



Agenda for the Global Union Research Network (GURN) Workshop

Saturday, 24 January

Arrival of participants from the “South” and transition countries

Monday, 26 January: Special session on “Research challenges for countries from the “South” and transition countries”

- 9 a.m. **Welcome and introduction** (Chair: Frank Hoffer, ACTRAV)
- Presentation of each organisation of research and other activities**
- 11 a.m. **Break**
- 11.30 a.m. Open discussion and exchange of ideas on “**Special challenges for participants of the “South” and transition countries with regard to research**” (Chair: Verena Schmidt, ACTRAV)
- 1 p.m. **Lunch**
- 2.30 p.m. Continuation: Open discussion and exchange of ideas on “**Special challenges for participants of the “South” and transition countries with regard to research**” (Chair: Verena Schmidt, ACTRAV, Rapporteur: Lawrence Egulu, ICFTU-AFRO)
- 4 p.m. **Break**
- 4.30 p.m. **Technical standards and requirements for online networking** (Chair: Ditiro Saleshando, ACTRAV)
Introductory statement: Marc Bélanger; ACTRAV-Turin; Lene Olsen, ACTRAV, Duncan Pruett, ICFTU
Rapporteur: Lawrence Egulu, ICFTU-AFRO

Arrival of other participants.



Tuesday, 27 January - morning

9 a.m. **Welcome** Enrico Cairola, ACTRAV-Turin
A.V. Jose, International Institute for Labour Studies
(Chair: Frank Hoffer, ACTRAV)

Introduction to GURN

Presentation of the agenda of the workshop (key topics)

Summary of interests and areas of expertise based on fact sheets by participants and on a survey

- James Howard, Director of the Department for Employment and International Labour Standards at the ICFTU: **Evolution and political objectives of GURN**
- John Evans, General Secretary of TUAC: **Elements of GURN and what kind of research are we looking for?**
- Jim Baker, Director of ILO-ACTRAV: **The role of ACTRAV-ILO to support the international research network**
- Lawrence Egulu, ICFTU-AFRO: **Summary of the discussion on Monday: Special research challenges for countries from the “South” and transition countries**

10 a.m. **Introduction of Participants**

11 a.m. **Coffee break**

11.30 a.m. **Discussion of the objectives, target group, priority topics and commitment to GURN** (Chair: James Howard, ICFTU)

Leading questions:

- What do you think of the objectives as outlined in the introductory statements?
- What is the target group of GURN?
- What are the priority topics?
- What kind of commitment is expected from members of the network?
- What do people get in return (exclusive information, lively discussion groups, high visibility, new ideas, coordinated campaigns and well sorted archives) for making and sustaining such a commitment?

1 p.m. **Lunch**



Tuesday, 27 January – afternoon

- 2.30 p.m. **Experience, commitment and challenges in existing and former networks** (Chair: Verena Schmidt, ACTRAV)
- **African Research Network** (Austin Muneku, Zambia Congress of Trade Unions)
 - **Global Policy Network** (Tony Avirgan, GPN)
 - **Regional Networks on Trade** (João Paulo Veiga from the Observatore Social, Brasil)
 - **European Networks** (Maria Jepson, European Trade Union Institute)
 - **Labour Networks and Library of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES)** (Rainer Gries, FES Germany)
 - **Experiences with the online discussion “Organized Labour in the 21st Century”** (A.V. Jose, Institute for Labour Studies)
 - **Suggestion for GURN webpage setup using Regional and Bilateral Trade Agreements as an example** (Lene Olsen, ACTRAV; Esther Busser, ICFTU)
 - **Other experiences**
- 4 p.m. **Break**
- 4.30 p.m. **Discussion on the Concept of GURN** (Chair: A.V. Jose, International Institute for Labour Studies)
- What are the rules of the network?
 - Who will facilitate and coordinate the network?
 - What should the network produce, and what does already exist?
 - In which area of priority topics do we have existing expertise, which we could build on?
 - How can the network link up with existing resources?
 - How can the workload be shared?
 - How can the expertise of network members be used best?
- 6.30 p.m. **End of discussion**
- 8 p.m. **Group dinner**



Wednesday, 28 January

- 9 a.m. **Summary of discussions of previous day: What topics should we concentrate on?** Verena Schmidt, ACTRAV (Chair: John Evans, TUAC)
- 10.15 a.m. **Technical Requirements of GURN** (Lene Olsen, ACTRAV; Marc Bélanger, ACTRAV Turin; Duncan Pruett, ICFTU)
- 11.00 a.m. **Break**
- 11.30 a.m. **Working Groups on different priority areas of GURN (subject areas were a result of the discussions at the workshop)**
Group 1: **Regional and bilateral Trade Agreements (ICFTU-Geneva)**
Group 2: **Corporate Governance (TUAC)**
Group 3: **Discussion of the Migration Report at the International Labour Conference (ILO-ACTRAV)**
Group 4: **PRSPs/IFIs (ICFTU-AFRO)**
Group 5: **Social & Labour impact of Multinationals (Observatorio Social)**
Group 6: **Global Trade Union Strategies (Union Renewal) (CRIMT/CLC)**
- Questions for working groups:**
- How will the topic be covered?
 - Which organisation will be responsible for this topic?
 - What is the commitment of the other organisations involved?
 - Time schedule for future plans?
- 1 p.m. **Lunch**
- 2.30 p.m. **Summary by the different Working Groups** (Chair: Frank Hoffer, ACTRAV)
Group 1
Group 2
Group 3
Group 4
Group 5
- Discussion -
- 4 p.m. **Break**
- 4.30 p.m. **Summary of discussion and outlook of future activities** (James Howard, ICFTU)
- 6 p.m. End of workshop