

INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

## ICFTU OnLine...

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### Unionists worldwide to participate in White Band Day 2, all eyes on the UN Summit

Brussels 9 September 2005 (ICFTU OnLine): Trade unionists from the ICFTU's 234 affiliates will take part in White Band Day 2 activities to add their voices to the call for world leaders to wake up to poverty.

In New York, trade unionists will join GCAP members and GCAP spokesperson Kumi Naidoo in marching together with 250,000 New York City workers in the annual Labour Day Parade.

In Bogota, Colombia, trade unionists will take part in a concert focused on raising awareness about the impoverishment of women and demanding respect for women's labour rights, which have been particularly affected by the latest round of labour law reform. About 20,000 action cards will be handed over to the Congress of the Republic, requesting a repeal of the labour regulations that have undermined women's working conditions, particularly those working in Export Processing Zones or maquilas, textile and garment factories, and banana and flower industries.

In London, union leaders from the Trade Union Congress will be sporting white bands as they take on the UK's industrial reporters at their annual cricket match. They will also present UK Prime Minister Tony Blair and International Development Secretary Hillary Benn with the Global Unions submission to the United Nations before their departure to the UN Summit. The submission (available at <http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991222158&Language=EN>), argues that creating decent jobs at fair wages, providing skills and respecting workers' rights are vital to the objective of eliminating world poverty.

In Rome, Italy, thousands of unionists will join tomorrow's massive peace march.

In Chile, unionists will march through the streets of Santiago carrying 8 bands of different colours, each one 1 metre wide and 2 metres long and representing a different Millennium Development Goal.

"The eyes of the world's trade union movement are on next week's UN Millennium Development Summit. We hope that the negotiations going on in New York will result in decisive commitments from world leaders to tackle world poverty," said Guy Ryder, General Secretary of the ICFTU.

"Our members have mobilised around the issue of global poverty because as workers it affects them every day, whether it be through being unable to afford privatised health services, not being able to make ends meet on the wages they earn or having no choice but to perform work which is dangerous to their health simply to survive," he added.

"The hundreds of actions that are planned and the thousands of trade unionists that are set to participate tomorrow are a testament to global solidarity, a value that the trade union movement holds dear to its heart and that will drive us to keep up the pressure on our national leaders to deliver on the MDGs", Ryder concluded.

Guy Ryder will address the summit on Friday, 16th of September at the UN in New York.

The ICFTU represents 145 million workers in 234 affiliated organisations in 154 countries and territories. ICFTU is also a member of Global Unions: <http://www.global-unions.org>

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