



**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION
OF EMPLOYERS (IOE)**



**INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION
OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU)**

Geneva, 12 July 2006

G8 SUMMIT MUST GET TO GRIPS WITH HIV/AIDS

Three years ago, the International Organization of Employers and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions committed to work together to confront the challenge of HIV and AIDS, and we called upon others, governments in particular, to work together too. Employers and workers, the driving forces of economic development, have a special stake in fighting this crisis.

HIV/AIDS is steadily pulling apart the threads that bind the fabric of societies. It is destroying livelihoods and the prospects for economic stability, sustainable global economic growth and decent work. Employers, workers and their families share a common interest in remaining healthy and productive members of society.

Together, employers and trade unions are taking important steps to collectively address AIDS in the workplace, within families and in communities. There is no question a great deal remains to be done, and that governments too need to step up their efforts in a cohesive and determined manner.

The G8 governments made important promises at Gleneagles last year, including on HIV and AIDS, and these governments are also now talking about accountability for the summit pledges they make. We very much hope in the final days leading to the St. Petersburg Summit that ways will be found to bring together several accountability proposals to help the G8 processes.

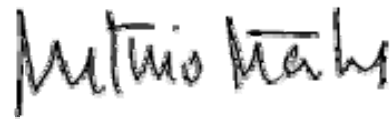
This is why we are urging the G8 leaders to respond to our call for a permanent high level working group of the G8 on HIV/AIDS, and to use this summit to put it in place.

We believe that there will be no end to poverty unless HIV/AIDS is addressed on a regular basis by the leaders of the industrialized world. More than 40 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, the majority of whom are in their productive years. There are no signs that rates of infection are subsiding. Sustainable development cannot progress unless there is an aggressive response to the pandemic.

Employers and trade unions have made a compact to work together to address the global HIV and AIDS crisis. We appeal to G-8 leaders to join us in a tripartite strategy to mobilize the comprehensive response and resources which are needed.



Guy Ryder
General Secretary
International Confederation
of Free Trade Unions



Antonio Peñalosa
Secretary General
International Organisation
of Employers