

A JUST TRANSITION IN THE UNFCCC'S COPENHAGEN DEAL?

UNFCCC needs to send a message of hope: a climate friendly world is possible, and jobs and livelihoods can exist for everyone! A call for social justice is key for building a broad consensus and mainstreaming social needs in climate policies.

Every country has a role to play in addressing climate change. Developed countries taking the lead on emission reductions, and providing sufficient funding for adaptation, are key if we want to have a chance for achieving development and social justice. Developing countries can change the nature of their growth if they are provided with the necessary funding and technology to undertake those measures.

Therefore, we call on negotiators and climate-stakeholders to:

- Support the mention of Just Transition in the "Shared Vision"
- Support Just Transition policies throughout ALL the "building blocks":
 - In adaptation and mitigation policies**
 - Early social and employment vulnerability assessments
 - Consultation with stakeholders, including trade unions
 - Accompanying measures FOR COMMUNITIES under the "response measures" debate

- Active labour market policies as part of the policy mix
- Respect for the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
 - In Finance**
 - Orienting financing towards investments generating green and decent jobs and transforming traditional sectors into "greener" ones
 - Including resources for financing economic diversification and just transition policies
 - In technology**
 - Promoting workers' education and training on climate friendly and climate-resilient technologies as part of capacity building strategies
 - Promoting social innovation strategies, in order to facilitate behavioural and organisational change, along with sustainable deployment of technologies



TRADE UNIONS & CLIMATE CHANGE

A JUST TRANSITION: A FAIR PATHWAY TO PROTECT THE CLIMATE

Addressing global climate change is critical to the economic, social and environmental interest of all peoples of the world. Ambitious mitigation action is fundamental if we want to leave our children a sustainable world and a chance

A JUST TRANSITION TOWARDS A LOW CARBON ECONOMY IS POSSIBLE, AND CAN MAKE CLIMATE ACTION A DRIVER FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

for social and development goals to be achieved. These actions must be fairly shared and distributed between and within countries: responsibility

and capacity must be the guiding principles for burden sharing. A just transition towards a low carbon economy is possible, and can make climate action a driver for sustainable economic growth and social progress.

We need to transform the economy; we therefore ask for a process aimed at transforming every economic sector into a sustainable one.

The international trade union movement is committed to supporting ambitious actions aimed at combating climate change while shifting growth towards a truly sustainable development, where social welfare and broader environmental challenges are also addressed.

Just transition is a tool the trade union movement shares with the international community, aimed at smoothing the shift towards a more sustainable society and restore hope for the capacity of a "green economy" to sustain jobs and livelihoods for all.



Just Transition is one among a series of trade union proposals for the UNFCCC negotiations. You can find all trade union proposals at: <http://climate.ituc-csi.org>

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COMMUNITIES, WORKERS AND THE ECONOMY NEED A JUST TRANSITION

1 MAKE GREEN OPPORTUNITIES REAL: Major investments are needed to develop long-term sustainable industrial policies, aimed at retaining and creating decent and “green”/sustainable jobs, “greening” all workplaces and developing and deploying technology.

2 A SOUND STARTING POINT: Research and early assessment of social and employment impacts are crucial for better preparing change.

3 COME & TALK!: Governments have to consult with unions, employers, communities, and all groups which need to be part of the transformation. Consultation and respect for human and labour rights form the baseline conditions in order to ensure a smooth and effective transition towards a sustainable society.

4 YOU TRAIN THE WORKERS, THE FUTURE GETS CLOSER: Changes on the ground require trained workers on clean processes and technologies; this is key for absorbing and developing new technologies and for realising the potential of green investments.

5 IT'S ALSO ABOUT PROTECTION! Vulnerability may be a source of reluctance to support change. Social protection schemes, including active labour market policies (social security including social insurance and income maintenance, and job placement services, among others) are key for ensuring justice in the transition.

6 ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL: Each region and community at risk requires its economic diversification plan...a “free-market adaptation” will only lead to suffering and opposition to climate measures.

COMMUNITIES NEED A JUST TRANSITION:

- Climate change aggravates extreme weather events, which affect the poorest and most vulnerable (i.e. the Indian “super cyclone” in Orissa led to more than 10,000 deaths, the demolition of millions of dwelling units, over 80% damage to standing crops, and a loss of about 454,000 heads of cattle. In addition to the terrible loss of life at the time of Hurricane Katrina, the subsequent employment impact illustrates what extreme weather events can do to the economy: New Orleans lost some 40,000 jobs and half of its population)
- An FAO study in semi-arid **Bangladesh** found that mango is a good alternative to rice from an agronomic and an economic point of view. But the prospects for employment are less encouraging: mango requires much less work than rice and labour demand is highly concentrated in two short periods per year. That is bad news for the one third of households in the region who depend on their work as daily labourers in agriculture. What can be done to help decision-makers and communities to take the right decisions?

A JUST TRANSITION CAN PROTECT POOR POPULATIONS FROM LOSING THEIR LIVELIHOODS AND LIFT THEM OUT OF POVERTY

WORKERS NEED A JUST TRANSITION

- A low carbon economy will be at the origin of the creation of millions of new “green/sustainable” jobs if the right regulations and policies are put in place. Even more important, existing jobs will become “greener” through the ambitious transformation of all economic sectors. However, the adaptation of the labour market to these changes will not be automatic. The right investments at the right place and right time are key for ensuring social fairness in the process.
- Climate change will require transformation in production systems. For example, coffee is still **Uganda's** most important export and one of its biggest employers. With a 2° C rise in temperature there would be no suitable areas for growing coffee left in the country by 2050, implying a massive restructuring in the economy. In the **Caribbean**, cruise ships have started to avoid the now-extended hurricane season. Labour demand in hotels, restaurant, transport and so on will also shift. Recent studies assess that a 1°C rise could lead in some **Alpine regions** to experience a 60 per cent decrease in snow in normally reliable areas. Some low-lying small sky operators are already closing.

A JUST TRANSITION CAN ENSURE THAT NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOBS AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ARE OFFERED TO THOSE IN NEED

A JUST TRANSITION CAN TURN CLIMATE POLICIES INTO ENGINES FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

THE ECONOMY NEEDS A JUST TRANSITION:

- If not tackled urgently and ambitiously, climate change will imply drastic reductions (at least 5%) in GDP « now and forever », with poor countries suffering costs in excess of 10%. The 2007 Stern Report estimates that the overall costs for not taking action could include a 20% reduction in current per capita consumption. In other words reducing emissions makes economic and social sense, in particular when the world's population needs jobs and livelihoods.

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