

**Consensus of 2010 International Forum
on Economic Globalization and Trade Unions
(February 26, 2010)**

The 2010 International Forum on Economic Globalization and Trade Unions was held from February 25-26, 2010 in Beijing, China. Over 300 leaders from the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU), International Labour Organization, and 119 trade union organizations of 79 countries and regions attended the Forum. The participants had thorough and in-depth discussion on the issues of “International Financial Crisis and the Role of Trade Unions” and “Employment Crisis and Sustainable Development”.

The participating organizations held the view that the international financial crisis and economic crisis triggered by the American sub-prime mortgage crisis has evolved into a global employment crisis, hampering the harmony, development and progress of the society, leaving the working people as the most affected victims. Even though the global economy began to see signs of recovery, unemployment rates remain high. The economic recovery cannot be sustainable while the unemployment rate remains at a high level. The national trade union organizations and international trade union movement should look into the post-crisis era and play a positive role in promoting sustainable development. To this end, the following consensus has been reached in the Forum.

I. Promote a comprehensive and balanced sustainable development and start to reform the global economic governance system. Efforts must be made to strengthen international financial regulation and supervision and push forward the overhaul of the international financial system; ensure fair distribution of social wealth and a sustainable and sound economic recovery; abandon egoism, and fight protectionism. Developed countries should provide more assistance to developing countries, with no conditions attached, to help the latter to tackle the unbalance in development as a major priority. It is imperative to tangibly enlarge the voices of developing countries, protect the interests of workers of developing countries, and start to build a global governance system that is based on equity and efficiency. Trade unions should urge the government to adopt more rational public policies to promote sustainable development and equitable income distribution and pay more attention to the poor countries, the impoverished people, and the enterprises of under-developed regions.

II. Promote transformation of development patterns and Sci-Tech innovations and constantly improve workers' skill development. Efforts must be made to keep up with international trend of Sci-Tech revolution and industrial revolution, transform the pattern of economic development, and promote industrial structural optimization and upgrading; focus on improving the ability of Sci-Tech innovations and promote a green, circular and low carbon economy; step up vocational training to upgrade workers' skills and their adaptability and contribution to newly emerging sectors and technologies.

III. Promote harmonious labour relations and earnestly safeguard workers' legitimate rights and interests. The principle of "Putting

People First” and the care and support for the working people is needed more than ever, and particularly in these difficult times. Trade unions should urge governments not to tolerate the demands of multi-national companies, weaken the labor laws, or reduce social security standards. Social partners in all countries should continue to promote social dialogue settle conflicts in labour relations through equal consultation, take actions and make joint commitments to secure jobs, increase workers’ wage, foster harmonious labour relations, safeguard workers’ rights and interests, and guarantee decent work.

IV. Promote full employment and universal social security and ensure that the fruits of economic and social development are shared by all.

Trade unions should urge governments to facilitate the development of SMEs to play the role of “employment absorber”. Efforts must be made to emphasize both the quantity and quality of employment in the promotion of decent work, and advocate the implementation of “Global Jobs Pact” in the whole world. Trade unions should continue to request the government to build and improve the social security system, toughen measures on occupational safety and health, address the basic needs of people, secure and improve the livelihood of people, focus on gender equality, ensure greater share in the results of economic and social development by the working people, and guarantee a fairer re-distribution of the fruits of economic globalization.

V. Promote the technical cooperation and assistance to bolster the capacity-building of trade unions in all countries.

The International Labour Organization should launch extensive technical cooperation with national trade union organizations, those from developing countries in particular, and support their capacity-building with financial, technical

and advisory assistance. As national trade union organizations use the traditional methods and means to push for government efforts to effectively implement relevant laws and policies, they should also explore new strategy, methods and means to protect the rights and interests of workers.

VI. Promote exchange and cooperation in the international trade union movement and endeavour to achieve social equity and justice.

Against the backdrop of economic globalization, especially in the post-crisis era, the international trade union movement should fully embody the principles of equal participation, cooperation and inclusiveness and expand the spirits of democracy and inclusiveness. The national trade union organizations should transcend differences in ideologies and international affiliation, further converge in consensus, strengthen unity, extend cooperation, and contribute globally for employment generation and sustainable development of the world economy.

In the end, the participants thanked the host organization of the Forum for its dedication to the successful organization of the Forum. They pointed out that the International Forum on Economic Globalization and Trade Unions has turned into an important platform for open and friendly exchanges on equal footing among trade unions organizations from different countries and contributed in promoting the development of economic globalization towards the direction of equilibrium, universality and win-win results and safeguarding the rights and interests of the working people. The participants suggested that the founding organizations of the Forum should further institutionalize the Forum.