

Trade Union Priorities for Action UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15) 2007

CSD14 raised important trade union concerns, i.e. worker participation, training & education, occupational health & safety and ILO labour standards.

CSD-15 Policy options should include the following CSD-14 proposals:

- Measures to promote employment through pollution abatement, industry planning, transportation, energy efficiency and access;
- Skills training and education for workers, with a focus on social and environmental considerations, sustainable consumption and production technological innovation and resource efficiency;
- Recognition and promotion of worker participation.

CSD14, however did not address the consequences of privatizations and full cost recovery practices. For energy to become a driver for sustainable development, measures should be taken to ensure transparent, locally-driven, accountable and participatory public services.

Energy for Sustainable Development

Challenge 1: Provide sustainable energy for all

UPGRADE AND DEFINE NEW ROLES FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES for improved access by poor and vulnerable groups.

STOP PROMOTING PRIVATISATION. International and Regional Financing Institutions must eliminate the privatisation of public services from their loan conditionalities. Vital public services must be excluded from WTO/GATS discussions as they can not be considered as commodities.

PROMOTE COMPENSATION POLICIES to address negative distributional effects of private financing of services; e.g., fees, special levies and other financial instruments.

INCORPORATE GOVERNANCE REQUIREMENTS INTO ENERGY POLICIES. Energy management and delivery must be locally driven, transparent, accountable and participatory. It must respect local laws and politics and must not undermine international social or environmental standards.

PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS AMONG AND WITH PUBLIC UTILITIES. Initiatives in place have improved management and delivery of public services.

Challenge 2: Promote energy efficiency

PLACE ENERGY EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS THROUGH URBAN PLANNING AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, i.e. Develop efficient buildings & heating, upgrade existing buildings (insulation of walls and roofs with rockwool or glass wool, changing windows, putting thermostats to all forms of space heating), ensuring that old asbestos is dealt with properly and new asbestos is not introduced at all.

ENCOURAGE JOINT TRADE UNION-EMPLOYER APPROACHES to target setting, monitoring, reporting and making change through workplace assessment and audit models.

IMPLEMENT ENERGY SAVING THROUGH DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT, with an increased use of collective transportation, the development of energy services such as relighting and retrofitting in housing.

BUILD SYNERGIES WITH #9 CHALLENGES

Challenge 3: Capture employment potentials of the shift towards sustainable energy

INVEST IN A MIX OF CLEAN, GREEN & SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SOURCES, including wind, solar, some forms of biomass, wave energy, microhydro energy, and especially for transitional purposes, in clean coal, advanced technology vehicles, and natural gas.

CAPTURE THE EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES, RENEWABLE ENERGIES AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES. In the US alone, renewables could create nearly 500,00 jobs, while investing in a progressive energy policy could yield over 3.3 million jobs¹.

DEVELOP EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS JOB LOSSES IN ENERGY INTENSIVE SECTORS, through compensation, retraining and social support.

Challenge 4: Mobilize financial resources for social & environmentally friendly energy

PROVIDE A MIX OF INCENTIVES AND REGULATORY OBLIGATIONS to reorient FDI and other investment flows towards clean and efficient energy sources.

ENHANCE BORROWING POWER OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES through planning of debt burdens and legislative frameworks for improved decision making. Encourage domestic financing over unstable foreign capital.

Challenge 5: Enhance the role of partnerships

CALL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND MORE STRINGENT EVALUATION OF EXISTING & FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT through democratic decision-making and transparent implementation.

Industrial Development

Challenge 6: Orient industrial development towards poverty eradication

PROMOTE DECENT EMPLOYMENT, JOB CREATION AND SKILLS UPGRADING as a means to poverty eradication, social equity and sustainable development.

FOSTER GOOD INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS with full recognition and respect of conventions safeguarded by the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, which already binds most governments.

PROMOTE AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LINKAGES AMONG UN BODIES, e.g ILO-UNEP Instruments & measures for environment and social policy; WHO-ILO programmes relating to social equity and public, environmental and occupational health.

Challenge 7: Make industrial development and environmental protection mutually reinforcing

DISMISS FALSE CHOICES THAT PIT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROTECTION. Make these self-reinforcing, instead.

PROMOTE INTER-REGIONAL LEARNING EXCHANGES for increasing the use of clean, efficient & modern technologies.

SET CLEAR GOALS FOR COUNTRY ADOPTION OF THE UN GHS CHEMICAL CLASSIFICATION & LABELLING. Promote ratification of Instruments that pertain to chemicals and chemicals safety. Work with the ILO and WHO in a global ban of asbestos.

PROMOTE THE FURTHER EVOLUTION OF TRADE UNION-EMPLOYER AGREEMENTS, including collective and Framework agreements to advance jointly on social and environmental policies.

PROMOTE OECD GUIDELINES FOR MNEs & ILO TRIPARTITE DECLARATION ON MNEs & SOCIAL POLICY.

Challenge 8: Reinforce sustainable natural resource management in industrial policies

¹ Daniel M. Kammen, Kamal Kapadia, and Matthias Fripp (2004) Putting Renewables toWork: How Many Jobs Can the Clean Energy Industry Generate? RAEI Report, University of California, Berkeley

PROMOTE A SHIFT FROM GLOBAL MARKET RESOURCE-DEPLETION PATTERNS towards regional/sub-regional/local production and trade, so as to avoid external dependency and negative environmental impacts.

IMPLEMENT A JUST SOCIAL TRANSITION STRATEGY to mitigate the impact of change on working people and industry.

HIGHLIGHT EDUCATION & TRAINING FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES, with a focus on workplaces.

ENGAGE WORKERS, TRADE UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS in workplace actions and voluntary approaches for protecting the environment. Build upon the 2006 OECD LMP business-trade union proposals.

Air Pollution & Atmosphere

Challenge 9: Reduce air pollution

TACKLE ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION WITH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES that emphasise government oversight, compliance and secure financial instruments.

SET SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY STRATEGIES, such as home-workplaces or 'in mission' mobility plans that provide good examples for cooperative and successful worker-employer initiatives.

DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION POLICY.

LINK AIR POLLUTION POLICIES TO PUBLIC, ENVIRONMENTAL & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH POLICIES.

BUILD SYNERGIES WITH #2 CHALLENGES.

Climate Change

Challenge 10: Place climate change within a sustainable development framework

SUPPORT THE UNFCCC AND PLACE CLIMATE CHANGE IN A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT, by integrating poverty reduction , public & occupational health and environmental priorities to mitigation and adaptation.

PROMOTE RESEARCH ON EMPLOYMENT EFFECTS of climate change through sector-by-sector and regional employment analyses.

Interlinkages & Cross-Cutting Issues

RENEW THE COMMITMENTS TO SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION & CONSUMPTION.

IMPROVE MEASUREMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT-SOCIAL INTERFACE through the use of indicators and mainstreaming gender equity into criteria for measuring progress.

PROMOTE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO HEALTH & HEALTH SERVICES. Call for a global participatory strategy to eradicate HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.