

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“The CFMEU recognizes and acknowledges the vital role our members play in sustainable development and the vital importance of sustainable development for our members.

At the UN Conference on Climate Change (Bali, December 2007) the CFMEU was part of the official Australian Delegation. CFMEU urged recognition of the interrelatedness of sustainable development and the rights and needs of our workers – in any planning regarding the current and potential impact of climate change. Without workers’ rights and other social aspects, development cannot be considered sustainable.

CFMEU was pleased to see increased acknowledgement and acceptance that sustainable development is an issue with implications for the global and regional community as well as for workers and trade union members.

CFMEU has long recognized and urged the need to ensure sustainable development strategies, policies and practices which must be achieved through a multi-faceted approach - integrating social, environmental and economic measures for the rights and benefit of workers in our industries.

CFMEU is convinced that strategies which advance these pillars of development must be cohesive – not approached in isolation from the total needs of workers. Jobs and income generation must be taken into consideration – along with overall social, environmental and economic dimensions.

CFMEU must always be concerned with poverty eradication, job security and acceptable living standards.

CFMEU accepts the central requirement to, at the very least, work to achieve respect for and adherence to ILO Core Labour Standards.

CFMEU recognizes its continuing role in informing, educating and engaging its members, governments and industry about the needs and benefits of sustainable development.

CFMEU will support and stimulate members to participate in identifying benchmarks for sustainability in workplaces – adequacy of income, employment terms and conditions, OH&S and overall rights of workers in our industry.

CFMEU recognizes that by integrating sustainability issues into industry education and training it will ensure key stakeholders act in a sustainable manner now and into the future.

CFMEU accepts the challenge to raise awareness and understanding of the key elements of sustainable development from workers’ and trade union standpoint. This will include:

- Sustainable employment and adherence by employers to ILO Core Labour Standards;*
- Responsible national and regional citizenship;*
- Improved living and working conditions;*
- Social inclusion, cohesion and justice;*
- Respect for diversity;*
- Concern for the environment – in particular those environmental resources which impact our membership and industries.*

CFMEU will use its strong position in Australia and the Asia/Pacific to inform public debate about the key elements of sustainable development. It can and should participate in leading responses and policies and practices – supporting the design and implementation of model and generalized responses which fully involve all key stakeholders – especially workers and members.

CFMEU will continue to participate in domestic and global discussions and negotiations to influence public policy, programs and projects to completely embrace genuinely sustainable development.