



Global South-South Development EXPO 2014

ILO Solution Forum:

***Experience of the Guinean workers' organizations
in the construction of peace and decent work in
Guinea, 2000-2014***

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SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Social dialogue and decent work can be solutions providing peace and security in terms of the prevention, resolution and management of conflicts through South-South and triangular cooperation.

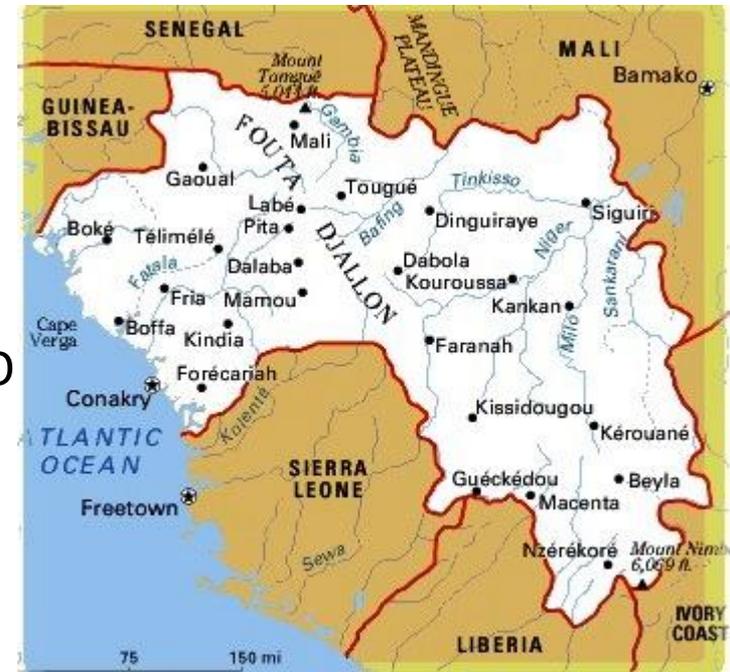
These tools help to rebuild social cohesion in fragile countries, and South-South cooperation is essential to achieve durable and sustainable results.





Early 2000s

- CNTG Congress, 2000
- Conflicts in the neighbouring countries of Sierra Leone and Liberia
- Field visits in the border areas to meet Refugees and give them clothes and food, while reassuring them of the workers' solidarity and putting them at ease with the presence of the ILO





2006-2008

- Deterioration of living conditions led unions to organize a series of strikes and protest marches
- Unions set up a confederation of trade unions in order to establish unity of action, expand cooperation and coordination with other actors in civil society, political parties, young women and religious denominations.
- A national negotiating committee was set up under the aegis of republican institutions (the National Assembly, the Supreme Court, the Economic and Social Council).
- Regional and international mobilization of the working world: CSI International, CSI Africa, and the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (Organisation de l'unité syndicale africaine - OUSA)



2006-2008

- International Trade Union Solidarity Conference to Promote Sustainable Development in Guinea (May 2007): trade unionists from Guinea, Africa and other continents, Guinean civil society representatives, leaders of the government and national institutions, employers' representatives, religious figures, diplomats posted in Guinea and representatives of international institutions (ILO, World Bank, IMF)
- “The measures to be taken are the responsibility of the Guineans, but the international community also has a responsibility and must be actively involved,”
- Guy Ryder, at that time General-Secretary of the ITUC



2006-2008

Roadmap for sustainable development in Guinea

- Reaffirm that social dialogue – a complement to collective bargaining – is crucial to the improvement of living and working conditions, and a means of preserving peace;
- Ensure that the existing framework (including the Economic and Social Council and bipartite dialogue within companies) functions properly;
- Set up a National Social Dialogue Committee;
- Organise at least biannual meetings between the Prime Minister and trade union organizations, and at least once a year between the President and the unions;
- Build the capacities of social partners;
- Promote social dialogue (government-social partners) and civil dialogue (government-social partners and civil society).



2009

National conflict

- Socio-political actors and the international community mobilized to reach agreement on the solutions to be implemented.
- The negotiation and signing of the Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) agreements that established transitional structures were achieved through dialogue between the Government and the National Transitional Council (CNT played the legislative role) .
- Guinea has had a transitional government with a President from the armed forces, a Prime Minister from the political parties, and Ms. Rabiadou Diallo as President of the National Transitional Council.
- Support by the ILO, OIF, UNDP, the European Union, the African Union and ECOWAS, and the willingness of workers and their unions to promote dialogue and inclusion.
- National Commission for Social Dialogue, which has specialized sub-commissions for unions, employers, civil society, the defence forces, the coalition of young women, and security, religious and elder groups.



2010-2011

- 2010 presidential elections
- CNTG initiative: request the ILO to organize a national seminar on the role of unions in prevention and management of crises and violent conflicts.
- Seminar held in July 2011 with the presence of the President and the Prime Minister
- Participants: ILO-ACTRAV, ILO Training Centre in Turin, CRISIS (ILO's Programme for fragile states and disaster response), ITUC-AFRICA, OUSA, and fifty delegates from eight national unions, the National Transitional Council (CNT), the Economic and Social Council, civil society, the four regional coordination offices, defence and security forces, and the coalition of women, youth, the informal sector and religious denominations.

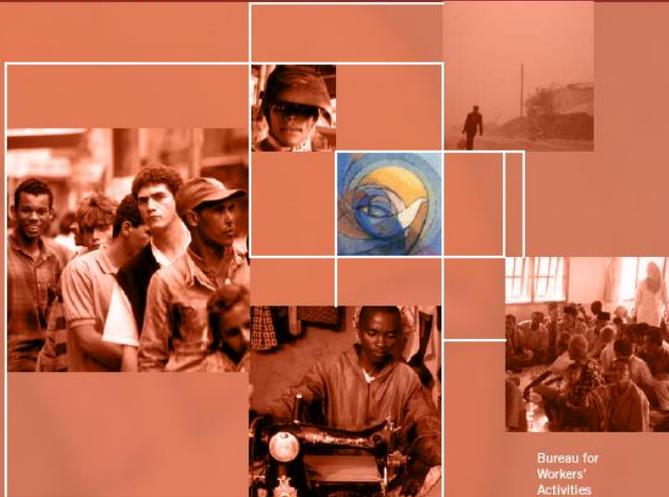


ILO Training Manual for use by trade union organizations



International
Labour
Office
Geneva

Prevention and Resolution of Violent and Armed Conflicts



Bureau for
Workers'
Activities
(ACTRAV)

Programme
on Crisis
Response and
Reconstruction
(ILO/CRISIS)

Training manual for use by
trade union organizations

Peacebuilding between nations and social classes on the basis of social justice is the raison d'être of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The manual developed by CRISIS and ACTRAV puts the emphasis on the importance of the role of trade unions in prevention and early warning and proposes measures and initiatives to be implemented by trade unions in cooperation with governments, employers and other players in civil society with a view to achieving peace, building upon it and undertaking reconstruction.



2010-2011

Social dialogue was implemented through the establishment of a committee chaired by the 1st Vice-President of the CNT and the participation of all socio-political actors in the Inclusive Dialogue Committee, the amendment of the Election Code by the CNT and the institutionalization of an Independent National Electoral Commission, the systematization of consultations with all the stakeholders chaired by the President of the CNT, and the achievement of the criteria of HIPC (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries) programme.



2013-2014

- 2013 parliamentary elections and establishment of the new National Assembly of Guinea in January 2014
- adoption by the CNT of a new labour code

The experience and the concrete results obtained in a fragile state weakened by divisions and years of bad governance, clearly show that social dialogue is crucial for recovery and mobilization initiatives, through the support of South-South cooperation, and to facilitate the reconstruction of broad social cohesion essential for achieving decent work and sustainable peace.

The role of the ILO was important to strengthen the institutional capacity of the republican bodies, particularly the CNT, the defence and security forces, and all the socio-political, economic and cultural actors.



Guinean unions' and civil society's determination to preserve peace, democracy and social justice

For unions, the key concept of development in fragile states is linked to knowing how to find a consensus, taking into account the social needs of workers, considering social dialogue as a central factor in the reconstruction of the State.

All these achievements were possible thanks to the creation of a permanent framework for dialogue, synergy between all the socio-political and economic actors including the private sector, without discrimination or exclusion through social dialogue: listen, understand, and deal honestly with the situation.





International Development Partners

- UN, through the UNDP and the ILO
- European Union
- African Union and neighbouring African states: Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Liberia
- OIF - Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
- CSI International, CSI Africa, OUSA,
- Organisation of Workers in West Africa (OTAO)
- ECOWAS
- Bilateral partners (USAID, Embassies of France, Germany, Spain, South Africa).





Social Dialogue and South-South Cooperation = path to sustainability!



"I urge everyone to welcome the decision taken at the 20th Summit of the African Union to create a South-South and triangular coalition for Africa Post-2015"

Thank you!