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International Trade Union Confederation  
**Trade unions on the move for Rio+20**  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 11-22 June 2012

## Earth Hour - actions for a day or for a year?



This is the second in a series of messages we will send to bring you up to date on the plans we have put together for the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio+20, as well as our own associated event - The Trade Union Assembly on Labour and Environment (10-12 June).

In order to receive updates, please register to our newsletter [here](#).

**Don't know what Rio+20 is? [read more](#)**

## Lights out 8.30 pm, 31 March 2012

The Earth Hour is a simple idea that's quickly turned into a global phenomenon. Hundreds of millions of people turning off their lights for one hour, on the same night, all across the planet.

But it's not to save an hour's electricity. It's something much bigger. The Earth Hour is about people coming together to put the focus on this brilliant world we all share – and how we need to protect it. Not just for an hour a year, but every day.

The Earth Hour is a WWF campaign, and the ITUC is supporting this initiative.

As trade unionists we have a great influence in our communities and in our workplaces.

## Climate Change actions in workplaces

What if you would promise to take one single action for a year and encourage others to do so too?

Below is a set of things that you could actively promote in your workplace, as an individual worker, as a manager or as a trade union representative.

We encourage you to use these sets of demands in your work on climate change in your organisation. Which of the following pledges could you take? Or encourage others to take?

[Worker](#)

[Boss](#)

[Union rep](#)



**Facebook application**

**TAKE ACTION!!!**

There is an ITUC Facebook application on the same theme as the pledges above. We would appreciate any help with disseminating this application. Please take the pledge and also share widely with your different networks on Facebook.

[Earth Hour Facebook application.](#)

[Earth Hour Web application.](#)

**Download**

[Earth Hour leaflet](#)

[printable version](#)

## Rio+20 Lobby Week Update: First one a success, but more to be done

From 27 February to 9 March, national centres and ITUC representatives met with government negotiators, civil society representatives and UN agencies in New York and in national capitals with the objective to bring trade union messages to the Rio+20 negotiating text. This week in New York, delegations are discussing the text, and a new version will be prepared soon after. The impact of our collective lobby effort is clear: we have strengthened the references to decent work, including employment aspects of environmental policies, social protection and workers' rights among other labour demands. But you all know, nothing is won until it is won...

Some governments expressed their reluctance to support social equity, others insist on promoting safety nets, rather than social protection...This means we need even more support in the weeks to come in order to get our demands confirmed: a commitment to decent employment creation through environmentally-respectful investments, a commitment to fully implement social protection floors as a first step towards ensuring the right to social security for all and the launch of a financial transaction tax. A report on the Lobby Week will be circulated to affiliates who have joined the Rio+20 Working Group. If you want to join that list, please send an email to: [Anabella.Rosemberg@ituc-csi.org](mailto:Anabella.Rosemberg@ituc-csi.org)

## Trade Union Assembly on Labour and Environment II: Start participating today

Trade unions will go to Rio to demand that leaders embark on a different path, towards a genuinely sustainable economic model. While there, trade unions will also work on our own agenda of commitments and proposals on building sustainability at the Trade Union Assembly on Labour and Environment (June 10, 11 and 12) in Rio. The Assembly will include a plenary on a new development paradigm: challenges for employment, social inclusion and poverty eradication in a sustainable planet; financing sustainable development; the right to information, participation and justice; and the social protection floor, among others.

Working Groups are being prepared now on sustainable access to food, energy and water; green jobs and just transition: opportunities and challenges for women and youth, trade union action and climate change; sustainable management of chemical substances, and collective bargaining for sustainable development. Do you think a topic is missing? Then let us know.

**We are asking you to attend, AND we are calling on you to contribute to the planning the Assembly.**

How?

- Register to attend the II Trade Union Assembly on Labour and Environment  
<http://www.sustainlabour.org/documentos/Form.Assembly.Rio20.doc>
- Sign up for a Working Group and make other suggestions. Sign up before March 30.  
[assemblyrio20@sustainlabour.org](mailto:assemblyrio20@sustainlabour.org)
- Send trade union experiences and materials on environment, campaigns, articles, blogs, etc.

Thank you to the Fundación Paz y Solidaridad of CCOO Spain and the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation and Development (AECID) for making this initiative possible.

## Funding appeal to support unionists to go to Rio

The ITUC is trying to make the union presence in Rio a truly global representation of the union movement. We are coordinating the sponsorship of unionists and need additional funding support. We ask those unions who can, to commit to funding unionists from countries who cannot pay. We can provide detailed budgets for those who are interested. For those who would be in Rio for the Trade Union Assembly, the UN Pre-Comm, the Civil Society Days, for 10 days, our estimates are for some Euro 3200-3500 per person. If you can commit funds for unionists to participate in Rio+20, or want more budget information, please send an email to: [Vik.Meeuws@ituc-csi.org](mailto:Vik.Meeuws@ituc-csi.org)

## Win a Date with History!

If you had 2 minutes and the World Leaders as your audience – what would you say?

Twenty years ago, the 12 year old Severn Cullis-Suzuki represented the Environmental Children's Organization (ECO) on the UN's Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Speaking to a plenary session, she reminded the decision-makers of who their actions or inactions would ultimately affect. [Watch the video](#)

It's twenty years later now. From 20-22 June 2012, World Leaders will meet at the United Nations Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, otherwise known as the Earth Summit, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

If you are between the ages of 13-30 let us hear from you! You are part of the generation that will grow to see a very different world from the one we live in now. The question is — will it be a world where resources like food, water and energy are scarce? Or will it be a world with clean air, clean water, affordable resources, and jobs that are good for both the planet and the workers?

Tell your vision to the World Leaders! Go to the [Win A date with history](#) website and participate in the contest!

