



International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)

World Climate Change Meeting Told: “Mainstream Employment & Green Workplaces”

Paris, Thursday 2 November, 2006

A report from trade unions for the 12th world climate change conference in Nairobi calls on Governments to entrench green manufacturing and sustainable workplaces at the centre of their negotiations. The meeting of 12th Conference of the Parties (COP12) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) begins next week in Kenya from 6-17 November, 2006.

It is essential that industrialized economies fulfill promises already made and make real, solid commitments to cut their greenhouse gas emissions, the report says, reinforced by voluntary measures from developing countries. This means huge investment in carbon free and low carbon technologies, and a step change in energy efficiency at work – with far reaching consequences for global industries, skills and training, the union group says.

Their joint report “*Trade Union Climate Change Strategies*” was issued today by the International Free Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC).. The statement is available at: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpp_8Bh.EN.pdf

The trade unions want to engage workers, governments and employers in joint workplace community and national actions for mitigating climate change and adapting to its direct effects. They also want the Kyoto mechanisms and related technology options to strengthen the social dimension and build the capacity for worker training, education and participation.

The union report estimates some of the social and economic costs of deterioration due to recent climate events but it says far-reaching steps could improve the overall quality of life and the health of the world’s people. In a UNFCCC side-event next 11 November, Unions plan to show concrete steps they have already taken with governments and employers to develop positive employment pathways for climate change. See http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpp_8Bd.EN.pdf

A trade union delegation from more than 15 countries will attend COP12, and will lobby with governments and other stakeholders to work with them in making the world’s workplaces the centre of climate change action and engage workers in plans to address unsustainable production and consumption patterns.

Each Government delegation will receive a trade union kit highlighting the employment opportunities and challenges posed by climate change and actions needed. Case studies on joint union-government initiatives in the Argentina, Canada, Belgium, Germany, Spain and United Kingdom will also be featured as examples for cooperation that can lead to effective change .

For more information, contact:

Lucien Royer
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)
15, Rue Laperouse - 75016 paris, France
Tel (331) 5537 3737 Fax 4754 9828
royer@tuac.org

- An up to date compilation of COP12 trade union news:
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- T.Union COP12 Submission:
http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8Bh.EN.pdf
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