

Trade union demands for a Just Transition



16 September 2021 – ERCST ‘Informal Dialogue on Response Measures: Corporate Action on Just Transition’

Bert De Wel
International Trade Union Confederation



SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis

ipcc
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change



Headline Statements from the Summary for Policymakers

9 August 2021 (subject to final copy-editing)

A. The Current State of the Climate

- A.1** It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred.
- A.2** The scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole and the present state of many aspects of the climate system are unprecedented over many centuries to many thousands of years.
- A.3** Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has strengthened since the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5).

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/>



Paris Agreement

Emphasizing the intrinsic relationship that climate change actions, responses and impacts have with equitable access to sustainable development and eradication of poverty,

Recognizing the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change,

Taking into account the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities,

Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity,

Recognizing the importance of the conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of the greenhouse gases referred to in the Convention,

Noting the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and noting the importance for some of the concept of “climate justice”, when taking action to address climate change,



**International
Labour
Organization**

**Guidelines for a just transition
towards environmentally sustainable economies and
societies for all**

- I. Macroeconomic and growth policies
- II. Industrial and sectoral policies
- III. Enterprise policies
- IV. Skills development
- V. Occupational safety and health
- VI. Social protection
- VII. Active labour market policies
- VIII. Rights
- IX. Social dialogue and tripartism

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/publications/WCMS_432859/lang-en/index.htm



What is Just Transition and why do we need it?

“A Just Transition secures the future and livelihoods of workers and their communities in the transition to a low-carbon economy. It is based on social dialogue between workers and their unions, employers, government and communities. A plan for Just Transition provides and guarantees better and decent jobs, social protection, more training opportunities and greater job security for all workers affected by global warming and climate change policies.”

**The Contribution of Social Dialogue
to the 2030 Agenda**
Promoting a Just Transition towards sustainable
economies and societies for all



<https://www.ituc-csi.org/social-dialogue-for-sdgs-promoting-just-transition>



The global labour movement has climate policies at the centre of a vision for a fairer, more resilient society for all, reflected in **our five demands for a New Social Contract**:

- 1. Creation of climate-friendly jobs** with Just Transition. Job-creating industrial transformation plans to achieve net-zero carbon emissions, along with jobs in health, education, care and other quality public services.
- 2. Rights for all workers**, regardless of their employment arrangements, to fulfil the promise of [the ILO Centenary Declaration](#) with its labour protection floor including rights, maximum working hours, living minimum wages and health and safety at work.
- 3. Universal social protection**, that underpins a Just Transition and builds resilience. The establishment of a Global [Social Protection Fund](#) to build [social protection systems](#) for the poorest countries. See also: [109th International Labour Conference](#)
- 4. Equality**. Ending all discrimination due to income, race or gender, to ensure that all people can share in prosperity. The appalling concentration of wealth in the hands of a few at the expense of the many must be undone.
- 5. Inclusion**. No one will be left behind. Working people want a peaceful world and a just, rights-based development model with the promise of the SDGs.





A **Just Transition framework** is supported by the following pillars:

- Early **assessment of the social and economic consequences** of climate change and responses to it.
- Promotion of substantial **public investment in low-carbon sectors** and technologies.
- Implementation of active policies for the **restructuring and diversification of the economy**.
- Promotion of **professional training and retraining for the development of skills**.
- **Strengthening of social protection systems** and public investment in health, education, etc.
- **Promotion of social dialogue**, collective bargaining and social participation.

More Just Transition stories: <https://www.equaltimes.org/just-transition-putting-planet#.YNrf4egzZPY>

Just Transition Centre: <https://www.ituc-csi.org/just-transition-centre>



CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT 2019



A RACE WE CAN WIN



ITUC

@ituc

"A #JustTransition is the pathway to high ambition as it builds the trust of people & communities in a secure future - it builds hope.

@SharanBurrow addressed heads of state & governments at the #ClimateActionSummit at the @UN headquarters

[Tweet vertalen](#)



UN Climate Action Summit is told climate action, jobs and Just Transition is p...
The ITUC has challenged governments at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York to make a living planet, secure jobs and decent work their (...)
ituc-csi.org

. Just Transition Pledge Climate Action Summit 2019

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Albania | 24. Luxemburg |
| 2. Algeria | 25. Mali |
| 3. Andorra | 26. Mexico |
| 4. Argentina | 27. Montenegro |
| 5. Benin | 28. Morocco |
| 6. Bolivia | 29. Netherlands |
| 7. Cabo Verde | 30. New Zealand |
| 8. Costa Rica | 31. Nicaragua |
| 9. Cote d'Ivoire | 32. North Macedonia |
| 10. Croatia | 33. Panama |
| 11. Dominican Republic | 34. Peru |
| 12. Finland | 35. Poland |
| 13. France | 36. Republic of Korea |
| 14. Germany | 37. Romania |
| 15. Ghana | 38. Samoa |
| 16. Greece | 39. Senegal |
| 17. Guatemala | 40. Serbia |
| 18. Guinea | 41. Spain |
| 19. Honduras | 42. Sweden |
| 20. Hungary | 43. Tunisia |
| 21. Ireland | 44. Ukraine |
| 22. Italy | 45. United Kingdom |
| 23. Jamaica | 46. Uruguay |

THE B TEAM ▶

20th May 2021

PLEDGE FOR A JUST TRANSITION TO DECENT JOBS

What are renewable energy producers and developers pledging to do?

Renewable energy producers and developers pledge to use the following standards with respect to their own employees and to require their contractors to use these standards too:

1. Social dialogue with workers and their unions
2. Fundamental rights, including the ILO core labor standards and ILO occupational health and safety standards
3. Social protection, including pension and health
4. Wage guarantees including prevailing wage rates for skilled workers in the relevant industries.

The *Just Transition and Decent Jobs Pledge* has been taken by 27 major companies from across the energy and industrial sectors, including some of the world's largest developers of renewable energy. Some of the companies include: Acciona, Enel, Engie, Ferrovial, Iberdrola, Lewiatan, Ørsted, Sodexo Iberia (Spanish division).

North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) and Ørsted Sign Landmark MOU for U.S. Offshore Wind Workforce Transition

11.18.2020 01:00PM



Pioneering Partnership to Develop the Next Generation of Offshore Wind Workers

ITUC submission on call for Inputs by the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures

16 July 2021

Country examples from:

- New Zealand
- South Africa
- Philippines
- Bangladesh
- Nigeria
- Colombia
- India
- Spain
- Quebec
- Germany
- United Kingdom



Bert De Wel
Climate policy officer
International Trade Union Confederation

Bert.DeWel@ituc-csi.org

Twitter: @bertdewel

