

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday 14th January 2006



The Steering Committee of the Assembly on Labour and the Environment met in UNEP Headquarters this morning, under the chairmanship of Guy Ryder, Secretary General of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). The Steering Committee is formed by Victor Baez (ORIT), John Evans (TUAC), Andrew Kailembo (ICFTU AFRO), Temistocles Marcelos (CUT), Joaquin Nieto (Sustainlabour), Behki Ntshalintshali (COSATU), Govindasamy Rajasekaran (ICFTU APRO), Guy Ryder (ICFTU) and Ross Wilson (NZCTU).

Welcoming the Steering Committee, UNEP Directors Cristina Boelcke and Olivier Deleuze said that the Assembly was a very special event, and that the quality and number of registered participants reflected its importance. The Steering Committee received a progress report from the Assembly's Organizing Committee (Fatou Ndoeye, Programme Officer at UNEP's Major Group and Stakeholders Branch, Laura Martin from Sustainlabour, Lucien Royer from TUAC, Rémi Parmentier from the Varda Group, and Cornis Van der Lugt of UNEP's Division of Technology Industry and Economics) regarding the Assembly preparation. They approved the proposed Programme of Work and Assembly officers, and discussed various aspects of the upcoming three days, including the presentation of case-studies, the **status of the Workbook**, and the procedures for the adoption of the Assembly resolution. A few amendments to the Assembly programme were adopted ([click here](#) for the latest version of the programme approved by the Steering Committee).



UNEP Executive Director Dr. Klaus Toepfer joined the Steering Committee at 12:00. Dr. Toepfer emphasised that work with the Trade Unions is essential for the success of UNEP's "Environment for Development" mission, and that he was looking forward to this very important assembly. After a stimulating exchange of views between Dr. Toepfer and the members of the Steering Committee on the nexus of the social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, the Assembly got off to a good start. Later in the afternoon, as Assembly delegates were arriving to register at UNEP for the meeting, the Organizing Committee continued its work through the afternoon, including a meeting with the Facilitators of the Working Groups and the case-study presenters.