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UNFCCC letter and IndustriALL proposed responses

1) The current situation:

The sense of urgency that led to the Paris Agreement and sustained the work on workstream 2 (pre-2020 ambition) throughout the whole of 2015 must be sustained. The high-level champions need to make sure that we do “more, faster and now” on enhanced pre-2020 action. Pre-2020 action is a key element for the implementation and success of the Paris Agreement, equally for adaptation, mitigation and means of implementation. Notably, there is a need to quick-start implementation with a sense of urgency and ambition; create an interface with the real world and solutions, particularly the involvement of non-Party stakeholders; and maintain the political momentum.

Is this general presentation an accurate description of the current state of play? If not, what can we do more?

IndustriALL: We certainly need to maintain a sense of urgency, since already the signing of the Paris Agreement has created a certain public complacency, believing that the problem is now solved or at least under management.

This is particularly true with respect to the three key areas of interest to trade unions:

- 1. Raise ambition and realist the job potential of climate action: The Paris Climate Agreement must ensure Governments take concrete steps to reduce emissions even further before and beyond 2020, in line with an equitable 2C° pathway. They must also agree on a robust mechanism of periodic review for raising ambition over time.***
- 2. Deliver on climate finance and support the most vulnerable: The Paris Climate Agreement must provide clarity on the way developed countries will fulfill their commitment to mobilize USD 100B by 2020 to secure sufficient resources for adaptation. It should also identify means for increasing this amount post 2020.***
- 3. Commit to securing a Just Transition for workers and their communities: The Paris Climate Agreement, in its operational section, must include a commitment to “Just Transition” measures. This is essential to support the challenge of industrial transformation in all sectors, in particular jobs and livelihoods for worker in emission-intensive industries.***

Indeed, we note that a Just Transition is part of the political Agreement. Work must begin now in implementing a Just Transition, recognizing the guidance offered by the ILO in their 2015 document.

2) The role of the high-level champions:

As champions of global climate action, we believe that we need to be an interface between action on the ground and the UNFCCC negotiation process, between non-Party stakeholders and Parties. We intend to track implementation of existing initiatives to demonstrate credibility, promote best practices and enhance delivery. We will also support new initiatives focusing on adaptation, with a view to broadening the country coverage and including more initiatives coming from developing country Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

Is this an accurate description of the role the high-level climate champions should play with regard to the mobilization of non-state actors? Is there anything else they should do, or are there things mentioned here that they should not do?

IndustriALL: The key word here is indeed the word “credibility”. Anything that the high-level champions can do to enhance and preserve the credibility of the system will help the Paris Agreement to be realized. Bridging the UNFCCC negotiations with actual actions on the ground will help, but the high-level champions must keep in mind that credibility must be based on verifiable truth. It can easily be anticipated that in the post-Paris Agreement world, incredible claims that cannot be verified will be made by some actors.

3) Transparency and tracking:

We need to help non-Party stakeholders achieve the recognition they seek. At the same time, we owe it to the integrity of the UNFCCC process to make sure that these initiatives and coalitions achieve the targets they set for themselves; that these targets are truly consistent with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement; and that the participants in initiatives and coalitions are actually doing what it takes to achieve the commitments they made. Therefore we intend to work on improving transparency of action and tracking of implementation to demonstrate the credibility of their work.

How do we assess the initiatives? What would be the ideal set of criteria? Who would assess them? What should be the role of the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA)?

IndustriALL: Following on the suggestions made to question (2), there should be discussion of appropriate criteria and indicators for both governments and non-state actors. IndustriALL Global Union would be pleased to assist in the identification of a list of appropriate indicators to help preserve the credibility of the system.

4) High-level event

The high-level climate champions will facilitate, through strengthened high-level engagement in the period 2016–2020, the successful execution of existing efforts and the scaling-up and introduction of new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions. The high-level event at the Conference of the Parties (COP) is now the main annual showcase of climate action.

What do Parties and non-Party stakeholders expect from the high-level event at COP22? To have a real impact at COP24 in 2018, the Climate Action Summit showcasing the results of non-state actor initiatives would need to take place sufficiently in advance. Should it be organized in the summer of 2018?

IndustriALL: Holding an event to catalogue and discuss present and future initiatives of non-state actors in advance of the COP22 high-level event could be a useful activity but must be in addition to, and not a substitute for, events and actions at the COP22 itself. This is because one of the objectives of our activities has always been to capture the attention

of the high-level representatives of the Parties, an objective that cannot be realized if the event is held long in advance of the COP.

5) The role of the TEMS

We intend to use the tools created by Parties for the enhancement of climate action prior to 2020, such as the technical expert meetings (TEMs). These meetings have a whole new role to play in the dynamic and should be more concrete, focused, and connected to initiatives of the action agenda.

Do you share the belief that the format of the TEMs should evolve in the light of the Global Climate Action Agenda? How could we ensure that the TEMs are more solution-oriented?

IndustriALL: The high-level champions should help ensure that the TEMs have the appropriate mix of experts. However the stated goal of enabling broader participation in the TEMS may pose a problem. It will be quite easy for the TEMs to become industry dominated since corporations have the resources (both financial and human) to dominate such an environment. For the TEMs to have a real, credible role in implementing solutions, it is essential that the experts and others assigned to them (1) represent the mainstream scientific view (as exemplified by e.g. the IPCC and not climate deniers) (2) represent a variety of stakeholders where possible and appropriate.

We would welcome all inputs and request that they be submitted to the secretariat by 1 August 2016.

IndustriALL: IndustriALL Global Union would like to re-emphasize that the key to the success of the Paris Agreement is the design and implementation of appropriate Just Transition measures. This is not to be taken as a willingness to sacrifice existing jobs for hypothetical new, greener jobs. We are resolutely in solidarity with both today's, and tomorrow's workers. It is, however, a recognition that an industrial transformation is coming, and it will be rapid and brutal if not managed with compassion and justice. A Just Transition rests on three foundations: Robust Social Protections; Sustainable Industrial Policies; and Creative Labour Adjustment. Sustainable industrial policies can help transform existing jobs without discarding present-day workers. Robust general social protections mean that the threshold to render an industrial transformation fair, and just, is not unachievably high. Creative labour adjustment means that solutions must be tailored to particular groups of workers – even individually tailored – with those most affected by the transformation having the greatest say in what their needs are and how to address them.

A Just Transition is not optional. If schemes to protect the climate result in poverty and despair, they are not sustainable. The political commitment was made. It must be fulfilled.

Parties may wish to send their views through the UNFCCC submissions portal at the following web address:

<http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/SitePages/sessions.aspx?search=Roadmap&showRefinementPanel=0>

Non-Party stakeholders may wish to use the following e-mail address when submitting their views:

secretariat@unfccc.int

We invite the secretariat to post the submissions on the dedicated page of the UNFCCC website (<http://unfccc.int/documentation/items/9636.php>) as they are received.

We would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to involve all interested Parties and non-Party stakeholders in our work and to thank you for your consideration of this request.

H.E. Ambassador Laurence Tubiana
H.E. Minister Delegate Hakima El Haite