

ITUC/MTUC/ILO Interregional Conference on Trade Union Actions and Strategies to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking

9-11 September 2007, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.



The ITUC together with the MTUC and the ILO organised an Inter-Regional Conference on Trade Union Actions and Strategies to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking in the framework of the building of a Global Workers' Alliance against Forced Labour and Trafficking.

The objectives of the three days Conference were:

to have preliminary consultations with ITUC affiliates, regional organisations, Global Union Federations and ILO-ACTRAV on the ITUC trade union strategy to build a global workers' alliance against forced labour and trafficking. A draft strategy was presented and discussed. It is an action oriented policy paper.

To focus on its implementation possible areas of work and possible future partner organisations have been identified. As part of the trade unions Decent Work Agenda it was stressed that trade unions cannot tolerate nor ignore forced labour as the very antithesis of Decent Work.

There was an overview of the concepts and global trends by experts in the field from the ILO department of International Labour Standards, the ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour and the ILO Bureau of Workers' Activities as well as Anti-Slavery, a friendly NGO with extensive experience and expertise in this issue. On the second day, GUF, regional and national experiences were presented in panel discussions and roundtables. On the third day final comments and recommendations to the strategy have been discussed together with two possible pilot projects that have been identified.

Overall accents in the discussions on the strategy were the role of the ITUC and the Global Union Federations as being adequate structures to address this complex global issue that shows specific characteristics per region and sector. Attention has been drawn to the limited capacities of trade unions and their restricted financial possibilities. Therefore the strategy should fully exploit existing trade union structures in related areas of work such as child labour,

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migrant workers, domestic workers, discrimination and the informal economy. Different approaches and activities have been put forward that can be divided into three pillars: research and data gathering, awareness raising and campaigning and reducing vulnerability.

It was proposed to present the strategy to the ITUC General Council in December and to design an implementation action plan for the years 2008-2009 for which cooperation with the ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour is foreseen

