training manual on SDGs</i></li> <li>▪ <i>The federation has engaged the government on SDGs</i></li> </ul>

**e) Presentation - Experiences of the African Capacity Building Foundation in Working on Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. By Dr. Thomas Munthali - Director, Knowledge & Learning the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)**

The Key highlights in the ACBF presentation:

- *ACBF is African Union’s officially designated specialized agency for capacity development established in 1991 to build human and institutional capacity with a vision to see “Africa capable of achieving its own development”.*
- *To date ACBF has invested over USD 700 million in building institutional and human capacities in more than 45 countries and 6 regional economic communities.*
- *ACBF’s 2017-2020 Strategy is based on four pillars namely (i) enabling effective delivery of continental development priorities; (ii) supporting countries to achieve tangible development results; (iii) enhancing private sector and civil society contributions to sustainable development; and, (iv) leveraging knowledge and learning to increase development effectiveness.*
- *ACBF’ s modes of intervention include grant making and fund management, capacity development advisory services, knowledge services,*

*resource mobilisation for capacity development and capacity development innovations.*

- *In supporting Agenda 2063 and SDGs, ACBF has undertaken researches and publications on how to achieve the two agendas, capacity development of the two Agendas as well as supporting CSOs to meaningfully popularise and advocate for domestication of the Agendas.*
- *ACBF will continue to report on capacity mapping for CSOs, determine the nature and extent of capacities required, implement the skills revolution programme on the two agendas, create platforms of exchange and sharing of knowledge, develop capacities of CSOs and private sector for policy formulation and implementation.*
- *As recommendations, ACBF encouraged ATUDN and its members to proactively engage on the two Agendas by participating in regional and multi-stakeholders platforms and invoking the agendas in social dialogue and government platforms and advocate for prioritisation of adequate resources to implement various programmes on the two Agendas.*
- *In conclusion, ACBF reiterated that ACBF values the role of CSOs and trade unions ion the entire development value chain.*

## **Plenary**

Three questions were raised which included (i) an explanation of the 10 countries that were to be engaged in the exchange programme; (ii) how trade unions are conceptualised in the ACBF programming; (iii) and the role of PPPs in the work of ACBF.

On the 10 countries it was noted that the group varied in nature with representation from land-locked countries, low, middle and high income countries and regional organisations. On conceptualisation of trade unions is was highlighted that trade unions are critical in the promotion decent jobs, peaceful nations and pushing for integrated solutions. Thus trade unions were encouraged to develop proposals that have proved to work and submit to ACBF. On PPPs, it was noted that ACBF the topic is still under dialogue and how to explore PPPs for effective delivery.

### **Proposed key messages to and how to effectively participate at UNECA RFSD:**

- *The ATUDN should work in fostering more visibility during the forum.*
- *There will be a need to formulate messages around social protection, social dialogue and decent work.*
- *The UNECA RFSD is a hyper interactive platform, thus we ought to attentive to all that is happening.*
- *Need to participate, but how do we participate. The structure of the forum is such that TUs are placed within the major groups so we participate together with other CSOs. For our voices to be heard we really need to talk in those meetings and make sure that our messages relate to the goals under review. There are subcommittees so we made sure that we have representatives of TUs in each subcommittee.*
- *To make sure that we are not left behind and that we play a critical role during the forum, we ought to take up volunteering roles. There are usually calls for volunteers, so we need to make sure we volunteer to be part of the*

*subcommittees that are drafting the statements in each platform. This was very useful last time and it helped to have our messages to be included into the last document.*

- *It is also very important to have a caucus meeting before the forum, at least a day before, so as to consolidate our statements and key messages.*
- *It is also critical that we need to find time to engage with the government officials to showcase what we work on – that we profile ourselves as contributors to the development agenda.*
- *The various trainings that we have been having in the ATUDN have been critical in preparing us to engage at the RFSD.*
- *The ATUDN should be visible in the sub-region. We should see how to work with the sub-regional bodies and we need to strengthen communication within the network and share updates through whatsapp or different groups.*

### **Key Messages for Regional Forum:**

The following are the proposed messages to be advanced at the 2018 UNECA RFSD as agreed upon during the group discussions:

<b>English group</b>		<b>French Group</b>	
SDG	Message	SDG	Message
Goal 6	The state should ensure that there is access to clean water and improved sanitation.	Goal 6	Guarantee access to drinkable water in rural and urban areas/settlements
Goal 7	The government should invest in modern technology and green energy.	Goal 7	Develop policies to guarantee clean energies
Goal 11	The government should invest in infrastructure, better planning of the cities, disaster management and homes for all.	Goal 11	Facilitate access to homes and social infrastructure to all.
Goal 12	Proper management of natural resources and investment in infrastructure that reduces production costs.	Goal 15	Promote strategies for resilience to face climate change.

### **National work plans:**

Regarding the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs at the national level, the following are some of the suggested activities by the steering committee members to be implemented at national level:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Planned Activities</b>
Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> ZCTU has developed its SDG action plan,</li> <li><b>ii.</b> Strategies on ZCTU participation in different process of the government and development partners to ensure visibility of TUs in SDGs.</li> <li><b>iii.</b> Raising awareness for TU priorities on the SDGs, insist on these in terms of education and in terms of awareness.</li> <li><b>iv.</b> Implementation of the SDG action plan will be the priority.</li> </ul>

Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> Discussion of the SDGs hasn't been that strong yet.</li> <li><b>ii.</b> One of the priorities is to deepen the understanding of the SDGs.</li> <li><b>iii.</b> Publication on Economic and social policy with the trade union perspective.</li> <li><b>iv.</b> We shall come up with a work plan on what we want to do on the SDGs.</li> <li><b>v.</b> We want to also engage the government and private sector on economic and social policy.</li> </ul>
Mali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> Capacity building on the SDGs for leadership.</li> <li><b>ii.</b> A position document on the SDGs has already started.</li> <li><b>iii.</b> Also the visibility of the Network in the structures that are working on the SDGs as well within international organisations in the country.</li> <li><b>iv.</b> Contacts have started with CSOs, especially with the youth the network.</li> <li><b>v.</b> Raise awareness on social dialogue and Decent Work Agenda.</li> <li><b>vi.</b> Young trade unionists academy will take place over a week and we will include the SDGs in that.</li> </ul>
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> We plan to build the capacity of two COTU affiliates on the SDGs.</li> </ul>
Chad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> Organise an open door activity on the SDGs.</li> <li><b>ii.</b> Also a session on FfD related to taxes and the responsibility of companies to pay taxes.</li> <li><b>iii.</b> Engaging the governments: we ask for the government to consider trade unions views in their forum on SDGs.</li> <li><b>iv.</b> With the Central African regional organisation they are asking them for resources to finance trainings on the SDGs.</li> </ul>
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> Development side-events/activities in the build-up for congress.</li> <li><b>ii.</b> Future of work and SDG summit in May to mainstream and build capacity for affiliates on SDGs.</li> <li><b>iii.</b> Launch a workshop on Goal 10 to build capacity.</li> <li><b>iv.</b> National climate change workshop (last year provincial, this year national).</li> <li><b>v.</b> Decent Work day, something will be announced as an activity.</li> <li><b>vi.</b> Policy discussions with NEDLAC on social security and implementation of a national minimum wage.</li> </ul>
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> Sensitize the local leaders on SDGs.</li> <li><b>ii.</b> Motion to have presentations concerning SDGs in all the training activities as leaders know nothing on SDGs.</li> <li><b>iii.</b> Organising a pre-labour day activity on which SDGs,</li> <li><b>iv.</b> Promoting goal 8 (DW agenda)</li> </ul>
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> We intend to organise a national sensitisation workshop on SDGs to develop capacity amongst the technical staff of the TU, targeting the researchers, organisers and then develop a strategy were we establish what we want to do after that.</li> </ul>
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>ii.</b> Continue capacity building with workers that have been displaced (due to Boko Haram).</li> <li><b>iii.</b> On climate change continue with seminars and workshops for those affected by climate change.</li> <li><b>iv.</b> Currently negotiating on minimum wage and prepare for a strike in</li> </ul>

	<p>the negotiations field.</p> <p><b>v.</b> Use a study on child labour in state level schools.</p>
Congo	<p><b>i.</b> Organise a workshop with the trade union representatives of the three main organisations on SDGs, illicit flow and climate change.</p> <p><b>ii.</b> Have focal points for each of these themes.</p> <p><b>iii.</b> Get more visibility with the Ministries in charge of these themes. They need to find resources for this. As members of the SD committee they want to include these three themes in the social dialogue committee.</p>
Tunisia	<p><b>i.</b> Next month to launch an SDG programme and engage government and private sector.</p>
Niger	<p><b>ii.</b> To contact the other unions to do an action plan for 2018 and submit it to ITUC.</p>
Rwanda	<p><b>iii.</b> To initiate conversations between CESTRAR and the African Centre of SDGs for a capacity building session on SDGs.</p>
Namibia	<p><b>iv.</b> We will only know what we can do around March. No one is really speaking about SDGs at trade union level so we need to carefully study this with the trade union movement.</p>

## Conclusions of the General Meeting

### On Agenda 2030:

- We will follow-up on the national activities on Agenda 2030 that are undertaken by the members.
- National centres should engage their governments on the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs and participate in SDG platforms building efforts with like-minded CSOs.
- National organisations from the countries that are reporting in 2018 will submit country reports that will be used for advocacy with their governments and at the UNECA Regional Forum and the High Level Political Forum. Other organisations are also encouraged to take up this work.
- Start early and communicate with each other: messages should be prepared well in advance-(pre-workshop)
- But participation should not be kept for UNECA platform only; it's important for trade unions to engage at national level and gathering of evidence/reports for engagement prior to UNECA participation is critical.
- **Actively engage with stakeholders:** SDGs-The global development goals are inherently complex deals that require significant public engagement to ensure that the deal remains in the interest of the poor.
- Reach out to the other national stakeholders at national level (the country delegations) ahead of time and befriend them so they become familiar and supportive of trade union positions.

- **Build an empowered team:** Assembling an empowered trade union team that is capable of making and executing empirically informed positions is an essential part of any successful global agenda engagement.
- **Delegation feedback is crucial, but so is communication prior and during the forum to the rest of the members/sharing information and key messages.**

**On the private sector in Development:**

- Research will be undertaken by the TUDCN on blending finance for which two or three specific projects in African countries will be looked into. Therefore suggestions from the members of the ATUDN are welcome on possible projects to look into in the next 10 days.
- Specific advocacy should be undertaken by the ATUDN members at country level around the role of private sector in development, with their government, with PPP commissions, relevant Ministries and European Union delegations
- ATUDN shall undertake a specific seminar to further develop our advocacy on the private sector (and Blended Financing) in development.

**On the GPEDC: Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation**

- ATUDN shall provide the contacts of members of the ATUDN as trade union focal points to engage in the next GPEDC monitoring round (May to October 2018) around the areas of enabling environment and private sector engagement.
- ATUDN shall provide the contacts of members of the ATUDN in the countries in which specific research will be undertaken on effective development cooperation and private sector engagement (Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda).

**On goals under review:**

- Clean water and sanitation: State should ensure adequate provision for water since water is a basic need - guarantee water and sanitation services in rural areas
- Affordable and green/clean energy: investments in green energy for job creation
- Infrastructure: Planning of cities for industrialization/natural disaster management and affordable housing for all/policies to ensure clean energy for all.
- Ensure better housing for all workers
- Proper management of natural resources and investments in infrastructure that minimise waste - respect environmental standards in all environmental projects
- Water and sanitation/forestry
- Gather all the inputs from the meeting and synergise them with the ITUC priorities
- Draft a preliminary position paper and share with members for input

**On communication:**

- There is a need to reinforce communication in French.
- The tradition to provide documents in both languages, professionally translated should be upheld
- ATUDN members should make greater use of social media: Twitter, Facebook, etc. But traditional forms of communication should not be discounted. It is important that

we perfect our traditional ways of communication even before we consider “climbing the social media ladder”.

- Members are free to ask for assistance from our communication team for development of communication tools.

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