

STATEMENT OF THE X IBEROAMERICAN UNION SUMMIT
Lisbon, 23-24 November 2009

The 10th Ibero-American Union Summit took place in Lisbon on 23-24 of November 2009. The Summit concluded to a statement that underlines the union priorities and aims of the Ibero-American labour movement.

In their statement the unions ask from the governments should encourage public education and training as a mechanism for inclusion of new generations, and education systems to ensure quality and equality of conditions. For many of the Latin American countries poverty in childhood has no other cause than the unemployment and job insecurity of the adults. The Unions ask the governments to encourage minimum wages that allow a decent life, and to ensure the involvement of labour inspectorates working to eliminate fraud, insecurity, and reduce informality. The Ibero-American governments should encourage lifelong professional training, both for the need to adapt in a changing environment of production processes and product innovation.

The unions urge the promotion of lending policies especially for small and medium enterprises that happen to be the weakest links in the application of labour rights. Job creation, particularly in small enterprises, social dialogue / collective bargaining, and social protection / social security are essential tools to reduce the impact of the crisis and labour. Moreover, the unions called for a new production model to end speculation, the promotion of a fairer distribution of wealth, fair and progressive tax systems and the elimination of tax havens. Trade unions call on the governments to include measures of social cohesion and justice. The Summit reiterated its opposition to the Directive on Return approved by European Union and demand a proactive immigration policies based on equal conditions of employment and social rights in line with the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the ILO conventions 97, 143 and 157. The unions demanded that the partnership agreements include a model of sustainable development and social, labour issues, and that they are concluded with the involvement of the social partners.

In times of crisis the strengthening tripartite social dialogue mechanisms, their practical application and the development of collective bargaining is of paramount importance. “We can not ignore that in many Latin American countries there is no freedom of association, and many others, collective bargaining is absolutely dependant on the government stamp”. The right of association and the freedom to assembly are fundamental but yet in many countries are denied or restricted. The unions strongly demanded that governments comply with ILO Convention 87 and stop persecuting trade union leaders and even killing them. The Summit stated that corporate social responsibility is defined not by philanthropy but by the ability to converge the corporate profit with the common good based on sustainable development and welfare of society.

Finally the Summit made a series of requests to the Ibero-American governments to comply with ILO Conventions, to fulfill the tripartite conference on social protection and

security, to ratify the Ibero-American Convention on Social Security, to stop the blockade of Cuba, and to ignore the outcome of the November 29 elections in Honduras.

Lisbon, November 24, 2009