



PRESS RELEASE

DEAUVILLE G8 SUMMIT

TRADE UNIONS CALL ON G8 LEADERS TO PUT JOBS FIRST

26 MAY 2011

- 1 The international trade union movement is calling on the G8 Leaders meeting in Deauville on 26-27 May to put jobs, human rights and development at the centre of G8 and G20 action frameworks. They must tackle the root causes of the uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa, support the creation of Decent Work, meet their promises on development aid to Africa, and put the climate change negotiations back on track.
- 2 Recent inflation-adjusted figures published by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)¹ reveal that G8 governments are still failing to honour their aid promises, with the shortfall in aid to Africa a massive \$14 billion in 2010, based on 2005 targets.
- 3 The Arab Spring was ignited by poverty, inequality, corruption and unemployment and born of people's aspirations for democracy, accountable government, political rights, jobs and social justice. These are the aspirations of people across the world.
- 4 Globally, unless governments wake up to the jobs emergency they risk a generation of youth blighted by unemployment and with it social unrest as people rise up in protest against a bleak future without decent jobs.
- 5 Trade unions fully support the European Trade Union Congress's Athens Manifesto² and are calling on G8 Leaders to:
 - Employment: act as a force within the G20 and beyond to put in place coordinated action to tackle the jobs emergency, place quality employment at the heart of the recovery as agreed at the G20 Pittsburgh Summit and ensure follow-up and coherence;

IN PARTNERSHIP
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- Arab countries: assess the cost and provide the necessary resources for funding democratisation partnerships in Arab countries, which support the creation of Decent Work, tackle inequality and corruption, build good governance and responsible business conduct, and strengthen civil society, including trade unions;
- Development: meet the UN target of committing 0.7% of GNP to Official Development Assistance, take action against countries that persistently flout their aid commitments, build sustainable tax systems, including by taking coordinated action against tax havens, and invest in Quality Public Services so as to put the Millennium Development Goals and Education for All targets back on track;
- Climate change: re-build momentum and raise the level of ambition regarding emission reductions and climate finance so as to take concrete steps towards achieving a fair, ambitious and binding agreement at COP 17 in Durban and to operationalise the commitments made in Cancun to ensuring a Just Transition and the creation of decent jobs;
- Japan: provide all possible assistance to Japan, based on the needs of the Japanese people. The international community must support Japan in its colossal task of cleaning-up, re-building and restoring communities affected by the earthquake, tsunami and damage to the Fukushima nuclear power plant.