



The International Trade Union Confederation at COP-12

Climate change in Africa - Unions call for solidarity in action

Trade Union statement to Nairobi Climate Change Conference
ITUC CSI IGB @ COP 12 - MOP 2, 14/11/2006

With joined forces and representing 180 million members, the International Trade Union Confederation reaffirms the commitment of trade unions worldwide to tackle climate change, with a call for a **Nairobi Climate Action Plan for Africa**.

Unions are actively involved in green workplace initiatives, in membership education and training on environmental issues, in public awareness campaigns on climate change, and in research & policymaking activities.

Europe: employment impacts of climate change

Addressing a major knowledge gap on the employment impacts of climate change policies, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) conducted an 11 EU-nation study together with the Wuppertal institute, Syndex, ISTAS and Sindnova. *Preliminary results show that ambitious climate change policies could be implemented with overall positive employment benefits.* This long awaited, European Commission and Member State funded study will be published in February 2007.

Education: Tap into the vast potential of trade unions

Unions worldwide are providing a wide range of education programs for their members consistent with the expectations of art 6 and the New Delhi work programme. They have a mayor role to play in educating and training their members on the twin challenges of mitigation and adaptation strategies as well as engaging their young members and women. Only last week elected trade union officials from Kenya, representing workers from all concerned economic sectors, met with representatives from South Africa, Nigeria and the international trade union delegation in Nairobi, for a capacity building day. With a focus the African continent, the attendants were brought up to date on the need for long term visions & action on adaptation for the region and the inadequacies of the present climate change agenda.

Trade Unions call for a Nairobi Climate Action Plan for Africa

At the conclusion of the Nairobi seminar the Deputy General of the Kenyan Confederation of Trade Unions called for an Action Plan in which the idea of solidarity is a cornerstone.

- The ITUC calls on industrialised economies to respect the Kyoto Protocol and agree on new and stronger commitments. European trade unions set a good example by supporting the adaptation of ambitious targets to reduce European greenhouse gas emissions of about 25% by 2020 and with 75% by 2050 compared with 1990 levels.
- The experience of African Trade unionist confirms what the Stern Report stated on developing countries and its communities suffering disproportional harmful effects of climate change. "Africa will be under severe pressure from climate change". Therefore it is vital that governments integrate climate change into the Millennium Development policies. A Nairobi Action Plan for Africa needs to contain rapid action towards a sustainable solution, engaging workers and their communities in the development of adaptation strategies.