

TUNGO intervention

High-level segment

Wednesday, 12 December 2018

Chair, my name is Rhoda Boateng, I am from Ghana and I'm the Climate Policy officer of the International Trade Union Confederation in Africa. I'm speaking on behalf of the trade unions. The ITUC represents nearly 210 million workers in 163 countries.

Dear Chair, dear delegates, workers all around the world are feeling the impact of climate destruction on their lives and they are getting very worried. They are worried about what tomorrow will bring. How climate change will affect their lives, their children's futures and their communities. They are very worried about their jobs. How will they make a living in a zero-emissions economy?

This COP in Katowice, in the Silesia region, the heartland of coal mining in Poland, is a symbolic place for all workers worldwide to see that governments take climate change seriously. We are convinced that a Just Transition and decent work for all are key to unlocking urgently needed ambition in climate policies. Please listen to us: Taking good care of the impact on workers' lives, livelihoods, communities and families will make it possible for ambitious measures to be taken. In fact it might be our only hope.

That's why the ITUC welcomed the "Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration". Unions want decent jobs on a living planet. Building trust through the guarantees of Just Transition measures will make it possible for governments to raise ambition. We need all governments to support a Just Transition so that we leave no one behind. We sincerely hope that by Friday (or Saturday) we can go home with a message of hope for our people. That their governments commit to the climate leadership that we need to save our planet.

Thank you.