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UNFCCC COP18

AWG-LCA

Brian Kohler, on behalf of Trade Unions

Thank you Chair,

My name is Brian Kohler, and I’m speaking on behalf of the international trade union movement.

Chair, since the creation of this body, the trade union movement placed high hopes in its capacity to help build a fair, global and ambitious regime. This remains fundamental if we are to make the transition to a sustainable future, a transition that must be rapid, but above all, just.

The LCA made substantial progress on some issues, including finance and the Green Climate Fund, and several institutions which will improve the governance of climate change. The LCA also paved the way to the recognition at COP16 of the need to ensure a Just Transition for workers, a vital element for maintaining trade union and citizen support for these measures.

That said, we must acknowledge that the great transition towards a climate-stable world has not yet been launched, and we are concerned that the necessary sustainable industrial policies, investments, and job commitments remain unimplemented. And the longer we wait, the more difficult and expensive it will be for societies.

We support the discussions surrounding a 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. We believe it is important that the LCA ensure in its final mandate that the institutions and legal architecture built up within the Convention and Protocol so far, be preserved.

This means ensuring that Annex I countries transform their pledges into quantifiable emission reductions. Thus, the Durban platform could evolve into a regime where all major contributors to global emissions play a constructive role.

Finally chair, I call on Parties to ensure that past LCA decisions, including those related to Just Transition, are not lost when Parties reorient their work towards the Durban Platform.