



TRADE UNION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TO THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC  
COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION SYNDICALE CONSULTATIVE  
AUPRÈS DE L'ORGANISATION DE COOPÉRATION  
ET DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUES

**Paris, 28 May 2008**

**For Immediate Release**

**UNION LEADERS CALL FOR URGENT ACTION ON JOBS, INEQUALITY AND  
FOOD CRISIS IN ADVANCE OF THE OECD FINANCE MINISTERS' MEETING**

Trade union leaders from OECD countries and global labour organizations have called for urgent action from OECD Finance Ministers on the worsening jobs and income inequality situation and the global food crisis in a statement released in advance of the annual meeting of OECD Finance Ministers on 3-4 June.

The union delegation, led by John Sweeney, President of the American labour centre the AFL-CIO and of TUAC, the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD and Tsuyoshi Takagi, President of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation RENGO, and Vice-president of TUAC, will deliver a call for action on jobs and achieving fairer distribution of income at consultations with the Ministers to take place in Paris on 3 June.

The meetings, which will also discuss the economic responses to climate change are taking place as the financial crisis that spread from the US is dragging other economies into recession, slowing growth globally and pushing unemployment upwards in G8 countries and beyond. This is compounded by the unprecedented rise in fuel and commodity prices and the food crisis in developing countries, set to be the focus of the emergency world food summit to be held in Rome on June 3-5.

Sharan Burrow, President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the International Trade Union Confederation, who will be taking part in the meeting, said “we will call for immediate responses to the explosion in food prices, including action to counter speculation and an expansion of emergency support to the poor, as well as medium-term action to expand sustainable food production and rebuild buffer stocks”.

John Evans, General Secretary of TUAC said “we are calling for OECD leadership to bring about an effective response to these interrelated crises. This must include coordinated measures to support and rebalance growth, action to create “green jobs” and decent work as well as encouraging workplace agreements between unions and management as part of the action to combat climate change and to put the creation of decent work as a central priority. We will also be calling for the regulation of financial markets that sparked the crisis in the first place”.

The trade union statement that will be presented to the Ministers' Meeting is available on the TUAC website at: [http://www.tuac.org/en/public/e-docs/00/00/02/59/document\\_doc.phtml](http://www.tuac.org/en/public/e-docs/00/00/02/59/document_doc.phtml)

The union leaders will be available for comment at the OECD Forum on 3-4 June.

For more information, please contact:

Pierre Habbard, TUAC [habbard@tuac.org](mailto:habbard@tuac.org) - +33 (0)6 30 66 92 87

Spencer Wilson, OECD [spencer.wilson@oecd.org](mailto:spencer.wilson@oecd.org) +33 (0) 1 45 24 81 18

TUAC has consultative status with the OECD and represents 66 million workers in 58 affiliated organisations in the 30 OECD countries.