

Trade Union Letter on Work and Climate Change: Impact on the Health and Lives of Workers!

Climate change can have a major negative impact on the health and lives of workers in general, ranging from increased exposure to occupational hazards, material loss and damage, loss of employment and even threats to life in the face of environmental disasters. Health problems related to climate change can lead to an increase in several pathologies, such as waterborne diseases, vector-borne diseases and respiratory diseases.

We emphasize that the risks associated with climate change should not be assessed in isolation, as this is a complex analysis, since they are made up of several factors. Based on this, we highlight some issues for identifying and addressing impacts in the current scenario:

- Elaboration of public policies aimed at the preventive management of climate risks, including the corporate duty to consider them as occupational risks.
- Identify the economic activities most sensitive to environmental damage
- Assessment of the occurrence of disasters (fires, pollution, drought, floods, etc.) that may occur in certain regions or in some more susceptible economic activities (use of geointelligence)
- Use of indicators (indices – morbidity and mortality) of the impacts of extreme climate events on the health of workers, with special attention to the occurrence of communicable diseases such as leptospirosis, dengue, zika, chikungunya, yellow fever, acute diarrheal syndrome, schistosomiasis and others.
- Analysis of the dynamics of effects and interactions (identification of vulnerable groups – age, sex, socioeconomic aspects / economic activity and others)
- Projections (future periods) by experts of extreme climate events (temperature, precipitation, humidity and wind).
- Early social warning systems specifically aimed at workers.
- Information actions, alert systems and publication of potential risks.
- Organizing access to public infrastructure in the event of disasters, involving the logistics of humanitarian support in general, including maintaining employment or income for affected workers.
- Comprehensive approach with the participation of all affected actors in society. Organizing a network of volunteers from civil society, so

that this potential can be used in the most rational and effective way possible.

Therefore, we understand that the issue of the environment in general, and climate change in particular, should be addressed in collective union negotiations, with the negotiation of clauses that can provide protection to workers affected by these changes.

Finally, it is hoped that the points highlighted above will be the starting point for this debate with workers and their unions.