

RESOLUTION ON UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE - BALI

CUPE NATIONAL WILL:

1. Demand that the Harper Conservative government show international leadership beginning with the December 3-14, 2007 United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Bali, Indonesia, by helping to negotiate an enforceable agreement that acknowledges that the world's developing countries require assistance from OECD countries who are the primary contributors to global warming. This agreement should be in place by 2009 to cut greenhouse gases.
2. Call on the Canadian government to develop a national strategy, respecting provincial jurisdiction, on climate change that includes public investment in community, social and energy infrastructure, public transit and conservation, measures such as building retrofits, and wind and solar energy.
3. Work with labour and non-governmental organizations to insist that the Canadian government create and fund a Just Transition program to protect potentially displaced workers; and to create a Climate Change Action and Adaptation Fund to provide municipalities with public funding to invest in measures to adapt to climate change and to reduce emissions.
4. Join with the Public Services International (PSI), and the environmental movement to call on all governments to:
 - Establish a binding framework for global negotiations by 2009 with targets to keep global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees centigrade; to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% globally and 85% by developed countries by 2050 and 30% reductions by 2020.
 - Make major global commitments to building and rebuilding public infrastructure with public investments in water, energy, waste, health care, affordable energy efficient housing, energy retrofitting of buildings, public transportation and municipal infrastructure.
 - Adopt principles of gender equity at all stages of the international climate change strategy, including the empowerment of women to take a central role at all decision-making levels on climate change.
 - Fully involve Aboriginal peoples in climate change debates and responses.
 - Provide major financial support for developing countries to respond to climate change.
 - Change international patent rules to allow for the transfer of new and existing climate change technologies to developing countries.

5. Be part of the solution by establishing climate change policy that sets greenhouse gas reduction targets for CUPE.
6. CUPE will exercise its influence to help bring about positive change in workplaces, communities and within households to alter climate damaging practices, by working with employers to set up workplace environmental committees; using collective agreements as a lever for action on climate change; helping to educate and train workers on climate change and on workplace measures to combat it; working with community groups to promote sustainability; helping to educate environmental groups about the roles of workers in climate change mitigation and the rights of workers to dignified and secure employment.

BECAUSE:

The Bali UN Climate Change conference is a critical turning point for putting right climate damaging policies and practices worldwide;

Global warming and the resulting climate crisis is devastating for the earth's environment and will have significant social and economic impacts;

The earth's climate is a global public good, and the worst impacts of climate change will be on poor regions and lower-income people around the world;

The Canadian government has been irresponsible on this issue taking no substantial measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

CUPE has taken a leadership position supporting strong action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the implementation of the Kyoto protocol;

Measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change provide positive opportunities to improve our public infrastructure, increase efficiency, reduce pollution, create jobs and improve our community life;

The climate crisis requires a critical role for the public sector and cannot be achieved through further privatization of environmental problems and solutions;

CUPE is a large organization that can show leadership by making significant changes to its operations to cut greenhouse gases;

CUPE can influence thousands of workplaces, communities and households across Canada and can be extremely influential in helping to make changes to mitigate climate change;

Progress on climate change to achieve sustainable development must go hand in hand with measures to improve economic, social, environmental and global justice.

CUPE is committed to cooperating and working together in a common struggle to save our planet.