

SBSTA

International Trade Union Confederation

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Item 3

Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Thank you Chair,

Trade unions would like to express our support for further work on vulnerability and adaptation through the Nairobi Work Programme and consider that important conclusions have been reached in the workshops. For example, the conclusions of the workshop on socio-economic information recognised the importance of employment and income for realising resilience, coping strategies and economic diversification.

Chair, we consider that some areas, such as economic diversification and social and economic information need further development. This is the case because, after the first assessment of the situation, it is necessary now to work on the integration of these issues into adaptation policies.

In accordance with some Parties, trade unions consider necessary to focus more on sectors and on livelihoods. Transportation, infrastructure and industry need to be considered for further adaptation analysis. We stress the need to identify the impacts of climate change on social systems and economies, including for example on employment, health, income, migration and production.

Item 10 - Matters relating to Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Kyoto Protocol

Trade unions call on Parties to address potential social problems in sectors targeted by current legislation for emission reduction. While such legislation is vital, it is now urgent to properly assess and address economic and social impacts, especially employment related ones in power generation, energy intensive, and fossil-based industries, aviation

and road transport. Such analyses should serve to clearly identify how to provide just employment transition policies that encompass retraining, economic diversification and support for displaced workers and reinforce social protection systems.

In addition, discussions and analyses should be broadened for covering the social and economic consequences of emission reduction within different areas of the economy. In order to support and not undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development for developing countries, it is necessary to assess their consequences as applied to different zones and sectors. By providing solutions to negative impacts such as just transition policies and by promoting green employment, Parties have the possibility to raise the profile of climate change mitigation and adaptation in national policy. Therefore, working on these areas will remove barriers and obstacles to climate-friendly policies.