

UN Climate Change Conference – COP28

Plenary Resumed high-level segment

Saturday 9 December 2023

Dear chair,

I'm Boitumelo Moletle from the South African trade union Congress of South African Trade Unions representing the global Trade Union movement. I speak on behalf of the Global Trade Union Movement. We represent nearly 200 million workers affiliated to 337 Trade Unions in 167 countries.

Our members and their communities face profound challenges due to the combination of economic failures and the escalating impacts of climate change. The undeniable truth is that these global economic failures have exacerbated the disproportionate burdens borne by working people, subjecting them to extreme working conditions, jeopardizing their livelihoods, and compelling forced migration as a consequence of environmental disruptions.

It is imperative that COP28 delivers on its promises. We must advocate for climate policies and legislative frameworks that will prioritize people and safeguard their labour rights, ensuring an equitable and effective transition.

We need to be cognisant of the fact that it is the Global Trade Union Movement that coined the term “Just Transition”. We are astonished at how difficult it is to be here at COP28. This is despite all the promises of transformational change, we only see efforts to avoid action, and to water down commitments.

At this COP we need parties to decide on a Just Transition away from fossil fuels with strong employment guarantees to make this possible in our societies, social protection and adequate skilling and reskilling of workers in the current workforce and the future.

Central to our priorities is the urgent need for the adoption of a Just Transition Work Programme that will bring concrete guidance to the parties to implement Just Transition policies. We don't need a talk shop! We need a Just Transition that addresses equity, social justice, mitigation and adaptation, loss and damage all backed up with developmental climate finance.

Fundamental is the respect of labour and human rights, gender equity and the rights of indigenous peoples as well as the inclusion of youth. It is very clear, without a strong

labour dimension and a focus on international justice and equity there will not be a Just Transition and there will not be support for the ambitious climate policies we need.

#CeasefireNow #EndFossilFuels with #JustTransition #FastFairForever

Thank you!