Joint Submission for the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA)

The International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) welcome the opportunity to express suggestions in the framework of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) related to development and social issues, in particular on employment and incomes, food and agriculture, gender equality, health and development. Collectively and individually our organizations are available to assist parties in their endeavour to make informed decisions.

Shared Vision

Recognizing that reducing emissions and enhancing communities’ resilience to climate change, while improving social living standards is desirable and possible, provided coherent policies are adopted, Parties should be guided by the following principles.

- Comprehensive long-term cooperative action needs to be based on relevant scientific, technical, social and economic considerations and regularly re-evaluated in the light of new findings in these areas.

- Climate strategies related to mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology, should properly address the social consequences of climate change, particularly regarding employment, health, food security, gender equality, and sustainable development.

- Climate strategies should be informed through dialogue with and the active participation of all social stakeholders such as organizations of employers, health professionals, workers, rural producers (including farmers, fishers, pastoralists and forest users), women, and indigenous and local communities.

- Climate strategies should enhance social development and cohesion and avoid exacerbating social inequality among and within countries. Climate change policies should also aim to optimize the large potential benefits that the reduction of GHG emissions have for society in terms of health, food security, employment and incomes, development, poverty reduction and gender equality.

- A just transition framework to low-emission economies should be ensured. Under this framework, sectors, enterprises, workers and communities affected by climate change and related policies will be assisted to both adapt to climate change and adjust to a low-carbon economy.
Mitigation

- The social impact—including benefits—of climate change mitigation policies and measures on the regions, countries and populations where they are implemented should be properly assessed and addressed.

- Ensure that all members of society—irrespective of their gender and social status—can contribute to and benefit from mitigation policies that do not compromise but foster sustainable development at the local and global scales [per Decision 1/CP.13, para 1, (b), i and ii]. To this end, mitigation policies and programmes should be designed to reduce emissions while at the same time enhancing employment opportunities, health, food security, equal access to positive incentives and resources by women and men, and enabling sustainable development that respects long-term implications through short-term solutions.

Adaptation

- Adaptation strategies should be designed and implemented in coordination with poverty reduction and development strategies to address social vulnerabilities (such as un- and under-employment, low incomes, subsistence agriculture, unsustainable livelihoods, gender inequalities, malnutrition and poor health) and thus strengthen paths towards resilience and sustainable development.

- Be responsive to the differentiated needs of social groups, recognizing that women, indigenous people, children and the poor are disproportionately affected.

Finance & Technology

- Allocation and disbursement of international funds for mitigation and adaptation programmes, technology transfer and capacity-building should prioritize the needs of vulnerable groups, including small and medium enterprises, women, indigenous peoples and poor rural producers through appropriate policies, guidelines and criteria to ensure progress towards social targets and enhance all of society’s—women’s and men’s—innovative capacity.

- Data—disaggregated by sex, age, and urban-rural—should be used at all levels to identify and assess technology needs of women and men, in various economic sectors and socio-economic groups, thus fostering an enabling environment for all of society to participate in mitigation and adaptation to climate change.