

# CLIMATE CHANGE – TAKING THE POWER BACK

**The vital importance of ensuring metalworkers and their trade unions are part of global efforts to tackle climate change is reflected in Congress proceedings.**

Yesterday, in the lead up to Copenhagen 2009, Congress delegates unanimously adopted a resolution on Climate Change calling for support for “a binding international agreement that provides for significant and rapid carbon reduction targets, while recognising that the central debate must be on how to reduce emissions without sacrificing employment.”

Issues from yesterday’s debate will be further explored in two panel discussions this afternoon at 14.30 in room J1.

In the first session, Ken Neumann of the United Steelworkers (USW), Derek Simpson from Unite the Union, and S.Q Zama of the Indian National Metalworkers’ Federation will hold a panel discussion on climate change for metal workers.

The second session will deal with the purpose and challenges of building labour/environmental alliances.

Dave Oliver of the Australian Manufacturing Workers’ Union, Roxanne Brown, USW representative to the Blue Green Alliance Steering Committee, and Margrete Strand Rangnes from Sierra Club will provide perspectives on how trade unionists and environmentalists can work together to create good, green jobs.



Paul Howes of the Australian Workers' Union (AWU) moved the resolution on climate change during Tuesday's session.

## THANK YOU

When I left Sweden to join the IMF in 1981 I planned to stay at most, three years.

It was 28 years ago and the last 20 as General Secretary.

It is time to let younger people with a modern view of Trade Unionism take over and develop this great organisation.

An organisation of this kind is dynamic and has to make continuous changes to adapt to new challenges and situations.

In 1989 when I took over as General Secretary the IMF had 14 million metalworkers represented and now we have more than 25 million.

It is great that we have grown. But my question is: where are the other 45 million white and blue collar workers of the metal sectors?

This is the challenge for the future generation.

Now I am leaving the active part of working life, I want to say thank you to all of you, especially those that spend their entire life serving the members in the plants and offices — the millions of shop stewards and health and safety



representatives and others that devote their time and resources to the benefit of workers and their families.

They are the ones without whom our organisation cannot survive.

I want to congratulate the new leadership and wish all of them God's luck and also ensure them all my support.

Thank you to all of you.

Marcello

## IMF CONGRESS NEWS



IMF Congress News is produced jointly by the IMF and IF Metall Communications team.

The bulletin, distributed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, is published in English, Swedish, German and Spanish.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Get your IMF DVDs today!

Today every delegate will receive a double DVD pack of IMF films and Congress highlights. The highlights DVD features first speeches by new IMF General Secretary Jyrki Raina and new IMF President Berthold Huber, the keynote speech by Heiner Flassbeck and vox pops from Congress delegates on key issues. The pack also includes four short films profiling the IMF's global work on building sustainable national unions, organizing, international solidarity and precarious work.

### 32nd World Congress website

Today's Congress proceedings will be reported in full on the IMF 32nd World Congress website. Complete Congress 2009 coverage, including

news, speeches, amendments and all resolutions, can be found at [www.imfmetal.org/Congress2009](http://www.imfmetal.org/Congress2009).

### Congress Party TONIGHT

After three days of serious debate and hard work, Congress participants will get the chance to relax and enjoy themselves at the IMF World Congress Banquet and Party. Drinks will be served in the Congress Hall lobby from 19.00 followed by a formal dinner. A warning – no speeches will be permitted from delegates during



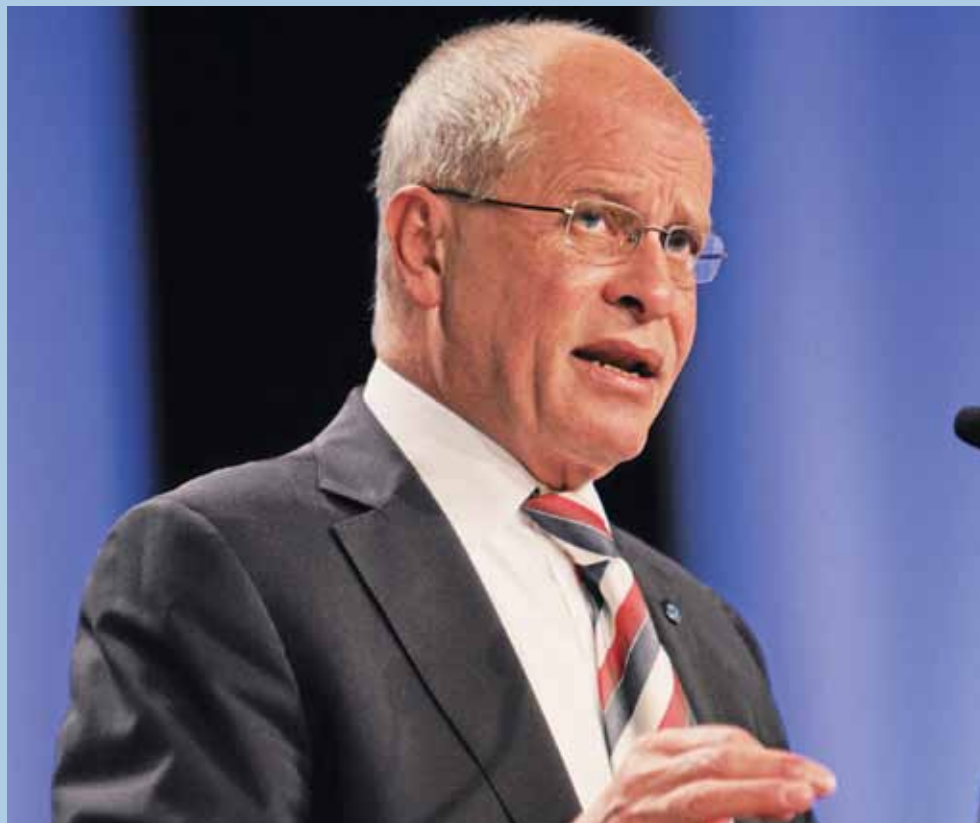
the dinner and there may be some surprise Swedish themed entertainment. Bring your dancing shoes!

### Time Change to Excursion

Delegates who have registered to go on tomorrow's excursion to Älvsborgs Fortress, please note: departure time has changed from 11 am to 10 am. Tour departs from the Gothia Towers hotel.

### Local recommendations

We asked IF Metall's local Gothenburg branch, where is the best place to have a beer? Here is what they said: *Brasserie Ferdinand (Drottninggatan 21) — the pub with the most types of beer in town, about 120!* Go to [www.imfmetal.org/Congress2009](http://www.imfmetal.org/Congress2009) for a complete list of local recommendations.



*"The IMF and its member unions have to assign voice and power to the working people. Not division, but unity makes us strong."* **Berthold Huber, new IMF President**



## PAGE 2

### Fighting Precarious Work

IMF's Fernando Lopes introduces today's resolution on Precarious Employment in the Economic Crisis.



## PAGE 3

### IMF Resolutions

CNTM/FSS's Monica Velozo chaired yesterday afternoon's session.

## SOLIDARITY IS NOT JUST A WORD

### Delegates urged real implementation and unity of action during debate of the IMF Action Programme yesterday.

Sections 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 were all unanimously endorsed by the IMF World Congress, but not without strong debate.

"Solidarity is not just a word," said Horacio Fuentes (CONSTRAMET, Chile) speaking on section 3.1, Build Strong National Unions.

The need for regional approaches was emphasized by Japan's IMF-JC President Koichira Nishihara,

and Alexei Etmanov from ITUA in Russia where attacks on unions are an increasing challenge.

"Without collective bargaining, there would be no union," said Antonino Regazzi (FLM, Italy) for section 3.2 Bargain Collectively.

IMF affiliates were called on to share their experience in national collective bargaining by delegate Sérgio Nobre from CNM-CUT in Brazil, where workers from different regions are paid radically different wages.

USW delegate, Carol Landry from the U.S. emphasized inequality in

wages and working conditions for women, who are bearing the brunt of the global economic crisis.

Delegates reported that the crisis is worsening trade union rights abuses in Russia, Belarus, Chile, Columbia and elsewhere during debate for section 3.3, Defend and Protect Workers' Rights.

John Vinesh Mudaliar (NUFCW, Fiji) summed up debate for section 3.3 and the day: "We come from many parts of the world, but we have one common task, and that is to fight for the workers."



Secure **JOBS** for a Secure Future



IMF affiliates around the world took part in a global day of action against precarious work. Pictured: Thai affiliate, TEAM

## DELEGATES TO DISCUSS PRECARIOUS WORK

**Two resolutions about precarious work will be presented to Congress today.**

The first is a response to precarious work and the global financial crisis and resolves that, among other measures, IMF affiliates will work to ensure that employment protections and other special arrangements put in place during the crisis are extended, wherever possible, to precarious workers and that unions will urge governments to restrict employers from widespread and illegitimate use of precarious employment in place of permanent and direct employment.

The second resolution on precarious work addresses the broader impacts of precarious work on all our lives. The

resolution calls for affiliates to ensure that all union campaigning against precarious work takes into account women's overrepresentation as precarious workers and the negative impacts this has for them, their families and society as a whole.

Last October more than 60 IMF affiliates in over 40 countries took part in a global week of action against precarious work. This October 3-10, metalworkers will again take to the streets around the world calling on governments and employers to restrict precarious employment and address the needs of precarious workers.

See [www.imfmetal.org/precariouswork](http://www.imfmetal.org/precariouswork) for more information.

## OPENNESS, DEMOCRACY AND PARTICIPATION OF ALL

**"My style of leadership is based on openness, democracy, consultation and involvement of the whole IMF family," said Jyrki Raina in his first official speech as General Secretary to the more than 800 delegates attending the IMF World Congress.**

Raina stated that the IMF will have one policy, the IMF Action Programme 2009-2013 as debated and adopted by Congress delegates.

He added that the IMF must fortify its action, build strong unions, organise the unorganised, defend

workers' rights with innovative campaigns and promote greater equality and decent work.

Raina spoke about the economic crisis and the need to move to a sustainable future with unions participating in the change. One of the responses should be an effective, comprehensive global campaign against precarious employment, he argued.

Raina emphasised his commitment to maintain regional balance in the IMF and to actively inform and involve affiliates around the world in the work of the IMF.



## We asked Congress delegates: What issue in the IMF Action Programme is most important



*Organising the unorganised is the most important task. The future of the trade union movement depends on how best we can unionise workers.*

**Rajasekhar Mantri**  
INMF, India



*The struggle against precarious work and broadening and strengthening collective bargaining in order to improve working conditions for women and men.*

**Maria Sciancati**  
FLM/FIOM-CGIL, Italy



*Employees worldwide have to connect better with each other to oppose transnational concerns. The IMF must therefore strengthen its role.*

**Helga Schwitzer**  
IG Metall, Germany



*Together employers and the State destroy democratic unions. For us the struggle for union rights is the most important.*

**Alexei Etmanov**  
ITUA, Russia

## WEDNESDAY 27 MAY, 2009

8:30

### Doug Meyer

UAW's Doug Meyer introduces section 3.4 of the IMF Action Programme: Build a counterweight to the power of transnational corporations.

10:30

### Valter Sanches

CNM-CUT's Valter Sanches introduces section 3.5 of the IMF Action Programme: Fight for sustainable trade, development and employment.

12:00

### Adoption of Resolutions

IMF delegates discuss and adopt final resolutions



IMF-JC's Koichiro Nishihara chairs today's morning session

14:00

### Media briefing

Climate change in the metal industry. Press corner.

14:00

### IMF Central Committee

IMF Central Committee meeting will be held in the Congress Hall directly following the close of Congress.

14:30

### Special Event: Climate Change and Metalworkers

Panel discussions on Climate Change and Metalworkers will take place in room J1 of the Convention Centre. See page 4.

19:00

### Congress Party, dinner and dancing

Drinks will be served in the Congress Hall lobby at 19:00, formal dinner to follow.

*Japhet Moyo of the National Engineering Workers' Union (NEWU) in Zimbabwe spoke in support of the resolution against xenophobia and racism.*

## RESOLUTIONS CALL FOR CHANGE

**Delegates at the IMF 32nd World Congress unanimously adopted a number of resolutions yesterday to improve workers' health and safety, preserve permanent jobs, tackle climate change and xenophobia, and remove barriers to organising in the U.S.**

Congress delegates passed a resolution on Climate Change. "A shift to a lower carbon economy is not just necessary but increasingly inevitable, however we cannot allow this to happen in a chaotic way which leaves ordinary workers, their families and communities

to bear the brunt," the resolution stated.

A resolution on Asbestos was adopted by Congress, renewing IMF affiliates' commitment to combat the widespread use of asbestos. "More than 100,000 workers die every year as a result of diseases caused by exposure to asbestos," noted Dave Oliver (AMWU), adding "asbestos kills, asbestos does not discriminate, and asbestos must be banned."

Delegates adopted a resolution on the Global Crisis and Automotive Restructuring calling for the IMF to support actions by affiliates

undertaken to achieve employment safeguards in enterprises undergoing restructuring.

Through adoption of the Employee Free Choice Act resolution, metalworkers vowed to support U.S. unions pressing for national labour law reform to remove barriers to organising workers and increase penalties to companies that violate labour law.

A resolution adopted against xenophobia and racism called for union action through collective bargaining "to promote integration, equal opportunity and respect for diverse cultures."

## t to your union and your members?



*The most important thing is to unite and fight the crisis together. Then we can also demand for better wages.*

**Boniface Nkakatsi**  
TUICO, Tanzania



*I'm glad to see the phrase "Global Solidarity in Action" in the new Action Programme: yes, we must take more action than issuing statements or resolutions.*

**Chalee Loysong**  
TEAM, Thailand



*Organising is the best tool for defending workers' interests, like obtaining better collective agreements that reduce working time without reducing wages.*

**Alba Colombo**  
UNTMRA, Uruguay