The role of Trade Unions in the Global Economy and the fight against Poverty

International Symposium
ILO Bureau for Workers’ Activities
Geneva, 17-21 October, 2005

P R O G R A M M E

Monday, 17 October
0830-1000  Registration of participants - ILO Building Level R3 South

1000-1045  Opening Ceremony – Room V, Level R3 South
Opening Address
Mr Jim Baker, Director, ILO Bureau for Workers’ Activities

Introduction to the Symposium
Mr Claude Akpokavie, ACTRAV

Technical information
Ms Amrita Sietaram, ACTRAV

1045-1300  Commemoration of the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
Chairperson:
Sir Leroy Trotman, Chairperson, ILO Workers’ Group

The state of the Global Economy and the challenge of Poverty Eradication
Keynote Address:
Mr Rubens Ricupero, former Secretary General of UNCTAD

Trade Union perspective
Mr. Bob Harris, Education International/TUAC

GCAP Perspective:
Mr. Chien Yen Goh,
Third World Network/Co-chair GCAP WTO/Trade working group

Plenary discussion

1300-1430  Lunch
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1430-1600</td>
<td><strong>Millennium Development Goals:</strong> progress and future challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chairperson: Sir Leroy Trotman, Chairperson, ILO Workers' Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Eveline Herfkens, Executive Coordinator, Millennium Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600-1630</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1630-1830</td>
<td><strong>MDGs and Global Policy Debates</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chairperson: Sir Leroy Trotman, Chairperson, ILO Workers' Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Panel Discussion:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Global Governance and Coherence:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Paul Tennessee, WCL, Washington Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Debt cancellation - update and critique of latest proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Anh-Nga Tran-Nguyen's, Chief, Debt and Development Finance Branch, UNCTAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financing for Development – update and critique of latest proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Rudo Chitiga, Deputy Director, Commonwealth Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plenary discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summary: Mr Ahmed Khalef and Mr Luc Demaret, ACTRAV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday, 18 October</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000-1300</td>
<td><strong>The International Financial Institutions, Poverty and Social Exclusion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chairperson: Mr Duncan Campbell, Director, International Policy Group, ILO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Panel Discussion:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social impact of World Bank Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Joe Ingram, Geneva Representative, World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Macroeconomic Policy and Debt: role and impact of the IMF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Mark Plant, Senior Advisor, Policy Development and Review Department, IMF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Impact of IFI policies: a trade union critique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Peter Bakvis, Director, ICFTU/GUF, Washington Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Plenary Discussion

Summary: Mr Lawrence Egulu, ICFTU/AFRO

1300-1430 Lunch

1430-18:00 Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP)
Chairperson: Mr Kuete Nicoue Broohm, CSTT, Togo

Panel discussion:
Review of the PRS process: lessons learnt and the way forward
Perspective of the World Bank
Ms Linda Van Gelder,
Lead Economist, Poverty Reduction Group, World Bank

Review of the PRS process: lessons learnt and the way forward
Perspective of the IMF
Mr Mark Plant, Senior Advisor, IMF

A critique of Trade Union participation in PRSPs
Mr Lawrence Egulu, Economist, ICFTU-AFRO

Decent Work and Poverty Reduction: the ILO’s experience
Ms Azita Berar-Awad, Director, NPG/Integration, ILO

Coffee Break

Plenary discussion

Summary: Mr Claude Akpokavie, ACTRAV

1800- 2000 Cultural event

Wednesday, 19 October
0900-1045 Freedom of Association is essential for Social Progress
Chairperson: Ms Anna Biondi, Secretary, ILO Workers’ Group

Panel discussion:
Organising Informal Economy workers
Ms Hlengiwe Bhengu, Congress of South African Trade Unions
Organising in Export Processing Zones
Ms Ingrid Jose, Confederación de Trabajadores Unitaria, Dominican Republic

Organising for social justice: the ILO experience
Mr Zafar Shaheed, Director, Declaration Programme, ILO
Plenary discussion
Summary: Ms Monique Cloutier, ACTRAV

1045-1100 Coffee Break

1100-1300 **Tripartism and Social Dialogue for Poverty Reduction**
*Chairperson: Mr Jim Baker, Director, ACTRAV*

Panel discussion:
- **Employers' perspective:**
  *Mr Antonio Peñalosa, General Secretary, International Organization for Employers*
- **Workers' perspective:**
  *Ms Anita Normark, International Federation of Building and Wood Workers*

**ILO Perspective**
*Ms Johanna Walgrave, Director, Dialogue, ILO*

Plenary discussion
Summary: Mr Dan Cunniah, Deputy Director, ACTRAV

1300-1430 Lunch

1430-1630 **More and better jobs for poverty reduction**
*Chairperson: Mr. Syed Shahir Bin Syed Mohamud, Malaysian Trades Union Congress*

Panel discussion:
- **Growth, Employment and Poverty Reduction: linkages and lessons**
  *Riswanul Islam, Director, Employment Strategies, ILO*
- **Why inequality matters in reducing poverty?**
  *Mr. Rolph van der Hoeven, Integration, ILO*

**National case studies: Gender and poverty**
- Ms Amal El Amri, Union Marocaine du Travail
- Ms. Dragana Petkovic-Gajic, Confederation of Autonomous Trade Unions of Serbia

Plenary discussion
Summary: Mr Robert Kyloh, ACTRAV

1630-1700 Coffee Break
1700-1830 **Extending Social Protection to the Poor and the Excluded**  
Chairperson: Sr. Guillermo Touma Gonzales, Confederación Ecuatoriana de Organizaciones Sindicales Libres, Ecuador

Michael Cichon, Director, Social Security, ILO  
Discussants:  
Mr. Antun Krsevan Dujmovic, Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia  
Mr. Arun Kumar, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, India  

Plenary discussion  
Summary: Mr Frank Hoffer, ACTRAV

**Thursday, 20 October**  
0900-1030 **Trade Unions, the ILO and Technical Cooperation**  
Chairperson: Mr Guillaume Attigbe, Confédération des Syndicats Autonomes du Bénin, Benin

Introduction to the discussion:  
Ms Elizabeth Tinoco, ACTRAV  

Plenary discussion  

1030-1100 Coffee break  

1100-1300 Prospects of cooperation with major TC donors  
Chairperson: Mr. Rekson Silaban, Serikat Buruh Sejahtera Indonesia  
ILO Policy and priorities on Technical cooperation  
Mr Frans Roselaers, Director, PARDEV, ILO

**Perspective of the Netherlands**  
Ambassador Ian M. de Jong  
Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Perspective of Sweden**  
Ambassador Horn af Rantzien  
Sweden  

**ACTRAV’s Perspective:**  
Mr Sergey Popello, ACTRAV  

Summary: Mr François Murangira, ACTRAV  

1300-1430 Lunch Break
1430-1900  **Trade and Social Development**  
(*Closed Session: Trade Unions only*)  
Preparation for the WTO Ministerial Conference, Hong Kong, December, 2005

*Discussion led by James Howard and Esther Busser, ICFTU*

1900-2030  **Reception**

---

**Friday, 21st October:**

1000-1300  **Trade and Social Development (continuation)**  
(*Closed Session: Trade Unions only*)

1300-1430  **Lunch**

1430-1600  **Follow-up to the World Commission Report: a trade union perspective**  
(*Closed Session: Trade Unions only*)

1600-1700  **Intervention of Mr Juan Somavia, Director General, ILO**

1700-1800  **Presentation of the Conclusions of the Symposium**  
*Chairperson: Mr Jim Baker, Director, ACTRAV*  
Adoption of draft conclusions

**Concluding Remarks**  
*Mr Willy Thys,*  
*General Secretary WCL (on behalf of ICFTU and WCL)*  
*Sir Leroy Trotman, Chairperson, Workers’ Group*