

>>> "ITUC Press" <press@ituc-csi.org> 28.11.2008 09:38 >>>

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ITUC)

ITUC OnLine

205/271108

Governments at UN Doha Conference Must Recognise the Need For Lasting Systemic Solutions

Brussels, 27 November 2008 (ITUC OnLine): As governments gather in Doha, Qatar, for the biggest UN conference on financing development since the Monterrey Conference six years ago, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) has reminded them that policies to address the financial crisis and mobilise resources for development must be linked to employment creation and decent work in the real economy.

"Jumpstarting the world economy must begin by measures aimed at a fairer distribution of resources, reducing income inequality and increasing the purchasing power of workers," stated ITUC General Secretary Guy Ryder.

Ryder is leading a 30-strong global trade union delegation to the UN talks in Doha at the International Review Conference on Financing for Development (FFD), which is the date that governments agreed to set themselves when they met six years ago to decide on a comprehensive agenda for achieving coherence between economic, financial and trade policies in the interests of development.

"Six years on we see that governments have not honoured their commitments to fair trade, substantial debt relief and effective aid. We witness incoherent policies that have led to a deepening world recession and a looming jobs crisis. Instead of increasing development assistance, the level of aid actually fell last year - and that was before governments became preoccupied overwhelmingly with their countries' own economic recovery and their own political survival," stated Ryder. "Such a short-sighted vision will deliver neither development nor recovery."

"The current financial and economic crisis must not cause governments of industrialised countries to forget their commitments to development assistance and poverty eradication," Ryder concluded.

In a major policy statement entitled "Investing in Decent Work - the Key to a New Global Economy" the ITUC sets out a trade union platform for development, grouped into the six main areas for discussion in Doha:

- * Mobilizing Domestic Resources for Development
- * Mobilizing International Resources for Development
- * Trade as an Engine of Growth and Development
- * Enhancing Development Cooperation
- * Addressing External Debt
- * Addressing Systemic Issues and Policy Coherence

The full ITUC statement can be downloaded here:

http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/Trade_Union_Statement_to_Doha_FfD_review_ConferenceV3-clean.pdf

To contact the ITUC delegation in Doha, call the ITUC Representative to the United Nations, Gemma Adaba: +974 304 7605

The Decent Work Decent Life Campaign is organizing a Conference in Doha on "Financing Decent Work - An Imperative for Sustainable Development. If you are in Doha, please join the Conference. See the program below:

Multi-stakeholder Forum:

"Financing Decent Work - An Imperative for Sustainable Development"

Follow-up Conference on Financing for Development

December 1, 08.15 - 09.45

Dukhan Meeting Room, Sheraton Hotel, Doha, Qatar

Organised by the Decent Work, Decent Life campaign comprising the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the Global Progressive Forum (GPF), SOLIDAR and World Solidarity.

The international Decent Work for Decent Life Campaign believes that Financing for Development is a crucial process if world leaders are serious about the internationally agreed development goals. However, the process should be linked to the ILO's Decent Work Agenda. Decent work is an integrated policy response based on creating jobs, respect for labour rights, social protection and social dialogue.

Providing decent work opportunities to people around the world, especially the working poor, is the very foundation of sustainable development. Decent jobs make people the agents of their development and of their communities. The financial crisis provides an opportunity for a fundamental re-think of how the global economic system can be re-oriented towards the creation of decent work for all.

Chair: Andrea Maksimovic, SOLIDAR

1. Capital flight, tax evasion, tax havens - what way forward for a pro-poor taxation agenda?

Dr. Peter Ozo-Eson, Director of Research in the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC).

2. Investing in people: the Brazilian decent work experience

Mr. Celso Amorim, Minister for Foreign Relations (TBC), Brazil

3. The informal economy challenge: including the excluded

Ms. Georgina Opoku Amankwa, National Chairperson, Public Sector Workers' Union, Ghana Trade Union Congress

4. FFD - How will the global financial crisis affect aid commitments - the EU perspective

Mr. Josep Borrell, MEP and Chair of the EP Development Committee

5. Financing for Gender Equality

Ms. Ligia Ines, Director, Women's Department, Central Unitaria de Trabajadores, CUT, Colombia

6. Fixing the global financial architecture: what kind of regulation and what kind of institutions for a fair globalisation and decent work

Mr. Guy Ryder, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

The ITUC represents 168 million workers in 155 countries and territories and has 311 national affiliates.

<http://www.ituc-csi.org> <http://www.youtube.com/ITUCCSI>

For more information, please contact the ITUC Press Department on the following numbers: +32 2 224 0204 or +32 476 621 018.

Mathieu DEBROUX

Press Officer - Attaché de presse

ITUC International Trade Union Confederation

CSI Confédération syndicale internationale

CSI Confederación Sindical Internacional

IGB Internationaler Gewerkschaftsbund

Boulevard du Roi Albert II 5, B 1, BE-1210 Brussels, Belgium

tel (direct): +32 (0)2 224 02 04 Mobile: +32 (0) 476 62 10 18

e-mail: mathieu.debroux@ituc-csi.org

www.ituc-csi.org

You are currently subscribed to ituc-online as: Rainer.Gries@fes.de

To unsubscribe send a blank email to leave-ituc-online-333432T@forum.ituc-csi.org