

Brussels, 23 September 2020

## **TUNGO submission for the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures**

### **Introduction**

The ITUC appreciates the call for input by the UNFCCC for the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI) in preparation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the KCI on 5 to 9 October 2020.<sup>1</sup> Two activities are on the agenda of this meeting:

- Exploring approaches to inform the development and implementation of climate change mitigation strategies, plans, policies and programmes that maximize the positive and minimize the negative impacts of response measures;
- Enhancing the capacity and understanding of the Parties, through collaboration and input from stakeholders, on the assessment and analysis of the impacts of the implementation of response measures to facilitate the undertaking of economic diversification and transformation and just transition.

Stakeholders and Parties are asked for input on:

- Potential knowledge products and case studies related to the two activities;
- Potential stakeholders that could collaborate with the KCI on implementing these activities.

### **On Response Measures and Just Transition**

The discussion on Response Measures has a longstanding and often contentious standing in the UNFCCC. The impacts of implementation of response measures is understood as the effects arising from the implementation of mitigation policies, programmes and actions (“in-jurisdiction” and “out-of-jurisdiction” or cross-border impacts) taken by Parties to combat climate change. These impacts are bound to increase substantially if Parties comply with the commitments of the Paris Agreement. As an illustration of these impacts, one of the oil majors recently indicated that the world already passed ‘peak oil’.<sup>2</sup> For the moment, the international community is still anxiously waiting for more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that reflect the commitments of the Paris Agreement.<sup>3</sup>

Understanding the positive and negative aspects of response measures is a major challenge. The impacts vary widely in different countries and reflect national circumstances and conditions. How to deal with them in the most appropriated way should be reflected in the NDCs. The global trade union movement is convinced that the concept of Just Transition can contribute substantially to this process. International cooperation, including in terms of providing climate finance when appropriate, should be part of the discussion.

While Just Transition (with its policies, practices and measures) goes beyond the scope of response measures, it is at the same time a crucial concept to deal with the impact of them. For unions, a Just

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/event/KCI3>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-world-has-already-passed-peak-oil-bp-figures-reveal>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/09/02/china-among-nations-likely-miss-2020-deadline-climate-plans-uns-espinosa/>

Transition is the pathway to climate ambition as it builds hope and trust in a secure future. Unions want to ensure that workers' wages, security of employment, health, safety, and social protection are guaranteed in economic transition processes. And a basic element to get us there is social dialogue that can facilitate planning processes based on the right to bargain collectively, reaching negotiated agreements and granting genuine partnership. Governments and worker and employer organisations have negotiated comprehensive guidelines in the ILO that can facilitate the implementation of a Just Transition.<sup>4</sup> The ILO is also the UN lead organisation behind the Climate Action for Jobs Initiative, launched at the UN Climate Action Summit last year and presented at COP25 in Madrid.<sup>5</sup>

Implementing policies of economic diversification and Just Transition as part of the urgent need for climate ambition has received an extra dimension due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The economic consequences of the pandemic have been layered on top of a pre-existing crisis of low-wage and insecure jobs. Every second person has no financial buffer, no ability to save for the tough times ahead and relies on every pay cheque to survive. Without savings or a safety net, millions of people entered the pandemic with a choice between working or starving.

The 2020 ITUC Global Poll shows more than two-thirds of people say they are worried about climate change (69%), rising inequality (69%), the misuse of personal data online (69%) and people losing their jobs (67%). These worries come at a time in 2020 when one in two people (52%) rate their own country's economic situation as bad.<sup>6</sup> The demand for change in society, with the call for jobs, climate action and justice across many fronts point to the need for a New Social Contract that includes the need for appropriate Just Transition plans.<sup>7</sup>

The work on response measures is one of the few places inside the UNFCCC where the socio-economic impact of climate policies, such as the need for economic diversification and Just Transition can be discussed. The Covid-19 pandemic combined with the climate emergency convey an important level of responsibility to this work. Citizens worldwide expect solutions from the Parties at the UNFCCC, in the Forum and from the experts of the KCI. We need honest, transparent and constructive work that is focused on solutions. By COP26 this should lead to tangible results helping Parties to raise climate ambition through the integration of Just Transition plans and measures in their NDCs and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies.

## Knowledge products and case studies on Just Transition

The global union movement has documented many good examples of Just Transition processes that can inspire and guide the work of the KCI.

### Global level reports

- ITUC-TUDCN (2019) "[The contribution of social dialogue to the 2030 Agenda - Promoting a Just Transition towards sustainable economies and societies for all](#)".
- Just Transition Centre (2019) "[Just Transition in action, Union experiences and lessons from Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Nigeria and Spain](#)".
- Just Transition Centre (2019) "[Just Transition and Heavy Industry Roundtable – Summary](#)".
- Central Confederation of Finnish Trade Unions (SAK) (2020) "[A Fair Climate Policy for Workers – Implementing a just transition in various European countries and Canada](#)".
- IndustriALL Global Union (2019) "[A trade union guide to a Just Transition for workers](#)".
- ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV) (2018) "[Just Transition Towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All](#)".
- ITUC Africa, CSC, IEIOI and WSM (2018) "[Benin Declaration 'For the participation of workers in the just transition'](#)".

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/publications/WCMS\\_432859/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/publications/WCMS_432859/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.climateaction4jobs.org/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc\\_globalpoll\\_2020\\_en.pdf](https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc_globalpoll_2020_en.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ituc-csi.org/a-new-social-contract>

### Regional level reports

- ITUC-Africa (2018) [“Developing a Just Transition Framework for Africa”](#).
- ITUC-Africa (2018) [“Just Transition Towards a Socially and Ecologically Sustainable Society for All’ workshop, Cotonou, Benin”](#).
- ITUC Asia Pacific (2018) [“Social dialogue is a key to a successful just transition”](#).
- ITUC Asia Pacific (2019) [“Unions across Asia-Pacific demand a just transition for workers on the front-line of global warming”](#).
- Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA (2019) [“Building union power in the clean energy transition South and South East Asia”](#).
- European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) (2018) [“A Guide for Trade Unions, involving trade unions in climate action to build a just transition”](#).
- ETUC (2020) [“ETUC resolution on European Green Deal initiatives: Climate Law, EU Sustainable Investment Plan, Just Transition Fund Regulation and new EU Industrial Strategy”](#).
- Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de las Americas (CSA) (2020) [“Plataforma de Desarrollo de las Américas, PLADA”](#).
- ILO Green jobs program (2020) [“Transición Justa y creación de empleo verde, Un manual para sindicatos y organizaciones de trabajadores y trabajadoras”](#), forthcoming.

### National level reports

- German Trade Union Confederation (DGB) (2019) [“The German Consensus on Coal”](#).
- Instituto para la Transición Justa (2018) Agreement between the government of Spain, the unions Comisiones Obreras (CCOO), Unión General de los Trabajadores (UGT) and Unión Sindical Obrera (USO), and the federation of employers, Federación nacional de Empresarios de Minas de Carbón (Carbunión) [“Acuerdo Marco para una Transición Justa de la Minería del Carbón y el desarrollo Sostenible de las Comarcas Mineras para el Periodo 2019-2027”](#).
- New Zealand (2019) [“Just Transition Summit”](#).
- Canadian Labour Congress (2019) [“Just Transition Task Force report has potential to put people at the heart of climate policy”](#).
- Colorado (2020) [“Colorado Just Transition Advisory Committee”](#).

## Potential stakeholders to collaborate with the KCI

To implement ambitious climate policies, governments need to bring trust to the affected people. All climate policies that deal with the social impact on jobs, incomes, livelihoods, etc. should involve the unions representing the affected workers, their families and communities. To build trust it is important to speak ‘with’ the workers, not ‘about’ them. Public funding for energy transition must imply the participation of workers in the planification of decarbonization plans in workplaces and at the sectoral level through the creation of joint committees. Workers are key stakeholders, because of the expertise they have on the energy transition as frontline actors. This principle of participation applies to all rightsholders and stakeholders.

The ILO tripartite approach and its recommendations on social dialogue are the example to follow.<sup>8</sup> The tripartite approach goes from the workplace floor over the sector and national policy level through to the global level. According to the global union movement, the KCI should consider these principles of tripartism and social dialogue for its activities.

Specifically, we recommend the following organisations as stakeholders to collaborate with the KCI:

- The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) represents 200 million workers in 163 countries and territories and has 332 national affiliates. The ITUC is the reference to represent the workers at the global level and can be the link to the national unions which are

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/workers-and-employers-organizations-tripartism-and-social-dialogue/lang--en/index.htm>

- its 332 affiliates in 163 countries.
- The Just Transition Centre (JTC) was established in 2016 by the ITUC and partners. The Centre brings together workers and their unions, communities, businesses and governments in social dialogue to ensure that labour has a seat at the table when planning for a Just Transition to a low-carbon world.
  - The International Labour Organization (ILO), the only tripartite U.N. agency. Since 1919 the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

For further information on this submission you can contact:

Bert De Wel  
Climate Policy Officer  
ITUC International Trade Union Confederation

Blvd du Roi Albert II, 5, Bte 1, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium  
email: [Bert.DeWel@ituc-csi.org](mailto:Bert.DeWel@ituc-csi.org)  
[www.ituc-csi.org](http://www.ituc-csi.org)