

- **T.Union COP10 Submission**  
[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_8a.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8a.EN.pdf)
- **TU Country-by-Country Climate/Energy Profiles**  
[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_9a.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_9a.EN.pdf)

## ***COP10 T. Union News***

***(accumulation from most recent)***

[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_8b.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8b.EN.pdf)

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COP10-December 17, 2004

### **Trade Unions Conclude Global Climate COP10 Meeting With Decade-Long Plan of Their Own**

A senior trade union leader attending the recent Global Climate change Conference of the Parties (COP10) in Argentina says that his 30-member delegation has established the necessary ground-work for employment issues and workplace-based actions to be drawn into the scope of climate decision-making, in the long term.

COP10 brought together world leaders under the aegis of the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) to discuss implementation measures among other matters, including the Kyoto Protocol, which contains agreed specific standards and quotas to address the growing climate change crisis.

Federal Secretary of the Belgian Trade Union Federation (FGTB), Mr. Daniel Van Daele, spoke after the closing session of the two-week Conference, in which the Global Unions had conducted an extensive lobbying effort with government delegations, participated in side events and activities, and distributed trade union materials.

“We came to COP10 less to quibble over words to be included in adopted text and more to entrench a long term process with governments to engage them in dialogue with trade unions at the national level over the next decade” said Van Daele. “Despite some agreement to address social and poverty issues, we are concerned by COP10’s weak resolve to more clearly place climate mitigation and adaptation within a sustainable development framework.”

Pointing out that transition measures were particularly relevant to such industrial sectors as energy, transportation, construction, chemicals, mining, and

metals, he said “Practical measures are needed at the national level to address social and employment impacts of climate change, backed by just transition programmes for workers whose livelihood will be threatened by climate adaptation or mitigation responses. Programmes must also aim to promote joint trade union-employer actions at the workplace level to reduce CO2 and promote more sustainable forms of production, worldwide.”

Van Daele’s views were echoed in a concluding trade union speech made in the closing COP10 plenary by Joaquin Nieto of Comisiones Obreras (CC OO – Spain) on Friday morning . He told world leaders that the coming into force of the Kyoto Protocol was a good first step but that it was crucial to identify solutions that also address adverse social and distributional effects, so as to ensure progress on the climate change agenda. Nieto’s statement and a trade union background paper are available at: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_8e.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8e.EN.pdf)

### **On-The-Floor Lobbying by Trade Unions At COP10**

Referring to other activities of his delegation, Van Daele said trade unionists had managed to make direct contact with almost every government at COP10, as well as with the Dutch Presidency of the European Union. This lobbying included hand delivery of a baseline analysis of each country’s performance on climate and social indicators of particular interest to trade unionists.

“We hope our country-by-country profiling will evolve over time and become the basis for dialogue between national governments and our Global Union membership in each country, said Van Daele.” Trade unions, he said, would report on progress at subsequent COP’s to pave the way for stronger UNFCCC support for employment and workplace policies in the years ahead.

Members of the delegation who were involved in the lobbying effort reported that governments were quite supportive and appreciative of the trade union contact. Natividad Hernando of the Union General De Trabajadores (UGT – Spain), who oversaw the lobbying with government delegates from Spanish speaking countries said, “We were pleasantly surprised by the openness of most government representatives to our issues and of their willingness to explore how to cooperate with worker organisations in their communities.”

The two Spanish trade union confederations who were represented at COP10 have signed a cooperation agreement with their Ministry of Environment to

promote a sustainable industrial strategy, whereby workers will be called upon to play an active role in a nation-wide framework for sustainable development. Hernando points to this agreement as a model that can be easily emulated in other countries.

### **Trade Unions in Parallel Meetings, and Side Events**

On Thursday 16 December, a number of High Level dignitaries at COP10 participated in a special trade union side-event focussing on the “World of Work”. A summary of this event (plus trade union background for it) is available at page six of: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_8d.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8d.EN.pdf)

Brazilian Environment Minister Marina Silva took the opportunity to express her country’s commitment to Article 6, applying it to awareness raising and training of workers. She confirmed the establishment of criteria for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects in Brazil that would require attention to local sustainable development priorities, employment, working conditions, equitable wealth distribution and capacity building. Aurelio Savino, Argentina’s Environment Secretary, presented his views on the world of work in climate implementation, technology and training.

Speaking for trade unions, Ivan Gonzalez of the ICFTU Regional Organisation of Workers in the Americas (ORIT) agreed that programmes such as the CDM could be very effective in addressing global warming in his region. However, he warned that to be truly effective, implementation measures would need to take into account the economic and social effects of current neo-liberal trends for adjustment policies. Any employment growing out of CDM projects must yield ‘Decent Work’ and must meet minimum ILO labour standards, he said.

At an introductory news briefing conducted earlier Thursday by trade unions, Sophie Dupressoir, a representative of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), highlighted the importance for national-level dialogue with governments and employers, as a means of building consensus. She repeated statements made at an earlier meeting between the European Union and the trade union delegation, in which she had insisted that the EU’ international actions remain coherent with its own EU Sustainable Development Strategy. For a copy of the full ETUC statement to COP10 see: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_8b2.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8b2.EN.pdf)

“The Kyoto Protocol must take place within a sustainable development framework and conform to the

internationally agreed core labour standards defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO)”, she said.

Trade Unionists from throughout Latin America also met at a 3-day training workshop organised during COP10 by SustainLabour. The Seminar provided basic training in the Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM), and allowed them to review their roles in its implementation within their countries.

One participant, Marcelos Temistocles of the United Workers Confederation (CUT - Brazil), said “It must be made clear that commitments of any developing country should unfold as part of a national democratic process and within an equitable international plan of action.” He called for more discussion about the setting of criteria for CDM projects, which would reflect environmental, social as well as the needs of vulnerable groups, including those of workers.

Winston Gereluk, representing the Public Services International (PSI), told workshop participants some of his concerns about trends that were emerging in CDM negotiations and climate change talks, generally. He said the current guidelines for CDM’s contemplate a process that is primarily in the domain of private corporations and financial interests to the exclusion of the community. A strong public sector is crucial to effective implementation of climate change and sustainable development policies, he said.

“Employment and social issues are being excluded in CDM proposals we have reviewed,” said Gereluk. “If so-called ‘designated operational entities’ and ‘project participants’ turn out to be mostly private companies, projects could end up merely spreading the private sector into water, energy, waste management and other areas currently being served by the public sector.”

For a copy of the trade union workshop program see: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_8c.SP.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8c.SP.pdf). For a copy of all trade union news releases for COP10 see: [http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_8b.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8b.EN.pdf)

### **COP10 Trade Unions & Global Climate Change Commitments**

Belgian trade union leader Van Daele took advantage of another Thursday meeting, this one between the Belgian Environment Minister Bruno Tobback and the trade union delegation, to emphasise the resolve of the trade union movement to engage in concerted action with governments and social partners in the long term. He said that the activities of trade unions at COP10

provided a first step toward implementing a resolution that had just been approved at a recent world Congress of trade unions in Japan. The resolution said, in part:

*“All countries should work together in negotiations within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change concerning implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. Accordingly, Congress condemns and regrets the opposition to the Kyoto Protocol of the Bush administration, among others. The ratification of the Kyoto Protocol has restarted the process of implementation. The ICFTU, while preferring all countries to work together through UN negotiations, will nonetheless work to support its implementation, particularly concerning its social impacts.”*

Trade union activities at COP10 were coordinated by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC).

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**COP10-December 14, 2004**

### **Labour Leader Explains 'Just Transition' At COP10**

Governments must build justice and equity into their national policies and implementation strategies for climate change if they expect to achieve broad-based consensus and support for the type of fundamental changes that will be required to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

History has shown that only those politicians who are backed by an informed and active citizenry are in a position to carry out sometimes contentious policies. This was the message that trade unions brought to a seminar on development and adaptation organized at COP10 in Buenos Aires on Saturday 11 November by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the RING alliance of policy research associations.

Joaquín Nieto, Confederal Secretary for Occupational Health, Safety & Environment in the Spanish trade union Comisiones Obreras, explained that this was a major reason why social partners should support the efforts of trade unions to bring workers and workplaces into the debate over climate change. Nieto was speaking on a High Level Panel that included Janos Pazstor (UNFCCC), Richard Hosier (GEF), as well as

representatives of IISD, OXFAM and the Government of Pakistan.

“Trade unions can play a significant role in building the political base for climate change policies,” said Nieto. “We have developed effective mechanisms for education, mobilizing, communications, and coalition-building - these are all part of the central work that trade unions do.”

“However, in order to be effective, we need the support of our social partners in supporting our proposals for a “Just Transition” programme to address the effects of climate change policies on employment.

“For decades workers and trade unions have been at the very centre of the jobs vs. environment debate, which is a false debate. They have good reason to be skeptical of adaptation and mitigation proposals, because the past is riddled with policies that deny worker interests.”

“The truth is that sustainable development and the UNFCCC will require major sacrifices and changes in lifestyle in industrialized countries, as well as in developing countries.

We can't expect workers to support such changes unless they are given clear evidence that justice and equity are built into climate related decision-making.”

“A ‘Just Transition’ component within national programmes must become a lynch-pin of government strategy for convincing workers that their concerns are taken seriously.”

Nieto congratulated IIED and RING on their efforts to focus attention on the developmental side of climate change. “In the past, trade unions have often been alone in bringing the social dimension into discussions on climate change and sustainable development. Today, we feel we are amongst friends.”

Delegates at the Adaptation and Mitigation Conference are invited to a trade union side event at COP10 on “The World of Work and Climate Implementation and Adaptation” to discuss initiatives and ideas such as the Trade Union Energy/Climate Change Profiles. The side event will take place at 6:00 PM 16 October 2004. It will be hosted by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC).

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**COP10-December 11, 2004**

## **Trade Unions Applaud Article 6 Initiatives For Education, Training & Public Awareness On Climate Change**

Trade union delegates attending COP 10, the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Buenos Aires, Argentina welcomed the Secretariat proposals to promote action on Article 6, the section of the Convention that addresses capacity-building in the form of education, training, public awareness, participation, information access and international cooperation.

Speaking after an Article 6 Side Event at COP 10, a representative of trade unions said they intend to be active in both the Regional Workshops being organized by the UNFCCC for this purpose; one in Uruguay in March 2005, and another to follow in Japan later in the year. As well, they look forward to assisting in the construction of a model database for an 'Article 6 Information Clearing House', as part of the 5-Year Programme of Work established in 2001 at COP 8 in New Delhi, India.

Speaking for the trade union delegation, Winston Gereluk said that far too little attention has been given to this Article, which consists of only two sub-sections in the Convention.

Education, training and public awareness are critical to attempts in reforming patterns of production and consumption that are contributing to global climate change, he said. They are the basic ingredients for building political momentum for change, which will only take place on the basis of an informed and politically active population.

"Workers and trade unions are important in this process as key players in debates that have pitted jobs against progress – totally erroneously in many cases," said Gereluk. He emphasized the core work of unions in the area of education, training, public awareness and participation".

"Trade unions are particularly interested in working with the Secretariat, both to construct a model of a clearing house, and later on, in the second phase, to supply information as partners and as registered users. We have been building our own version of an 'Article 6 Clearing House' as a part of our involvement with the Commission on Sustainable Development, and more lately, with the UNFCCC."

Earlier this month the trade unions released a new version of country-by-country climate/energy profiles that they are circulating at COP10. These can be viewed at:

**English:**

[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_9a.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_9a.EN.pdf)

**Spanish:**

[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_9a.SP.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_9a.SP.pdf)

Gereluk said these are of particular interest because they include indicators for socio-economic security issues associated with climate change adaptation and mitigation. "We have shown how useful a flexible and scalable database can be as a driver for information gathering, sharing and as a basis for action campaigns."

## **Trade union side event 6pm Thursday 16 December at COP10**

The Trade Union delegation at COP10 invites country delegates, representatives of international agencies, NGO's and other actors to a side event on "The World of Work and Climate Implementation and Adaptation" to discuss their initiatives and ideas, including the Trade Union Energy/Climate Change Profiles. The side event will be hosted by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC).

A new labour foundation **SustainLabour** will be conducting a workshop on Clean Development Mechanisms for trade union leaders during the last week of COP10.

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**COP10-November 30, 2004**

## **Trade Unions To Circulate Country-By-Country Profiles at COP10 Global Climate Meeting in Argentina**

Trade unions attending the climate change COP10 meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina will be presenting delegates with a first draft of country-by-country profiles on energy and climate change, thereby initiating a process in which national governments will be invited to participate to develop social and employment measures to deal with mitigation and adaptation impacts on workers and other vulnerable groups.

These profiles are intended to provide a basis for comparable national information to facilitate dialogue in each country between the governments, trade unions and other groups on the social dimension of climate change and related sustainable consumption-production issue (SCP). They grew out of a broader country profiling process begun at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development last year.

Government representatives and other actors in climate change meetings are invited to join trade unions around the world to provide inputs that will improve the long-term usefulness of these profiles. After COP10, a new version of the profiles will be produced and released, with a fuller version for COP11 in one year's time, and at each subsequent COP thereafter. At this time, the profiles have been tabled with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in draft form, and can be viewed at:

English:

[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_9a.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_9a.EN.pdf)

Spanish:

[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_9a.SP.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_9a.SP.pdf)

The current profiles represent that culmination of a decade-long process of measurement, reporting and evaluation on each country's climate change performance according to social and employment indicators. Although yet in an incomplete form, they currently contain country-by-country information on:

- a) Ratification or adoption of selected international Instruments;
- b) Provisions to facilitate trade union and worker participation in climate related decisions;
- c) Initial data towards a framework for social and employment transition programmes to address climate change and mitigation impacts;
- d) Baseline information on Parties' performance on production and consumption issues, as well as on Kyoto obligations;
- e) An initial framework for employer accountability and corporate social responsibility related to climate change; and
- f) National trade union reporting to UNFCCC on climate and energy issues.

The Trade Union Energy/Climate Change profiles were produced by the International Confederation of Free

Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) for SUSTAINLABOUR, a new labour foundation promoting trade union interests in sustainable development. SustainLabour will also be conducting a trade union workshop on Clean Development Mechanisms during the last week of COP10.

### **Notice: Trade union side event 6pm Thursday 16 December at COP10**

The Trade Union delegation at COP10 invites country delegates, representatives of international agencies, NGO's and other actors to a side event on "The World of Work and Climate Implementation and Adaptation" to discuss their initiatives and ideas, including the Trade Union Energy/Climate Change Profiles. The side event will be hosted by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC).

### **The trade union submission to COP10:**

"Securing consensus Through Social & Employment Transition For Climate Change" is available at:

[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_8a.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8a.EN.pdf)

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**COP10-November19, 2004**

### **Trade Unions Challenge COP10 To Inspire Public Support For Climate Measures By Addressing Social and Employment Issues**

Three of the world's largest trade union bodies are urging government representatives attending the next climate change Conference of the Parties (COP10) 6-17 December in Argentina to firmly entrench social and employment transition measures in their negotiations, as a way of preventing further slippage from WSSD commitments, and in particular to arrest a trend toward confining climate change responses to disaster management at the national level.

Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), John Evans, General Secretary of the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and John Monks, General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation are convinced that an insufficient focus by past COP's on social issues has led to a situation where effective mitigation and prevention responses are

in danger of being sidelined by countries in favour of more limited crisis management approaches.

The world's trade unions, they say, want to work with governments and other stakeholders to reverse this trend – and this especially as a lead up beyond the first commitment period after 2012.

The trade union submission to COP10 is attached:

**The trade union submission to COP10:**

“Securing consensus Through Social & Employment Transition For Climate Change” is available at:

[http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP\\_8a.EN.pdf](http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpP_8a.EN.pdf)

According to Ryder, the coming into force of the Kyoto Protocol provides COP10 negotiators with a significant opportunity to widen the scope for mitigation, adaptation and greenhouse gas reduction measures, and to lead national response strategies that go far beyond the type of risk management objectives that are narrowly defined by private insurance and trading schemes.

“As important as these may be, much more must be done to highlight the role of the State, especially in regard to investment, procurement, regulation, employment transition and overall coordination of activities” said the union leaders. “We therefore encourage a much broader and more balanced approach towards mitigation, adaptation and response measures”.

**EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL TRANSITION: KEYS TO EFFECTIVE RESPONSE**

In their Submission, trade unions make the case for outcomes that encourage nations to give full attention to livelihood, equitable access, human displacement and social security issues within their terms of references. All of these, they argue, require that employment transition be incorporated as a central component of any scenario for change, and as THE means of addressing world poverty.

“Positive advances towards these ends at COP10 could finally provide trade union and community leaders with the concrete tools they need to convince the public that support for UNFCCC will translate into positive employment impacts in the long term, and with assurances that their members’ livelihoods will not be jeopardized by measures to adapt to or combat climate change,” said the labour leaders. “Proper employment transition programmes must be a basic ingredient of any national and international strategies, supported by trustworthy financial and economic instruments which

are integrated with emissions trading and related Kyoto mechanisms.”

“Far too little has been done by UNFCCC meetings in the past to assure working people that their employment and broader social concerns are being addressed. As a result, public support for action on climate change continues to be inhibited by fear of loss of livelihood, lowering of living standards, and perceived threats to vital support systems and other elements of the social fabric. The social impacts of climate change and mitigation measures continue to be misunderstood, and it is hard to expect trust and acceptance in such a climate.”

“With the ratification of the Kyoto Accord by the Russian Federation, COP10 has been granted an historical opportunity to inspire new approaches for sustainable development. Negotiators can best capitalise on this by working in a determined fashion to integrate social and employment factors into mitigation programmes for climate change, as well as adaptation and response measures.”

**Trade union Workshop and Side-Event To Promote Discussion of Climate Change , The World of Work and Trade Union Action**

On Thursday 16 December, trade unions will host a side event at COP10, in which country delegates, experts, and representatives of international agencies will join with trade union delegates to discuss climate change issues affecting the world of work. The event, entitled Climate Change and the World of Work, will feature proposals for cooperative endeavours that would allow trade unions to play a more positive role in building support for climate change measures, at the same time as they protect the interests of working people.

The Side Event will also mark the culmination of a 3-day workshop that will equip trade unionists from across the South American continent with some of the tools they need to play a proactive role in negotiations involving the Clean Development and other Kyoto Mechanisms. The workshop will be sponsored by SustainLabour, an international trade union-based foundation dedicated to strengthening the social and labour dimension, and to promoting the effective involvement of trade unionists in sustainable development.