

Madam chair person, distinguished delegates,

It's a great honour to take the floor before you on behalf of the workers and trade-unions major group, for this closing session of CSD 17, in the context of the global food, financial and economic crisis. At the opening session of CSD 16 last year, our group stressed that, I quote "tackling key issues of our agenda for the future, requires taking into account the key players in the food industry: the workers". Let me recall also that 170 000 workers die every year at work.

Today, we want to express our positive appreciation for the improvements achieved so far. However, we regret that the workers are not duly taken into account in the final report. Indeed some of our demands have been taken on board, but the withdrawal of the chapter on health and safety at work is a great disappointment for us. Workers expected more from CSD.

However, we want to express our satisfaction that, at last, it is recognized that no sustainable development could be reached without combating HIV AIDS.

Madam Chair person, distinguished delegates, during CSD 16 and 17, workers representatives committed themselves for the success of the conference. The road is long to reach the Sustainable Developments goals. To do so, we have to learn from the experience of the current period. Therefore Business as usual is not an option.

Thank you Madam Chair

15th May, 2009