

**Trade Unions speech to UNFCCC plenary
Friday 14 December 2007**

**By Tony Maher
National President
Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union
Australia**

**2nd draft
13 December 2007
incorporating suggestions from TUNGO meeting 9am 13 December**

Your Excellency, Delegates, fellow workers,

I'm Tony Maher, I'm from Australia, and I'm here to help ☺

Today I'm representing not just my union, but global unions with 168 million members in 153 nations.

We come from diverse nations and diverse industries. From Africa, Asia, North America, Latin America and Europe. From mining and forestry through to the service and high technology industries.

We have brought together diverse views and interests, and now we speak with one voice.

WE are here to help ☺

YOU need our help.

Because these negotiations are ultimately about jobs. Jobs in new industries, jobs in existing industries. Hundreds of million of jobs.

Effectively combating climate change is ultimately the biggest trade and employment treaty process ever attempted by the nations of Earth.

We all have to learn to live differently. We all have to learn to work differently.

In rising to that challenge global unions make the following key points.

- The average rise in global temperature should be limited to as close to 2 degrees as possible. We recognise that will require deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, especially by developed nations.
- The Bali roadmap must provide for Social Dialogue. For engagement with Labour alongside Business as the social force that will actually carry out the changes required. The ILO's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work provides the necessary guidance. Without basic rights and

Social Dialogue, no worker can genuinely participate in efforts to reduce global warming.

- Just Transition. Measures to reduce global warming will mean that some industries decline while others grow. Workers must be retrained and relocated to meet this challenge. Every time a worker is placed on the scrap heap because of climate change, rather than given a new job, we create a barrier to change rather than an opportunity.
- Sustainable forest industries. Forest communities in developing countries want jobs and a future, not handouts. We must promote sustainable forest industries that provide both a global carbon sink AND decent work for forest-dependent communities.

Sustainable forest management. We are well aware of the global impact and the dangers of deforestation for the climate as well as for livelihood of workers and communities. We therefore support a sustainable and integrated scheme under which deforestation and degradation can be addressed in a future climate regime. Trade Unions would like to remind the global community that forestry workers provide the sustenance of entire communities, many of them rural regions that continue to face poverty. Forests can neither be protected nor managed sustainably without the people who depend on them.

-
- Decent Jobs is what it is all about. Not just any jobs, but jobs with good pay and conditions, with a career path and a future. Jobs that respect the right of all people to join a union and bargain collectively. A carbon-constrained future that does not incorporate Decent Work is not a future that is sustainable.

The document that is concluded at Copenhagen in 2009 MUST integrate the role of Labour – an integration that has NOT previously occurred. The Parties' recognition of Trade Unions as a separate major constituency in the last year is a major step in integrating our role. You and we must build from that.

(Concluding comments)

I remind delegates that trade unions and working families are the biggest stakeholder group in the Convention process.

We have great capacity to assist climate change solutions. But we must be recognised, engaged and consulted.

When governments of the world commit to Social Dialogue with unions and working people we can achieve greater consensus on the major challenges we face.

One planet, one future. The working people of this world are prepared to work with you.

We urge YOU to work with US for the greater good of humanity and our shared environment!

Thank you.