



BUILDING TRADE UNION ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANS IN AFRICA: *EASTERN AFRICA*

- **TU requests to advance on the accomplishment of the goals, from a sub regional perspective:**

- **Requests for international institutions.**

- ILO

- To provide timely and frequent user-friendly information, development and dissemination on these issues and events.

- UNEP

- To ensure TU perspective in all programmes and events.
 - To make resources available (materials and funds) for Trade Union sub regional initiatives.
 - To make resources available for effective functioning of Trade Unions focal points at national and sub regional levels.

- WHO

- To initiate a sub regional training programme to increase the number of OHS specialists.
 - To ensure and support the availability of OHS services close to workplace
 - To ensure situational analysis in workplaces to identify occupational diseases and illnesses.
 - To do research to ascertain the extent of occupational diseases and illnesses among workers and communities in the sub region. Information should be shared with Trade Unions.
 - To ensure that poison centers are up and functioning in the region
 - To support the establishment of specialized occupational health and safety clinics in the sub region.
 - To establish a programme to assist treatment of low-income workers.

- **Requests for governments.**

- To provide financial and material support to workers initiatives towards sustainable development
 - To ensure the participation of Trade Unions in formulation and legislation to properly enforce and address employment issues, ie. Existence of OHS committees and inspectors.

- **Requests for enterprises.**

- To develop CSR to contribute to environment protection based on the polluter payer principle.
 - To ensure bipartite dialogue.
 - To develop OHS committees.

- **Identification of training needs**



➤ **Priority themes with TU training needs.**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Food Security
- Deforestation and desertification
- Climate change
- Pollution: H₂O, Soil, Air
- Waste management
- Forest certification
- Sustainable use and resources
- CBS

CHEMICAL SAFETY

- National Legislation
- International Chemicals Conventions and programmes
- Label interpretation
- Risk Assessment
- Health and Environmental Inputs
- Collective Bargaining
- ILO Label Standards
- Inspection

➤ **Available capacities and structures.**

- Health and Safety Committees at Union level in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda
 - Directorate on OHS at National Center (in Tanzania and missing in Kenya and Uganda)
- All they have limited capacities.

➤ **Training proposals brief list.**

- Training of TU leaders
- Training at: union level, enterprise level or federation level
- Sub regional trainings

● **Working areas where technical support and materials are needed for TU action**

➤ **Proposals for technical support and for materials.**

- Preparation and capacity building to have experts on environmental chemicals, IT, policy analysis, legal issues, sociologists, occupational diseases and illnesses.
- Elaboration of materials: illustrated user-friendly pocket guides and manuals.

● **TU communication networks on sustainable development**

➤ **Proposals to better the communication on this issue and contact points to build a communication network.**

- To have access to mass media programmes: TV, radio and websites
- To develop an electronic sub regional network to link to others



- To promote sub regional exchange visits
- To join and develop sub regional programmes
- To accelerate to usage of existing National and Federation websites, as well as sub regional ones
- To advance on the accomplishment of the goals from a sub regional perspective

• Possible sub regional campaigns

- **Common campaigns' debate and proposals in priority issues for the sub region.**
 - 28th April Occupational and Health Safety Day: linking with EAC, employers and governments.
 - Annual Themes
 - Subregional statements
 - Workers Caravan
 - Asbestos campaign

• Trade union commitments

- **Brief declaration of commitments that can be taken by the TU from the sub region.**
 - To sensitise members
 - To incorporate environmental issues in CBA, projects, training programmes
 - To share information at national and sub regional level
 - To set continuous assessment and evolution on the input of Trade Unions' participation in issues on environment and labour
 - To ask ICFTU Afro to support national centers on these issues and to organise sub regional meetings on labour and the environment. As well as to establish environmental structures in the sub regional structure of the confederation.

- Kenya: COTU
- Mauritius: MTUC, MLC and NTUC
- Tanzania: TUCTA and TPAWU
- Uganda: NOTU