Development NGOs and Labor Unions

# Development NGOs and Labor Unions

**Terms of Engagement** 

Edited by Deborah Eade and Alan Leather



Development NGOs and Labor Unions: Terms of Engagement Published in 2005 in the United States of America by Kumarian Press, Inc., 1294 Blue Hills Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002 USA

Copyright © 2005 Kumarian Press, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or information storage and retrieval system, without prior permission of the publisher.

Development NGOs and Labor Unions: Terms of Engagement is based on Development in Practice 14, nos. 1 and 2 (February 2004), published by Routledge, Taylor & Francis, Ltd. Development in Practice gratefully acknowledges financial support from affiliates of Oxfam International. The views expressed in this volume are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the editor or publisher.

Index by Robert Swanson Proofread by Beth Richards

The text of this book is set in 10.5/13 Times.

Production and design by Joan Weber Laflamme/jml ediset

Printed in? by? Text printed with vegetable oil-based ink.

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of the American National Standard for Information Sciences—Permanence of Paper for printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48–1984.

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Development NGOs and labor unions : terms of engagement / edited by Deborah Eade and Alan Leather.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 1-56549-196-3 (alk. paper)

 Labor unions—Developing countries. 2. Non-governmental organizations— Developing countries. 3. Developing countries—Economic conditions. 4. Economic development. I. Eade, Deborah. II. Leather, Alan. HD6940.7.D48 2005
331.88'09172'4—dc22

#### 2005002246

14 13 12 11 10 09 08 07 06 05 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 First Printing 2005

## Contents

Pret	face	ix
	Deborah Eade	
Abb	previations and Acronyms	xxi
1	Labor Union and NGO Relations in Development	
	and Social Justice	1
	Alan Leather	

#### Part 1 Alliances and Tensions between Labor Unions and NGOs

2	Labor Unions and NGOs The Need for Cooperation DAVE SPOONER	11
3	Building Bridges across a Double Divide Alliances between US and Latin American Labor and NGOs MARK ANNER AND PETER EVANS	33
4	Challenging Relations A Labor-NGO Coalition to Oppose the Canada-US and North American Free Trade Agreements, 1985–1993 SOPHIA HUYER	51
5	Time to Scale Up Cooperation? Labor Unions, NGOs, and the International Anti-sweatshop Movement TIM CONNOR	69
6	International NGOs and Unions in the South Worlds Apart or Allies in the Struggle? DEBORAH EADE	83

7	Organizing Citizenship at Local 890's Citizenship Project Unleashing Innovation through an Affiliate Organization PAUL JOHNSTON	101
8	The Labor Union Solution or the NGO Problem? The Fight for Global Labor Rights JOSEPH ROMÁN	123

#### Part 2 Experiences of Union-based NGOs

9	The Global Workplace	139
	Challenging the Race to the Bottom	
	Jackie Simpkins	
10	Working at the Intersection	153
	A Story from Australia	
	Ken Davis	

### Part 3 Workers in the Informal and *Maquila* Economies

11	Organizing Home-based Workers in the Global Economy An Action-research Approach	165
	Ruth Pearson	
12	Never the Twain Shall Meet?	183
	Women's Organizations and Labor Unions	
	in the Maquila Industry in Central America	
	Marina Prieto and Carolina Quinteros	
13	Beyond the Barriers	195
	New Forms of Labor Internationalism	
	Angela Hale	

### Part 4 Workplace Codes of Conduct

14	Who Should Code Your Conduct?	203
	Labor Union and NGO Differences in the Fight	
	for Workers' Rights	
	RAINER BRAUN AND JUDY GEARHART	

vi

Contents	vii	
15 Sweating It Out NGO Campaigns and Labor Union Empowerment RONNIE D. LIPSCHUTZ	223	
16 Labor Unions, NGOs, and Corporate Codes of Conduct LANCE COMPA	241	
17 Workplace Codes as Tools for Workers NEIL KEARNEY AND JUDY GEARHART	249	
Part 5		
Case Studies		
18 United We Stand Labor Unions and Human Rights NGOs in the Democratization Process in Nigeria E. REMI AIYEDE	261	
19 Combining Worker and User Interests in the Health Sector Labor Unions and NGOs JANE LETHBRIDGE	275	
20 More Than a Token Gesture NGOs and Labor Unions Campaigning for a Common Cause JONATHAN ELLIS	295	
21 Trade Unions and Women's NGOs Diverse Civil Society Organizations in Iran ELAHEH ROSTAMI POVEY	303	
22 "The Sword of Justice" South Pacific Labor Unions and NGOs during a Decade of Lost Development SATENDRA PRASAD AND DARRYN SNELL	321	
Part 6		
Resources		
23 Labor Unions and Development: An Annotated List of Resources CAROLINE KNOWLES WITH DEBORAH EADE	341	
Reference List	371	
About the Contributors		
Index		

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACFOA	Australian Council for Overseas Aid
ACFTU	All-China Federation of Trade Unions
ACTU	Australian Council of Trade Unions
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFL-CIO	American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations
ALCA	Free Trade Area of the Americas (the Spanish acronym)
ANC	African National Congress
APHEDA	Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad
ART	Alliance for Responsible Trade
ASC/HSA	Alianza Social Continental/Hemispheric Social Alliance
ATTAC	Association for the Taxation of Financial Transactions for the Aid of Citizens
AusAID	Australian government aid agency
BFAWU	Bakers, Food, and Allied Workers' Union (UK)
CARE	Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere
CAW	Canadian Auto Workers
CCC	Clean Clothes Campaign
CD	Campaign for Democracy (Nigeria)
CDHR	Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (Nigeria)
CEP	Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union
CHI	Citizens' Health Initiative (Malaysia)

xxii Abbreviations and Acronyms

CLC	Canadian Labour Congress
CLO	Civil Liberties Organisation (Nigeria)
CND	Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
CODEMUH	Honduran Women's Collective
COSATU	Congress of South African Trade Unions
CTM	Mexican Trade Union Confederation
CTUC	Commonwealth Trade Union Council
CUEPACS	Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services
CUPE	Canadian Union of Public Employees
CUT	Central Trade Union Confederation (Brazil)
CWS	Cooperative Wholesale Society (UK)
DFID	Department for International Development
ECOSOC	(United Nations) Economic and Social Council
ETI	Ethical Trading Initiative
ETUC	European Trade Union Confederation
EU	European Union
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stichting
FLP	Fiji Labour Party
FOMCA	Federation of Malaysian Consumer Associations
FLA	Fair Labor Association
FPSA	Fiji Public Service Association
FTA	Free trade agreement
FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas
FTUC	Fiji Trade Union Congress
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs
GMB	Britain's General Union
GUF	global union federation
HCA	Health Consumer Alliance (United States)
HSA	See ASC/HSA
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICFTU	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

ICTUR	International Centre for Trade Union Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Political Rights
ICHRP	International Council on Human Rights Policy
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service (United States)
ITF	International Transport Workers' Federation
ITGLWF	International Textile, Garment, and Leather Workers' Federation
KTV	Municipal Workers' and Employees' Union (Finland)
MEC	María Elena Cuadra (women's movement in Nicaragua)
MFL	Manitoba Federation of Labour
MHW	Mapping Home-based Work
MTUC	Malaysian Trades Union Congress
NAC	National Action Committee on the Status of Women
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NDP	New Democratic Party (Canada)
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NLC	National Labor Committee
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OGB	Oxfam GB
ORIT	Organización Regional Interamericana de Trabajadores
PAC	Pan African Congress
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PNGTUC	Papua New Guinea Trade Unions' Congress
PSI	Public Services International
REBRIP	Brazilian Network for People's Integration (Rede Brasileira pela Integração dos Povos

xxiv	Abbreviations and Acronyms
SA8000	Social Accountability 8000
SAI	Social Accountability International
SDL	United Fiji Party
SEWA	Self-Employed Women's Association (India)
SICTU	Solomon Islands Council of Trade Unions
SiD	Danish General Workers' Union
SILP	Solomon Islands Labour Party
SINUW	Solomon Islands National Union of Workers
SMO	Social movement organization
T&G	Transport and General Workers' Union (UK)
TAC	Treatment Action Campaign (South Africa)
TGWU	Transport and General Workers' Union (UK)
TNC	Transnational corporation
TUIREG	Trade Union International Research and Education
	Group
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UFW	United Farm Workers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNITE	Union of Needletrades, Industrial, and Textile Employees
USAID	US Agency for International Development
USAS	United Students against Sweatshops
US/LEAP	US Labor Education in the Americas Project
WHO	World Health Organization
WIEGO	Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing
WRC	Workers' Rights Consortium
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWW	Women Working Worldwide