COP18

AWG KP

Madam Chair

My name is Amy Schwebel and I am speaking on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation.

The international labour movement considers it essential to avoid a gap in emission reduction commitments and to preserve the legally-binding and top down aspects that a 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will bring.

Therefore today we call on Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to show leadership on climate action and join the second commitment period with the highest emission target already ‘pledged’ or greater.

We note with concern, however, that pledges by Parties will be insufficient in working to keep average global temperature increases to 2 degree Celsius, with the consequences of the gigatonne gap being increasingly experienced by workers and their families.

Therefore we call on Parties to regard the mitigation commitments inscribed in Doha as a floor, not a ceiling. Each Party needs to include an undertaking that provides for greater ambition and Parties should support the inclusion of a review procedure which will enable commitments to be increased during the second commitment period.

The second commitment period cannot be part of a declining trend in ambition as greater leadership and action is demanded by the environment and our communities. We also strongly believe that progress in negotiations on a new legally binding agreement covering all major emitters by 2015 is bolstered by an ambitious second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

During a second commitment period and as negotiations progress on a new legally binding agreement, the risk of a fragmented regime on emission reductions must be reduced to a minimum. We urge governments that are not part of the 2nd Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol to move from the “bottom-up pledges” approach to the Kyoto Protocol-inspired Quantified Emission Limitations or Reduction Objectives, as the former puts at risk our capacity to build solid governance of the climate system

Thank you.

Amy Schwebel

Research Officer