



# Climate Change, its Consequences on Employment and Trade Union Action

A Training Manual for Workers and Trade Unions

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# **CLIMATE CHANGE, ITS CONSEQUENCES ON EMPLOYMENT AND TRADE UNION ACTION**

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**As part of their joint project on**

**“Strengthening trade union participation to  
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## BACKGROUND

The Training Manual on “Climate Change, its Consequences on Employment and Trade Union Action” is developed under the framework of the project “Strengthening trade union participation in international environmental processes”, jointly implemented by the United Nations Environment programme (UNEP), the International Labour Foundation for Sustainable Development (Sustainlabour), in collaboration with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), and its affiliates, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of Spain.

The overall objective of the project is to improve engagement of workers and trade unions in the development and implementation of environmental policy, as recommended by the Trade Union Assembly on Labour and the Environment at its first meeting in January 2006. The main purpose of the training component of the project is to address a clear gap and lack of knowledge of the environmental issues at stake regionally and globally in the trade union movement. The training component of the project focuses on two topics:

- a. **Climate change**, its consequences on employment and trade union action, and the need for alternative methods of production and just transition;
- b. **Sound and sustainable management of chemicals** and how to integrate just employment into environmental policy design.

### Manual objective

The purpose of this Manual is to enhance understanding of climate change and related mitigation and adaptation issues and their consequences on employment.

Trade Unions are uniquely placed to sensitize workers about the impact of climate change on employment patterns, to promote and demand that both public and private sectors develop programmes on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as to train workers to contribute and verify that these measures are adequately implemented.

In this regard, access to information and training are necessary to improve working conditions. The purpose of this Manual is to provide workers and trade unions with general information and guidance on how to deal with climate change.

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