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**For Immediate Release**

## **UNIONS CALL ON LABOUR MINISTERS TO SUPPORT INCREASED G20 ACTION ON GROWTH AND JOBS**

As forecasts warn of a possible further 50 million unemployed globally due to the economic crisis, trade union leaders from G8 and major developing and emerging economies will call on the G8 and G20 to put in place a global action plan for jobs, when they meet with Labour Ministers at the Rome Social Summit, on 29 March.

The delegation led by John Sweeney, President of the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and the US Labour Centre, the AFL-CIO, will present Ministers with a trade union [statement](#) that calls on governments to:

- ensure that recovery measures maximise job creation, include active labour market policies, provide for extended social safety nets and develop 'green economy' investments that can shift the world economy on to a low-carbon growth path;
- protect workers' rights to decent and adequate pensions in the face of the severe funding problems affecting occupational pension funds;
- combat the risk of wage deflation and declining purchasing power and reverse the growth of income inequality by extending the coverage of collective bargaining and strengthening wage setting institutions;
- strengthen cooperation between the international economic and social institutions – the International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Monetary Fund, World Bank, World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) so as to assure a strong social policy response to the crisis;
- ensure that developing and emerging economies receive international support to tackle poverty, create decent work and contribute to higher demand and growth globally.

The meeting will take place after the demonstrations in London on 28 March on the eve of the G20 London Summit, and before meetings with the British Prime Minister, the G20 Chair, on 31 March, where unions will submit their [five-point plan](#). Known as the 'London Declaration', it sets out detailed policy proposals and the actions needed to tackle the crisis and build a fairer and more sustainable world economy for the future.

“If the meetings of Labour Ministers in Rome and G20 Leaders in London are only able to agree on half-measures, they will have failed to meet their responsibilities. As the world’s largest economies, they now have the opportunity to replace the failed neo-liberalism of the past with a new direction for globalisation”, said ITUC General Secretary, Guy Ryder.

“Employment is at the heart of the crisis and governments have to take whatever measures are necessary to keep workers in jobs. Ensuring that workers have the right to collective bargaining, together with strengthening wage-setting institutions will establish a decent floor in labour markets and feed economic stimulus through greater household buying power”, said John Evans, TUAC General Secretary.

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The Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) is an interface for trade unions with the OECD. TUAC's affiliates consist of 58 national trade union centres in the 30 OECD industrialised countries which together represent some 66 million workers. [www.tuac.org](http://www.tuac.org)

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The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) represents 168 million workers in 155 countries and territories and has 311 national affiliates. [www.ituc-csi.org](http://www.ituc-csi.org)