

**United Nations Conference on Climate Change  
Conference of Parties (COP) 14  
Poznan, Poland  
December 10, 2008**

**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) Plenary Session**

**On Behalf of the  
International Trade Union Confederation  
Remarks by  
Roger Toussaint, Transport Workers Union Local 100, President  
New York, NY, United States**

Thank you Madame Chair,

My name is Roger Toussaint, here on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation representing affiliates that embrace 168 million workers worldwide. I am also President of Transport Workers Union Local 100 in New York City representing 38,000 bus and subway workers there.

Our trade unions wish to address the climate crisis in ways that provide decent employment with livable wages, especially in parts of world that need it most. According to the International Labour Organization, one in three workers are either unemployed or underemployed, and mostly in the global South. This situation will only deteriorate with the current economic crisis.

Fully-funded adaptation programs can create decent work that offers both social and environmental benefits. Public works programs in coastal defense, flood prevention, and sustainable agriculture can provide jobs while addressing climate change.

More than ever before, many members of our unions, my own included, are from countries that over the years failed to create decent employment opportunities. Today, climate change drives workers away from their homes in a desperate and dangerous search for work. Adaptation programs can create jobs, raise income levels, put food on the table, send children to school and help build stable communities. They must also include social protections so that communities can indeed adapt.

The International Trade Union Confederation calls for adequate and dedicated financial resources and guidelines for adaptation. Ironically, 95 percent of adaptation spending occurs in rich countries, according to the United Nations Development Program. This must be corrected. We urge you to ensure that the new treaty contains the sufficient financial resources to meet the adaptation challenges facing countries all over the world, in particular the global South.

Thank you again, Madame Chair.

