

Ministerial Dialogue

“Moving towards Sustainable Development: expectations from RIO+20”

Remarks by Workers and Trade Unions

Anabella Rosemberg (ITUC)

Thank you Chair

On behalf of workers and trade unions, I would like to share with you some thoughts on possible outcomes of Rio+20

Chair, as many ministers have expressed, we need Rio+20 to set the scene for achieving social equity in a protected environment.

It is clear that the current economic model is not delivering for workers and their families, nor for the environment. We need to engage on a new partnership for social progress in a resource-constrained world.

The question is how can Rio+20 can help us doing so

A month ago Chair, trade unions organised the Madrid Dialogue, where labour leaders met with more than 20 governments and NGOs with the support of the Spanish government. There, we identified three proposals that, if decided, would put us on the right track towards sustainability.

The first one relates to the green economy. We believe we need to get the principles right. The Green Economy needs to help us achieving Equity between and within countries; inclusiveness, providing opportunities for women, young people, informal workers; decent work, just transition, all these must be clearly agreed. But we think something concrete should come from that debate, and we are asking governments, as a concrete action, to pledge for the green and decent jobs they will create in the next five years in the sectors relevant for their economies.

The second one relates to the need for exploring and deciding on new sources of funding for sustainability, and asking a certain number of sectors to contribute to solving the global challenges we are facing, and in our view, a tax on financial transactions plays a key role in this regard.

The third one, and this will be the final idea in my statement, is related to the so-called emerging challenges. Chair, emerging challenges need long term responses. And we need citizens to be able to stand in dignity facing those challenges, being them climate, food or energy, unemployment, just for mentioning a few. Social protection systems are

key for building resilience, and Rio+20 could take a concrete decision, establishing a Universal Social Protection Floor.

Chair, trade unions stand ready to support ambitious governments in their efforts to achieve a successful conference for working families and for the planet. I thank you