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Attention to: Trade Union & HIV/AIDS Activists

9 April, 2008
(See below for a formatted pdf of this message in other languages)

To: Trade union & other organizations
c.c. National contact points for ILO, UNAIDS, WHO & WAC

From: Alan Leather, Chair, Global Unions HIV/AIDS Programme Steering Committee

Re: Your HIV/AIDS Letter to the Japanese Embassy in your Country

Dear Colleagues:

Three years ago, the Global Unions HIV/AIDS Programme launched its campaign to convince the Heads of State, attending the G8 Summit, to create a high-level Working Group on HIV/AIDS, with the technical support of existing bodies such as UNAIDS and its co-sponsors. We have modified this call slightly, by renaming the Working Group as a “G8 AIDS mechanism.”

Thanks to the tremendous efforts by so many trade unions during successive 28 April International Commemoration Day (ICD) campaigns, last year the German Presidency issued a first report on meeting G8 targets for HIV/AIDS. We believe this paves the way for the production of annual reviews and for establishing a mechanism that at long last will provide recommendations for action to subsequent G8 summits. However, we are convinced that combining our request in connection with the need for health system strengthening and overall trade union issues for public and occupational health will make our case much stronger.

We have issued a release to for unions and governments in non-OECD countries to now focus on the Japanese Embassy in your country (see the reference to the news backgrounder below). For your information the G8 is composed of governments from the following countries: *Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States*. The G8 Summit will take place on 7-9 July, 2008 and will be hosted by the Japanese Government in Toyako, Hokkaido. For more information on this year's G8 Summit, see:
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/economy/summit/2008/info/index.html>

We want to build upon our successes of previous years and we are asking you to consider organizing some activity around the delivery of a letter to the Japanese Embassy in your country, and to request your government to also request support for a G8 HIV/AIDS mechanism. We would further ask trade unions to point to the broader issues contained in the trade union statement to the G8 (see below for reference to the statement). A model letter for you to fashion your own to the Japanese Embassy and your government is provided for this purpose and is available at:
(NOTE: these will come on line only as they become available)

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_11Ba.EN.rtf
Français: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_11Ba.FR.rtf
Español: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_11Ba.SP.rtf

Therefore we would like, as much as possible, for you to at least announce your Japanese lobbying before or by mid-May and to actually organise the said events by end of May, 2008.

Your role in this process is critical because you are in a position to influence the G8 Japanese Presidency from your national perspective. More than any other sector, you know why a strategic response to AIDS is necessary and why we must insist that G8 countries keep their promises. You also know why a stronger focus on health care and occupational health and safety is necessary.

As a very minimum, we ask you to formally send this letter to the Japanese Embassy by post and to let us know when this has taken place. However, as in previous years we would like you to also consider organising a more significant public gesture:

a) organizing a delegation to deliver your letter (perhaps with other organizations, see below) to your designated G8 embassy and alerting the media to your plans;

b) mailing a slightly modified version of your letter to all or any of the other G8 embassies in your country (whatever you find possible or realistic);

c) issuing a news release or some other public statement about its delivery; and

d) organizing a small rally on or about 28 April, together with allied groups, to spotlight trade union demands including universal access to treatment and the development of an AIDS vaccine.

Prompt delivery of your letters will help us to take the next steps for follow up lobbying by trade unions in other countries and at a number of international meetings throughout May and June of this year. Your activities and communications will strengthen our ability to reach our goal.

We encourage you to involve other organizations. Internationally we are working closely with the World Aids Campaign and a grouping of national NGOs from the G8 countries. We will be contacting you about ways to work together and if you can let us know of your action ahead of time we will encourage member organizations of other international groups to join you.

Please keep in mind that this activity forms part of the overall work by the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and Global Unions to influence the G8 outcomes next July, which will focus on world economic issues, development, Africa and on the environment and climate change.

Your activity, combined with those of others throughout the world, will have a decisive effect on the outcome we seek.

After we hear from you we will issue a short news summary that you might in turn circulate to your own members. Please keep contact with Lucien Royer at [royer@tuac.org]

Looking forward to a successful campaign, I remain,

Yours in solidarity,

Alan Leather
Chair, Global Union AIDS Programme Steering Committee
c/o royer@tuac.org

For a copy of this message to you

(NOTE: these will come on line only as they become available)

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_11Bb.EN.pdf

Français: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_11Bb.FR.pdf

Español: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_11Bb.SP.pdf

For of the GUAP G8 28 April campaign news backgrounder

(NOTE: these will come on line only as they become available)

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_11Bx.EN.pdf

Français: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_11Bx.FR.pdf

Español: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_11Bx.SP.pdf

For a copy of the Trade Union Statement to the G8

(NOTE: these will come on line only as they become available)

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_11Bd.EN.pdf

Français: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_11Bd.FR.pdf