



TRADE UNION AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON **LABOUR** AND THE **ENVIRONMENT**

Johannesburg, South Africa, 28th & 29th July, 2006

Introduction

In Africa, poverty and environmental damage can be understood as sides of the same coin. Drought, deforestation, desertification, water and soil pollution, all have impacts on the lives of workers, their families and communities, with clear results on employment, food security as well as occupational and public health.

To facilitate trade union action, the interconnections between these issues must first be properly understood. Strengthening the linkage between labour and environment will have the effect of ensuring that economic, social and environmental factors are made to be mutually supportive.

Because of their relationship to production and position in workplaces Trade Unions are in a unique position to link these dimensions in very practical ways, thereby ushering a new kind of trade unionism for the XXI century.

The African Trade Union Conference on Labour and the Environment aims to establish a framework for discussion, development and adoption of common strategies for the trade union movement on sustainable development at the workplace, community, national and regional level.

The African Conference is set to follow up the legacy of the First Global Trade Union Assembly on Labour and the Environment, organized by UNEP, ILO and Sustainlabour, on 14th-16th January, 2006.

The Global Assembly was a giant step in the unfolding of the trade union's environmental and sustainable development agenda.

The time has now come to examine its outcomes in the context of regional and local realities. Incorporating the environmental dimension into trade union work, encouraging decent and sustainable job creation and setting in motion the necessary just transition measures; all these are expected outcomes of the process that will begin with the African Trade Union Conference on Labour and the Environment.

Objectives

- To establish a framework for discussion and the adoption of common strategies for action on Sustainable Development by African Trade Unions to:
 - Improve the understanding of African trade union concerns and needs regarding environmental issues.
 - Raise awareness about the linkages between Environment, Occupational Health and Safety and other areas of trade union action, e.g. asbestos and HIV/AIDS.
 - Identify the training needs of African workers, so as to enhance their role as agents for change toward sustainability, through actions at the workplace and within the local, national & regional settings.
 - Promote an exchange of experiences and good practices.
 - Build action networks for empowering national organizations to implement the decisions taken regionally and to incorporate them within international processes.
 - Support the development of regional actions, i.e. campaigns or action plans.

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FRIDAY, 28TH JULY

8:00 **Registration**
9:00

9:00
10:00

1st Session: Labour and environment. A way out of poverty

Chair: Zwelinzima Vavi, COSATU General Secretary

- South African Government, Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Blessing Manale, Directorate of Sustainable Development.
- City of Johannesburg, Department of Planning, Transportation and Environment.
Flora Mokgohloa, Environmental Planning and Management.
- Integrating TU action within the Sustainable Development paradigm: decent jobs & environment
Andrew Kailembo, ICFTU - AFRO General Secretary

GREETINGS:

- *Paz y Solidaridad* Foundation
Marisol Pardo, Confederal Secretary of International cooperation for Development from *Comisiones Obreras, Fundación Paz y Solidaridad*
- United Nations Environment Programme
Bob K. Kakuyo, Coordinator South-South Cooperation. Division of Regional Cooperation
- Sustainlabour Foundation
Laura Martin Murillo, Managing Director

10:00 **Break**
10:30

10:30
12:00

2nd Session: Environment, Decent employment and Poverty Eradication

Chair: Joaquin Nieto, President of Sustainlabour Foundation

- The central role of Decent Employment in poverty eradication and environmental protection
Mohamed Mwamadzingo, ILO/ACTRAV Africa Regional Office
- Health in the World of Work
Thebe A. Pule, Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator, WHO Africa Regional Office
- Environmental challenges in Africa: Facts and figures from sub regional perspectives
Charles Sebukeera, Programmer Officer. African Region. Division of Early Warning and Assessment, UNEP and Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong from NEPAD Secretariat.
- Addressing poverty eradication.
Kumi Naidoor. Chair. GCAP. Global Action Call Against Poverty

Open discussion & summary from the Chair

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- 12:00 **3rd Session: Trade Union Assembly on Labour and the Environment**
 12:30
- Presentation of the Resolution of the TU Assembly on Labour and Environment
 Fatou Ndoye, Programme Officer, Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, UNEP
 - Joaquin Nieto, President of Sustainlabour Foundation

12:30 **Lunch**
 14:00

14:00 **4th Session: Introduction to working groups & Practical Examples of**
 15:30 **Trade Union action on Environment**

Chair: Adrien Akouete Yaovi Beleki, General Secretary DOAWTU

Identification of common challenges: gender perspective; health: with HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases; rural/urban

Angela Lomosi, ICFTU- AFRO. African Regional Organisation

1. Equal and sustainable access to resources and services: water, energy and land
 Têko Kpodar Regional Secretary for Africa and Arab countries, PSI. Public Services International
2. Vulnerability to Climate Change: consequences on Labour and the Environment
 Thomas Mbeyela, RAAWU/TUCTA. Trade Union Congress of Tanzania
3. Hazardous substances in the workplace & the communities - linking occupational to community health
 Yahya Msangi, IUF, International Union of Food, Agriculture, Hotel, Restauration, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers
4. Labour and Environment: making companies accountable
 Gabou Gueye, Vice President UNI Africa, Union Network International
5. Sustainable Forests
 Inviolata Chinyangarara, Regional Coordinator, BWI, Building and Wood Workers International

15:30 **5th Session: Working Groups**
 18:00

1. Equal and sustainable access to resources and services: water, energy and land
 Petrus Mashishi, President SAMWU, South African Municipal Workers Union
2. Vulnerability to Climate Change: consequences on Labour and the Environment
 Geoffrey Kabi, Treasurer General, NOTU, National Organisation of Trade Unions Uganda
3. Hazardous substances in the workplace & the communities - linking occupational to community health
4. Labour and Environment: making companies accountable
 Thabo Tshabalala, Regional Coordinator, ITGLWF Africa. International Textil, Garment and Leather Workers Federation

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SATURDAY 29TH JULY

09:00 10:00	<p>6th Session: Presentation of Working Groups recommendations Chair: Tecla Masamba, Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions</p>
10:00 12:30	<p>7th Session: Building trade union environmental action plans in Africa: sub-regional perspective Introduction: Marga Ferré, Member of the Board of Sustainlabour Sub regions groups. The objective of these groups is to identify common problems and joint actions: Northern and Western Africa; Central Africa; Southern Africa and Eastern Africa</p>
12:30 14:00	<p>Lunch</p>
14:00 15:00	<p>8th Session: Presentations and discussion of the sub-regional plans for TU action in Africa Coordinators:</p> <p>Northern and Western Africa: Chris Uyot, NLC, Nigeria Labour Congress and Kadidiatou Sow, CSTM, Confederation Syndicale de Travailleurs du Mali.</p> <p>Central Africa : Angelique Katani Kipulu, CSC, Confédération Syndicale du Congo et Tshikali Kalubye, CDT, Confédération Démocratique du Travail.</p> <p>Southern Africa: Tecla Masamba, ZCTU, Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions.</p> <p>Eastern Africa: Wafula Musamia, COTU, Central Organisation of Trade Unions, Kenya.</p>
15:00 16:30	<p>9th Session: Debate & adoption of the Johannesburg Accords and action plans Andrew Kailembo, General Secretary, ICFTU-Afro Bheki Ntshalintshali, Deputy General Secretary, COSATU</p>
16:30 17:00	<p>Closing Ceremony UNEP Sustainlabour ICFTU-Afro COSATU</p>

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