



## **Trade unions at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC COP13**

3-14 December, 2007 – Bali, Indonesia

☞ This report of activities is available at:

[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/COP13WrapUpReport\\_P\\_12Be.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/COP13WrapUpReport_P_12Be.EN.pdf)

A 91-member trade union delegation from 23 countries was registered to participate in labour activities associated with the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Conference of the Parties (COP13) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Bali, Indonesia (3 -14 December, 2007). They lobbied for future action on climate change that would incorporate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction targets which involved all countries, coupled with a 'Just Employment Transition' programme that promoted 'Green Jobs' and 'Decent Work' with a special focus on training, education and the involvement of workers, on the basis of the trade union Statement to COP13:

English: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_12Bc.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_12Bc.EN.pdf)

Français: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_12Bc.FR.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_12Bc.FR.pdf)

Español [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_12Bc.SP.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_12Bc.SP.pdf)

☞ The COP13 list of trade union participants is available:

[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_12Ba.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_12Ba.EN.pdf)

### **A. Introduction and background**

Activities at COP13 made significant headway on many issues emphasised by trade unions prior to the Bali meeting, coordinated by the ad hoc trade union working group on climate change created in 2007 after COP12 in Kenya. Coinciding with the creation of the working group, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) was awarded a "Constituency" status by the UNFCCC, which enabled our delegation to deepen their work within formal COP13 meetings. At the same time as the Bali meeting took place, world trade union leaders met at the General Council of the ITUC in Washington to debate and direct trade union policy on climate change and established a special Task Force on the matter, along with a programme of action.

Prior to COP13, the challenges of climate change in developed and developing countries had shown the need for trade unions to support urgent and strong actions to cut GHG emissions. Meanwhile the impacts of climate change on developing nations have been growing and are increasingly threatening development prospects.

#### **1. The trade union delegation at COP13 remained focused on the following:**

- Securing a new Post-2012 Kyoto Protocol with new and more ambitious targets, based on limiting the global average temperature increase to no more than 2° C through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 85% by 2050 and by incorporating the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities', to enable all countries to participate through fair and effective burden sharing;
- Advancing a programme of action to link GHG prevention, reduction, stabilisation or controlled increases to targets on renewable energy use, carbon capture, deforestation, and alternative transportation

to a Green Job and Decent Work Programme;

- Proposing better and more detailed sector-based research and analysis on the social and employment impact of CO2 emissions and emission reduction and promoting a sustainable development approach to implementation;
- Promoting a Just Employment transition programme that would address worker displacement, migrations, unemployment in climate-sensitive sectors, along with the effects of adaptation and mitigation;
- Highlighting the role of workers and trade unions in decision making about climate change at the workplace, local, national and international levels, in part by advancing good models of current practice.

## **2. The Outcomes of COP13 have strengthened the opportunities for trade union involvement**

COP13 did not adopt clear targets as a starting point for the upcoming negotiations. However it did adopt the 'Bali Action Roadmap' and other decisions which are a useful framework for future talks. See: <http://unfccc.int/documentation/decisions/items/3597.php?such=j&volltext=/CP.13#beg> . Measured against our COP13 objectives, the Bali decisions have:

- Recognised the need for deep and urgent cuts in GHG emissions and supported sustainable development principles to implement social and economic development, along with poverty eradication objectives;
- Agreed for all countries to become involved in the next Kyoto agreement, in accordance with the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities', based on each country's stage of economic and social development;
- Agreed to implement adaptation through sectoral and national planning, opening avenues for trade union involvement, broadened the discussions under the UNFCCC and the Nairobi work programme on adverse effects, and called for consideration of economic and social consequence of mitigation response measures, creating better avenues for Green Job promotion and employment transition;
- Encouraged further activities of Civil Society within the UNFCCC's national communication, reporting and information processes, especially as related to training, education and awareness rising;
- Called on governments to prepare assessments of needs, specific to national circumstances, including the use of social research methods and other relevant instruments, providing further opportunities for trade unions to address social impacts and to promote training and education, especially in regions and sectors facing rapid socio-economic change;
- Adopted adaptation strategies for Africa and identified the need for financial resources for both adaptation and mitigation and to create positive incentives for developing countries to implement actions on the basis of sustainability;
- Called for a broader involvement of international organisations, along with others, sending a signal for international trade union involvement, along with other sectors of society.

## **B. The Trade Union Activities for or at COP13 can be summarised as follows**

### **a) Support of the Trade Union statement to COP13:**

#### **🔗 The Full Trade Union Statement:**

English: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_12Bc.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_12Bc.EN.pdf)

Français: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_12Bc.FR.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_12Bc.FR.pdf)

Español: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_12Bc.SP.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_12Bc.SP.pdf)

#### **🔗 The 4-Page Summary Recommendations:**

English: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/LobbySheetRecommendation1\\_P\\_12Bd.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/LobbySheetRecommendation1_P_12Bd.EN.pdf)

Français: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/LobbySheetRecommendation1\\_P\\_12Bd.FR.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/LobbySheetRecommendation1_P_12Bd.FR.pdf)

Español: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/LobbySheetRecommendation1\\_P\\_12Bd.SP.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/LobbySheetRecommendation1_P_12Bd.SP.pdf)

#### **🔗 The 1-Page Summary Recommendations:**

[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/LobbyBullitPoints\\_P\\_12Bd2.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/LobbyBullitPoints_P_12Bd2.EN.pdf)

**b) Monitoring and coordinating trade union participation in COP13 activities through daily caucus meetings.** Daily morning and afternoon trade union caucus meetings took place and served the following purposes: to a) take stock of trade union delegation presence in Bali, b) exchange reports of trade union activities, c) prepare meetings with government delegations, d) identify trade union attendance at COP formal and informal meetings, including side events and constituency caucuses, and e) assess the progress made on our priorities. The UNFCCC provided trade unions with an office and meeting spaces on a daily basis.

**c) Intervening in the formal UNFCCC sessions:** As part of the new ITUC ‘constituency’ status, trade unions took the floor twice during technical sessions; in addition to our usual speaking slot at the closing sessions of the COP.

☞ Statement by Roger Toussaint, Transport Workers Union Local 100, US: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_12Bn.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_12Bn.EN.pdf)

☞ The COP13 closing statement by Tony Maher, President of the Australian *Construction, Forestry, Mining, and Energy Union*: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_12Bj.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_12Bj.EN.pdf)

**d) Organising a well-attended formal UNFCCC side event,** chaired by Phil Pearson, Senior Advisor to the TUC (UK) and Chair of our Working Group on Climate Change.

☞ The programme of the side-event: **“Green Jobs and Skills: Drivers For Climate Transitions”**  
[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpSideEventP\\_12Bh.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpSideEventP_12Bh.EN.pdf)

**e) Organising a joint news conference with ILO and UNEP on Green Jobs.**

☞ The UNEP news release: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpNewsUNEP4\\_P\\_13Bd.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpNewsUNEP4_P_13Bd.EN.pdf)

**f) Circulating a trade union information kit** to every government delegation at COP13 which contained: a) a joint ITUC, ETUC and TUAC letter and our COP13 submission, b) a copy of the bullet-point summary document, and c) an invitation to our side event.

**g) Organising separate delegation meetings with Ministers or Ministries from** Indonesia (as the Chair of COP13) and Australia, European Union (EU), Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Spain, New Zealand, Morocco, Mexico, Mauritania, Mauritius and the U.K. These government delegations were briefed on our activities and asked to support trade union issues.

**h) Coordinating a display booth throughout the two weeks of COP13.**

**i) Conducting a training workshop with on climate change.** Organised by Sustainlabour, with the support of the ITUC, this event initiated many trade unionists to climate change issues, whilst providing a forum for discussion and information sharing.

☞ Workshop agenda:

[http://www.sustainlabour.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=263&Itemid=255](http://www.sustainlabour.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=263&Itemid=255)

**j) Taking part in a North American trade union caucus meeting.** Co-sponsored by the AFL-CIO and Cornell University.

**k) Holding a global trade union orientation meeting,** organised by ITUC and Sustainlabour, half-way through the COP13 conference to review the COP13 schedule, divide the responsibilities and plan the trade union caucus meetings, which took place every morning at 9am.

☞ The programme for the orientation meeting:

[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpOrientationP\\_12Bg2.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpOrientationP_12Bg2.EN.pdf)

## C. The Trade Union Programme of Work, growing out of COP13

COP13 has paved the way for trade unions to better influence UNFCCC processes from now on. However it also pointed to the need for the trade union delegation to be better informed and prepared, both prior to the COPs and during the events themselves. It demonstrated that our effectiveness at the COPs is largely dependent on the activities of trade unions at the national level and the quality of interaction of trade unions with UNFCCC national contact points. The following are recommendations growing out of the trade union experiences at COP13:

**1. To strengthen the trade union working group** on climate change, both in terms of resources and in terms of participation from diverse sectors and regions of the world. Since Bali, the working group has been involved in three UNFCCC preparatory meetings for COP14, in Mexico, Trinidad and Bangkok.

☞ The Trade union statement for the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (Bangkok): [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_12Bo.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_12Bo.EN.pdf)

☞ The Trade union statement for the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (Bangkok): [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_12Bp.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_12Bp.EN.pdf)

**2. To coordinate closely with trade unions at the national level** about the preparations of COP14 and COP15, scheduled respectively in Poland in December 2008 and in Denmark, 2009.

**3. To improve trade union participation in the UNFCCC preparatory processes** by working with the new ITUC task force on climate change to integrate climate change within other trade union fields of work.

**4. To strengthen trade union capacity at the national level** through training and education programmes that are oriented towards UNFCCC programmes and measures.