



**INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU)
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYERS (IOE)**

FIGHTING HIV and AIDS TOGETHER

Two years ago, the International Organization of Employers and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions called for joint action to combat HIV and AIDS. As was agreed then, but is even more important now, there is no room for complacency.

Employers and workers, the driving forces of economic development, have a special stake in fighting this crisis. HIV and AIDS is steadily pulling apart the threads that bind the fabric of society. It is destroying the prospects for economic stability, sustainable global economic growth and decent work. Employers, workers and their families share a common interest in remaining healthy and productive members of society.

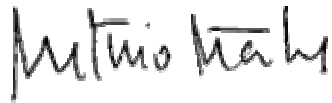
Employers and trade unions have taken important steps to collectively address AIDS in the workplace, within families and in communities. There is no question a great deal remains to be done.

We believe that there will be no end to poverty unless HIV and AIDS is addressed on a regular basis by the leaders of the industrialized world. More than 40 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, the majority of whom are in their productive years. There are no signs that the progression of HIV and AIDS is subsiding. Sustainable development cannot progress unless there is an aggressive response to HIV and AIDS.

We jointly call for the creation of a permanent working group on AIDS to report and issue recommendations to the G-8 on an annual basis on this unprecedented pandemic.

Employers and trade unions have made a compact to work together to address the global HIV and AIDS crisis, and we will continue to unite our efforts in future joint recommendations to G-8 leaders and other international gatherings. We appeal to G-8 leaders to join employers and workers in a tripartite strategy to mobilize the comprehensive response needed and resources to fight HIV and AIDS through a

mechanism that will ensure that future G8 Summits annually address this daunting challenge that the world must confront successfully.



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"The IOE and the ICFTU are the most representative employers and workers' organisations in the world. The IOE represents 139 national employers' organisations from 134 countries. The ICFTU has 233 affiliated national trade union centres in 154 countries representing 145 million members."

International Organisation of Employers' website: www.ioe-emp.org
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions website: www.icftu.org