



## SAMPLE TALKING POINTS FOR EVENT USING ILO RIGHTS AND POSTER IN FTAA (FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS) EVENT OR GLOBAL FAIRNESS EVENT

- We're here today protesting the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) because this expanded NAFTA contains no protections for workers' rights and only will increase the power of corporations to exploit workers.
- Remember NAFTA? FTAA would expand NAFTA to cover almost all of North, Central and South America—34 countries.
- The 34 heads of state are meeting in Quebec in April at a "Summit of the Americas"—they will make decisions on FTAA in secret and without input from the people who will be profoundly affected.
- FTAA will hurt working people throughout the hemisphere while serving Big Business's interests. In fact, FTAA negotiators aren't discussing workers' rights protections—they refused even to form a study group!
- While the negotiators are keeping the proposed agreement a secret, we know it will be like NAFTA. That means it will increase instability and inequality in the region and will give corporations too much power, like the right to challenge our laws in secret tribunals. Like NAFTA, it will have lots to say about protecting patents and corporations' rights, but respect for workers' rights and the environment won't be included.
- While today we're protesting FTAA, it's important to remember that our vision on globalization is bigger than individual trade agreements or summits—it's about shaping a world economy with new rules that protect human rights, workers' rights and the environment, not just the interests of corporations. Our Campaign for Global Fairness is about ending the race to the bottom in which corporations sacrifice all human dignity in the name of profit.
- We all realize we are living in a global economy—the question is whether corporations will continue to have free rein. The current rules of globalization are about protecting Big Business and corporate interests—they are not about lifting standards for everyone.
- The results are disastrous. U.N. figures show that 300 million more people are in extreme poverty than 10 years ago. The current system is not working.
- We demand that the FTAA and other international trade agreements guarantee fundamental workers' rights—just as they guarantee corporate protections.

- This U.N. International Labor Organization (ILO) declaration on workers' rights says that every working person has the right to form a union and bargain collectively to improve their lives, to refuse forced labor, to reject child labor and to work free from discrimination.
- Too often, however, employers violate workers' rights while governments corroborate or look the other way. What's worse—most workers do not know they have any rights at work at all.
- The AFL-CIO is helping lead a movement among workers' unions across the world to spotlight these rights, using this ILO-designed poster as a tool. We are asking employers to post the rights in worksites and we are distributing the poster to workers and communities throughout the world.
- We also will use this poster to remind governments they have already agreed to these rights and they should be honored in all trade agreements.