

CO9 Trade Union Statement

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On Behalf of:

The Global Unions &

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) & European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Thank you Chair and honorable delegates. I am pleased to address you today on behalf of Global Unions¹ and their 180 million members. It is our wish that workers in all parts of the world come to support the measures resulting from the work done at COP9.

COP9 must incorporate employment transition issues into policies and measures.

There is a grave danger that workers increasingly see themselves and their families as the first victims of climate change events, as they have already been in recent heat waves, floods, hurricanes, droughts and other climatic disasters. There is a graver danger that they will also perceive themselves as victims of the very measures that UNFCCC institutes to mitigate such climate events. This must be avoided.

Building on the Marrakesh Accords to more fully discuss of UNFCCC Article 4.2.f & Kyoto Articles 2.3 & 3.14

The Marrakesh Accords provide needed direction by proposing to develop expertise for technology transfer issues among affected developing countries, and by establishing a reporting process for social impacts. They also call for information and studying methodologies and ways to minimize adverse social, environmental and economic impacts on developing countries by Parties in Annex I countries.

The full value of this work will be limited unless it links employment measures to reporting and assessment initiatives. Trade unions are looking forward to participating with other stakeholders in a process to develop proper responses to social impacts and to formulate effective policies and measures that can be used as guiding principles for all Parties across different circumstances, and to help promote capacity building strategies.

Employment is the key to synergy between climate and poverty

Employment must be at the center of strategies to ensure synergy between climate mitigation and poverty eradication. Current figures suggest slightly positive world employment net effects, in the longer term, when job losses due to climate events are measured against jobs that will be created by disaster relief and mitigation measures. We are also aware that many jobs will likely be created, within any scenario of change, e.g. as many as 800,000 in Europe and 155,000 in Germany alone by the year 2005, particularly within the renewable energy sector. The same potential also exists in different regions of the world.

However, sector-by-sector and regional analyses show that we are in for turbulent times, times in which large numbers of workers will lose their jobs and livelihoods with little hope of access to the new jobs that will be created. This presents a challenge, which UNFCCC must overcome, or it will erode any public confidence in national efforts to address climate change.

Employment policy, research & investment are called for

The UNFCCC approach to employment must focus on three main areas:

- *It must promote a "Global Employment Agenda", as advocated by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The WSSD has called on Governments "to increase income generating employment opportunities, taking into account the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work". Agenda 21, which was reconfirmed by WSSD, makes strong reference to the need for linking employment to sustainable development.*
- *It must focus on Green job creation, re-employment programmes, training and education, and bridging compensation. These are the essential features*

of **employment transition** programmes if they are to have an impact on climate change and poverty.

- *It must facilitate Cooperation for Employment Research* among key governments and inter-governmental bodies, especially between OECD, ILO, and the EU. Both business and trade unions at the OECD² agree that this kind of research would be necessary for different industrial sectors, and in different regions of the world.

Round Tables welcomed as steps for dialogue

Ministers or Heads of Delegations have been invited to speak at one of COP9's three information exchange Round Tables:

1ST ROUND TABLE: on climate change, adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development:

Now is the time for building a stronger public consensus over climate change and link the objectives of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) for the social dimension to environmental protection to COP's practical measures for implementation.

We agree with the Climate Action Network & NGOs in calling for a redefinition of adaptation.

- ADAPTATION & RESPONSE MEASURES must embody livelihood, employment, social access, human displacement & security issues.
- ANALYSIS of the scope of disasters must lead to Just Transition planning, supported by financial and economic instruments, linked to UNFCCC measures. GOVERNMENTS MUST BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED in investment, procurement and regulation.
- PLANNING MUST INVOLVE ALL SOCIAL PARTNERS, including workers and their representative organisations, along with the rest of civil society.
- WORKPLACES, WORKERS AND THE WORLD OF WORK must be incorporated in the future of change.
- CAPACITY BUILDING OF WORKERS IS KEY, especially for technology transfer issues and to strengthen public awareness and consensus at the national levels.
- GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY (GEF) must broaden its scope for Capacity Building through social integration and the involvement of social partners.
- COOPERATION WITH ILO as well as Social and Labour Ministries must be promoted. The adoption of a "Global Employment Agenda" is vital for addressing poverty and social issues within climate change.

2ND ROUND TABLE on technology, technology uses and technology development.

Capacity-building must be promoted for workers, i.e. education, training and participatory mechanisms to allow them to participate fully in the decision-making concerning the planning and implementation of technology. Policies must meet WSSD & employment objectives. Social and employment impacts of new technology or technology transfer must be addressed as a precondition to their promotion. Public funding for research and development must serve to predict and prevent negative social impacts of technology implementation.

The benefits of productivity increases from new technology must be applied to employment creation, especially in developing countries, as well as to reducing the possibility of job loss or occupational hazards. Efforts must likewise guard against the rise of technology-related injuries and disease (e.g. musculoskeletal disorders or MSDs) in relation to new work processes and information technology. The adoption of new technology should serve to improve workplace health and safety generally, and to reduce work related injuries, and illnesses.

3RD ROUND TABLE on assessing progress of climate change agreements, including scientific, information, policy and financial aspects.

Climate change implementation measures must make the world's workplaces a basis of assessment and action. Measuring progress at local, national, and international levels must be linked to the activities of the workplace, as the hub of production and consumption activities. WSSD calls for workplace-based partnerships as a tool of implementation. Effective change in the workplace can only be achieved with the full "engagement" of workers and trade unions, working with employers in joint target-setting, monitoring, record-keeping, and implementation.

NOTE: The full COP9 trade union statement, "*Investing In Our Future - Social & Employment Transition for Climate Change*" is available by contacting Royer@tuac.org.

¹ At COP9 Global Unions include the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

² The Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and the Business Advisory to the OECD (BIAC) have agreed to jointly promote such employment research cooperation for climate change.