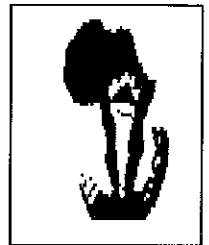


17 November, 2006 – Nairobi, Kenya
CO12/MOP2 Trade Union Statement

M. Andrew Kailembo

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

General Secretary of the Regional Organisation of African Trade Unions



Thank you Chair and Honorable delegates.

The trade union movement is pleased to address you today as a full partner in the world struggle to deal with climate change.

Our ITUC delegation from 16 countries has come to COP12 to impress upon you our intent to engage our 168 million members throughout the world in supporting climate change action.

All countries attending this COP have now received our trade union backgrounder kit, which highlights our commitment to work with the UNFCCC to strengthen the consensus for effective action. However, currently there are immense barriers to trade union action for strengthening mitigation or adaptation measures, such as:

- ***Worker's fear of job loss or livelihood security*** because of climate change or mitigation efforts,
- ***Lack of national or international measures to involve workers*** and the world of work in the scenarios for change, and
- ***Not enough cooperation between employers and governments with trade unions*** to tackle CO2 at the production and consumption levels or at the workplace and in communities.

At our side-event last Saturday we showed that ambitious climate policies could be implemented with overall positive employment benefits, according to an 11 EU-nation study being conducted by the European Trade Union Confederation. We showed that there were massive job growth forecasted in sectors like renewables but that some areas, like electricity generation and road haulage could face difficulties.

We also know that similar job losses and gains are predicted for Africa and other regions but we don't know the true nature of the gains or where the losses will be most felt.

Clearly, "employment transition" measures are essential for social acceptance of climate policies" by workers world wide. European trade unions have showed their solidarity with us in commencing this important assessment of employment effects. Now, we call on governments from the north to help our governments conduct a similar assessment of the African Region. We ask you to give us the tools for understanding and addressing employment implications

At our press briefing last Tuesday we called for a 'Nairobi Action Plan for Africa' that would tackle the potentially devastating consequences of climate change across our continent. As well as drought, deforestation and forced migration highlighted in the Stern Report, African workers will suffer serious economic disruption and job losses.

The next day we were pleased to hear that Kofie Annan agreed with us - for such an African plan of action. Yet working people across Africa are not aware of the relationship between climate and environmental and economic changes now taking place in many parts of the continent and this must be addressed.

Our experience confirms the Stern Report about poor communities suffering disproportionately harmful effects of climate change. We agree that mixed arid and semi-arid systems in the Sahel, in eastern Africa, the Great Lakes and coastal regions of eastern Africa and many other drier zones in southern Africa will be under severe pressure.

For this reason climate change measures must be integrated with Millennium Development policies, and other dominant issues, such as HIV/AIDS.

Rapid and sustainable development is essential to meet the magnitude of the challenges. A 'Nairobi Action Plan' for Africa must engage workers, trade unions and their communities in the further development of adaptation strategies.

In preparation for COP13 our trade union organizations at the national level will in early 2007 communicate with YOU - the national governments, to request:

1. From now on that you include, within your national communications to UNFCCC, information about worker-related issues of employment, capacity building, training, education and awareness measures, showing how trade unions can help boost and support national efforts for climate change.
2. That you support our involvement in the SBSTA five-year work programme by bringing into scope the results of our 11-EU government/trade union research, especially for its implications to other regions of the world; and
3. That you help us provide input into the New Delhi work programme concerning the skills and activities of trade unions related to training, education and public awareness;

Mr. Chair the International Trade Union Confederation has placed a formal request to UNFCCC for trade unions to be recognized as a formal "constituency" of COP, along with BINGO, ENGO and RINGO.

We ask governments to support this request as a first step toward our involvement with you at the national level and internationally to address climate change. We aim to

Thank you chair