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to the appropriate person in your organisation**



2nd March, 2007

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

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

Re: **Your HIV-AIDS Letter to the German Embassy in Your Country**

Dear Colleagues:

Last December, Global Unions re-launched their HIV/AIDS Campaign to convince the Heads of State, attending next June's G8 Summit in Germany, to create a high-level G8 Working Group on HIV/AIDS, with the technical support of existing bodies such as UNAIDS and its co-sponsors. See news release: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_9Ca.EN.pdf

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.*

Last year we engaged in a similar process and obtained from the G8 Summit an agreement to set up tangible steps for the surveillance of infectious diseases, through timely reporting and sharing of data. In addition, it agreed to help developing countries improve their national surveillance capacity and monitoring systems by providing technical assistance and training of experts and improving cooperation. However the G8 has yet to take the crucial step of ensuring proper implementation by creating a Working Group.

We are now building upon last year's actions and we are asking you to consider organizing some activity around the delivery of a letter to the German Embassy in your country, requesting support for a Working Group. A model letter is provided for this purpose and is available at:

Deutsch: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_9Ba.GE.pdf

English: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_9Ba.EN.pdf

Français: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_9Ba.FR.pdf

Español: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_9Ba.SP.pdf

Once again, we invite you to engage in this activity as part 2007 28 April "International Commemoration Day (ICD) for Dead and Injured Workers". Therefore, we would like you to complete the German Embassy lobbying before or by 28 April. See the trade union ICD backgrounder pages 7-9 for more information:

English http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpH_5Ag.EN.pdf

French: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpH_5Ag.FR.pdf

Spanish: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpH_5Ag.SP.pdf

As indicated in our 1st December news release a series of parallel lobby activities are planned for at selected international meetings of Environment, Health and Labour Ministries. One such event has already taken place in Kenya in February when the Secretary General of the Congress of Trade Unions (COTU), Francis Atwoli, formally launched our campaign with Environment Ministers. See news release: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpT_9Cb.EN.pdf

Your role in this process is critical because you are in a position to influence the G8 German Presidency from your national perspective. More than any other sector, you know why a high level Working Group is necessary to ensure that G-8 countries keep their promises

As a very minimum, we ask you to formally send this letter through the post office and to let us know when this has taken place. However, 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. To see if there is a contact point for your country or region, please consult our HIV/AIDS "Workbook" which you will find at <http://www.tradeunionsdunit.org/profiles/profiles.php?ID=3&Lang=ENG> . This Workbook also contains information on our 28 April activities that took place last year in your country or region.

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 overall G8 outcomes next June, which will focus on "*Growth and Responsibility*", with a sub theme for Africa, continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS:

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 [\[royer@tuac.org\]](mailto:royer@tuac.org)

Looking forward to a successful campaign, I remain,

Yours in solidarity,

Alan Leather
Chair Global Unions HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee
c/o royer@tuac.org