

THE JUST TRANSITION WORK PROGRAM

The Just Transition Work Program (JTWP) decided at COP28 was a major milestone for the global labour movement. For the first time, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) referred to the importance of labour rights. Labour rights, as defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), guarantee Freedom of Association for workers to organise in trade unions, collective bargaining, social protection and occupational health and safety among other rights. The promotion and enforcement of labour rights – at company, sectoral, national and international level – is the cornerstone of all Just Transition policies and measures. At COP29 trade unions have the following demands:

1. Governments must prioritise the full implementation of the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP) as defined at COP28.

If parties fail to respect and implement the agreements made, they become part of the problem. The second JTWP dialogue before COP29, along with the ministerial meeting at COP29, must be utilised to share information, good practices, lessons learned from parties on how they are implementing economy-wide, structural Just Transition plans. This information should contribute to the

development of ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 3.0.

Unions ask countries for the full and balanced implementation of all JTWP elements agreed upon at COP28. International cooperation, as an enabler of Just Transition pathways, and the creation of decent work and quality jobs – including through social dialogue, social protection and the recognition of labour rights – are equally important and mutually reinforcing.

2. Countries must demonstrate progress in incorporating Just Transition into their NDCs.

Governments should negotiate comprehensive Just Transition Plans in line with the ILO Guidelines in the next round of the NDCs, they should report on how they engaged with trade unions in the planning and implementation of climate policies through social dialogue. Full respect of fundamental labour rights at work must guide the work on NDCs.

We urge governments to specify the measures they will implement to ensure the creation of decent jobs, skills development and training, occupational health and safety, and universal social protection for all workers, both in the formal and informal economy, during the green transition. This information is essential for governments when reporting how their NDC is fair and ambitious in the light of their national circumstances.