

**UNFCCC technical workshop under the Nairobi
Work programme on impacts, vulnerability and
adaptation on climate change**

ITUC Action Pledge

*Equity, justice and solidarity in the fight against
climate change*

The International Trade Union Confederation

Cairo, 28-30 April 2009

Context of ITUC Action Pledge

1. **Socio-economic information**

- Further investigate social and economic information regarding adaptation
- Raise awareness among governments and also among our constituencies on the need for addressing climate change adaptation in an integrated manner.
- We need to better understanding the impacts of climate change on society and economies.

2. **Economic diversification**

- Increase the economic resilience of, and reducing reliance on, climate-sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries and tourism.
- Such policies need to be designed and implemented to prevent major livelihood losses. As trade unions, our role is to help in better anticipating the effects and better accompany the transition.

Objectives of the NWP

On impacts and vulnerability:

- a (iv) Promoting understanding of impacts of, and vulnerability to, climate change, current and future climate variability and extreme events, and the implications for sustainable development;
- a (v) Promoting the availability of information on the socio-economic aspects of climate change and improving the integration of socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments;

On Adaptation policies:

- b (i) Promoting the development and dissemination of methods and tools for assessment and improvement of adaptation planning, measures and actions, and integration with sustainable development;
- (iv) Facilitating communication and cooperation among and between Parties and relevant organizations, business, civil society and decision makers, and other stakeholders;
- (v) Promoting understanding and the development and dissemination of measures, methodologies and tools including for economic diversification aimed at increasing economic resilience and reducing reliance on vulnerable economic sectors.

Specific objectives of the project

1. Integrate the employment dimension into climate change policy making, including in adaptation planning
2. Raise awareness among trade unions about climate change impacts and its effects on employment and livelihoods as well as policy measures that could reduce these impacts
3. Foster international, national, sectoral and local trade union action on this area, in cooperation with other governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions.

Key activities

1st objective:

- Integration of climate policy (including adaptation) in broad union policy lobbying documents (G20 summit, G8 Environment, UNFCCC negotiations doc)
- Organising high level bilateral union-government meetings to raise the importance of social and economic consequences of climate change as well as the need for better inclusion of employment and social aspects in adaptation policies

Key activities (continued)

2nd & 3rd objectives:

- **Training**
 - Regional training meetings for trade unionists on climate change,
- **Debates**
 - ITUC women conference in October 2009
 - Food and climate change debate for trade unionists scheduled for August 2009 in Africa.
 - World of Work Pavilion (trade union space for activities in COP15 – 3 days of activities showing the linkages of the world of work with climate change)
- **Working group**
 - ITUC working group on climate change has a special task team on adaptation
- **Research & workshops**
 - Four research papers will be produced tackling different aspects of climate change;
- **Publications**
 - Green jobs and women workers (to be prepared with the UN research institute for sustainable development – UNRISD; to be presented at the ITUC Women's Conference)

Expected outcomes

In the shorter term:

- A fully social and employment friendly outcome from Copenhagen, including on adaptation planning

In the longer term:

- An aware and active labour movement regarding adaptation planning practices, with spaces for dialogue and decision at the international, national and local level
- A climate community fully aware of employment challenges and potential regarding adaptation policies, and able to communicate with labour in order to improve the sustainability impact of the projects

What do we need?

- NWP experts to provide us with more information on a continuous basis regarding examples of good practices; transition and adaptation measures
- Exchange of policy proposals with other organisations
- Experts and NWP partners to join us in debates in the World of Work pavilion at the COP15 and afterwards at the national level