

Workers and Trade Union Major group Statement

Chair,

My name is Catarina Silveira and I work for Central Única dos Trabalhadores in Brazil and I speak on behalf of workers and trade union.

Around the world today people are suffering the consequences of financial and climate crises; food and nutritional crises. There is an urgent need for effective and concrete measures to address such issues and put us on the right track.

Trade unions and workers are actively engaged on this preparatory process and are looking at it as an opportunity to build the legacy of what we want to see from Rio+20 and onwards. We want to see a world where multilateralism still has a role to play, and where democracy and social dialogue, solidarity and cooperation between countries and their peoples is possible.

We want a Summit that will inspire us. We need a strong political document containing, among others, main principles to the Green Economy and recognition of the role social protection systems play in ensuring people's resilience and rights.

We want a Summit that concretely direct us towards sustainability. A declaration will not be enough. We need to leave Rio+20 with decisions that will be implemented.

These must include nationally-based targets on decent and green jobs and a commitment to Social Protection.

The international trade union movement calls on governments to act; to act in a new way, showing the international community can deliver concrete measures which will put our societies on track towards social equity, decent work, environmental protection, development and prosperity. In other words, towards sustainable development.