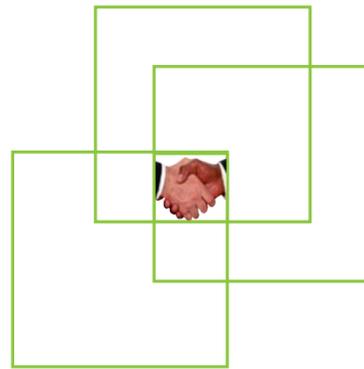


The Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) is the main link between the International Labour Office and trade union organizations. ACTRAV coordinates all the activities of the Office related to workers and their organizations, both at Headquarters and in the field.



ACTRAV Helpdesk on Financial and Economic Crisis

For more information contact:

ACTRAV Helpdesk,
Bureau for Workers' Activities,
International Labour Office,
4 route des Morillons,
CH-1211 Genève 22, (Switzerland)

Helpdesk hotline : +4122 799-7550
Fax : +4122 799-6570
E-mail : actravcrisishelpdesk@ilo.org
<http://www.ilo.org/actrav/jobscrisis>

Concerned about the impact the global financial crisis is having on your jobs or pension you are not sure what your union can do to counteract the negative effects? What role does the ILO have on the global jobs crisis? Are there any International Labour Standards relevant to deal with the crisis? If you want to know what the international trade union movement is doing about the crisis, the ACTRAV Helpdesk may be able to help!



Impact of the Global Financial and Economic Crisis on Workers

The current global financial and economic crisis has now evolved into a global employment and social crisis verging on a systemic economic collapse of dramatic proportions. Trade unions are now concerned that their members are emerging as victims of the crisis.

Coming on top of high food and fuel prices, the effects of the crisis have provoked trade unions and the workers they represent. Trade unions fear that the present crisis will erode and press down on wages and social spending, lay off workers, promote precarious employment, tear up workers' rights, reduce health benefits, and wipe out billions from pension plans. There is also the concern about clamping down on workers' concerted actions, and intensification of the exploitation of the working class.

Nonetheless, the trade union movement is not about to despair, but is rather invigorated to confront the future. The message is that trade unions must be part of any solution to global financial crisis. Working people, who are already bearing the brunt of the global financial crisis, must have a seat at the table and a voice in the discussions about causes, consequences and possible strategies to respond to the current crisis.

One of the calls from the international trade union movement is the development of a clearing house of national, regional and international trade union responses to the crisis. It is in this context that the Bureau for Workers' Activities of the International Labour Office has established a Helpdesk as part of its contribution to trade unions' response to the impending social and jobs crisis.

ACTRAV Helpdesk in supporting trade unions' response to the global crisis



The ACTRAV Helpdesk offers advice and information and makes available workable tools and materials to assist trade unions regarding how they manage their responses to the financial and economic crisis and uphold workers' rights.

The ACTRAV Helpdesk will be at the service of the International Trade Union Confederation, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity, the Global Union Federations, and national trade union centres.

The Helpdesk will also constitute a depository centre of knowledge and materials relevant for the trade union response to crises.

Through the ACTRAV Helpdesk trade unions would also be able to deepen their understanding of the failure of the free-market globalization phenomenon and call for a new sustainable—economic, social, and ideological—paradigm that favours the working men and women throughout the world.

