

**ITUC Background Grid for supporting trade union priorities in the UNFCCC process  
(for trade union use only)**

Proposal	Background and Status
<p><b>1. Support the references to the need for a “just transition of the workforce” that appear in the text</b></p>	
<p><b>Support</b> paragraph 4, in the shared vision, page 9</p> <p><i>“An economic transition is needed that shifts global economic growth patterns towards a low emission economy based on more sustainable production and consumption, promoting sustainable lifestyles and climate-resilient development while <b>ensuring a just transition of the workforce</b>. The active participation of all stakeholders in this transition should be sought (...)”</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b> The ITUC identified “Just Transition” (<b>JT</b>) as a key priority for the negotiations. This concept implies that those workers that might be affected by changes in climate, and by policies put in place to reduce emissions, need assistance in this process. <b>JT</b> requires realising major investments to retain and create good and “green” jobs, modernise industry, develop and deploy technology, and educate and train workers; giving a voice to workers and their families in their workplaces and communities regarding climate change; and adopting policies to provide assistance for all those who may be adversely affected, including through social protection schemes. It requires a sound social assessment of the consequences of climate and climate measures. Having <b>JT</b> in this section sends a positive message of social justice, indicating that governments everywhere are ready to assume their responsibilities to provide social justice to their citizens.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> This paragraph was proposed by the Chair in May 2009, based on a submission by Argentina. It has been “bracketed” which means that at least one government has questioned or opposed its content. We need support to maintain it where it is, in paragraph 4, without brackets.</p>
<p><b>Support</b> the preambular paragraph to the section on economic and social consequences of response measures, page 143</p> <p><i>“Mechanisms should be developed to allow for mitigating the impact of the response measures on the productive workforces, promoting a gradual and just transition in the most impacted economic sectors and contributing to building new capacities for both production and service related jobs”.</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b> This paragraph is in a section which deals with “potential consequences of climate measures”. The rationale for it is the same that for the text above, and although not so prominent in the text, the wording is slightly better as it mentions the need for building new capacities for new jobs.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> This paragraph was introduced by a delegation in the last session of the UNFCCC. We do not yet know who proposed it, but it would be key to gather support for it among as many delegations as possible for it to remain in the text.</p>
<p><b>2. Add a definition for “stakeholders” or “civil society”, i.e. following agreed definitions for Agenda 21 Major Groups or UNFCCC constituencies</b></p>	
<p><b>ADD A PARAGRAPH</b>, defining “stakeholder” as in previously agreed UN decisions.</p> <p>“Stakeholder” means an organisation representing one of the Agenda 21 Major Groups</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Throughout the text, mentions are made to “civil society” or “stakeholders” or to “relevant stakeholders” or to specific groups or sectors (indigenous peoples, women, NGO, etc). As</p>

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<p>of civil society, namely: (i) business and industry, (ii) children and youth, (iii) farmers, (iv) indigenous people, (v) local authorities, (vi) NGOs, (vii) scientific and technological community, (viii) women, and (ix) workers and trade unions. All of them are relevant stakeholders regarding climate change and climate-related policies.</p>	<p>trade unions, we consider we are part of the civil society, but to date, there is no specific mention of unions in the text. Our strategy is, rather than trying to include trade unions in every place a group is mentioned, to call on governments to define “stakeholders” or “civil society” based on previously agreed UN text, such as Agenda 21 where trade unions are mentioned as part of the Major Groups.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> This is the first time we are proposing this wording. Any governments that generally take an active role as promoters of civil society participation should be especially targeted.</p>
<p><b>Support proposals which introduce the need for consultation with, participation and /or an implementation role of civil society</b> in the different sections of the text, i.e.:</p> <p>Paragraph 4, in the shared vision (page 9) Paragraph 18-19, and 30-(d) on adaptation (page 26, 29 and 52) Paragraph 108 on REDD+ (page 113) Paragraph 129, add consultation with civil society in Sectoral approaches (page 130) Paragraph 174/ option 1 for the chapeau on finance (page 160)</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> In the text, several mentions of the need for consulting civil society, or to the role civil society plays in implementation have been proposed. As trade unions are part of civil society, we need to support these proposals.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> All the references to civil society or to a certain group from civil society have been bracketed. We can expect opposition to these references. Governments to contact are the same as for the amendment above.</p>
<p><b>On ADAPTATION</b></p>	
<p><b>3. Strengthen social protection systems as a key strategy for reducing vulnerability and adapting to climate change and mention precarious workers as vulnerable populations</b></p>	
<p><b>ADD A SUBPARAGRAPH (f)3</b> under paragraph 24: “To promote enabling activities to support adaptation action, all developing country Parties should” (Page 42)</p> <p>Identify and establish measures and mechanisms to link microinsurance with the need for creating and/or reinforcing existing <u>social protection measures</u>, especially at the community level</p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Climate change, in particular extreme weather events will seriously affect people and infrastructures. This is the reason a number of countries are calling for the development of private insurance schemes, which are meant to reduce vulnerability to climate change (because people will then receive financial assistance in case of disaster or hardship). As trade unions, our role is to call for more ambitious protective schemes, whereby people will have broader social protection measures (safety nets, job recovery policies, access to health, etc).</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Awareness about the need for social protection schemes is not very high. Key allies here might be the EU, Latin American countries and Japan, Switzerland and Norway which all have strong safety nets and also play key roles in the issue of adaptation as one of the main financiers.</p>
<p><b>ADD A REFERENCE</b> TO PRECARIOUS WORKERS IN Paragraph 22 (j) (ii) (Page 35)</p> <p><i>[The implementation of the adaptation framework</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b> Extreme weather events and long term changes in climate will affect the most vulnerable populations the hardest. Precarious workers and</p>

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<p>shall (j) address the concerns and/or build resilience of, inter alia,  (ii) [[Particularly vulnerable populations, groups and communities], especially women, children, the elderly and indigenous peoples, local communities, rural populations, <b>[precarious workers]</b>, (...);]</p>	<p>those in informal working relationships are among these groups, partly because their jobs often depend on use of natural resources. Therefore, unions are asking for an official recognition of the special situation of vulnerability of precarious workers.  <b>Status:</b>  This is the first time we propose this inclusion. Several groups among the civil society might also support it.</p>
<p><b>4. Support investment in public infrastructure and decent work promotion as part of adaptation strategies</b></p>	
<p><b>INSERT A REFERENCE</b> TO PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND DECENT WORK in Paragraph 30 (d) (page 52)</p> <p>Funding on adaptation should be provided for (d) Resilience-building activities (...) including for sustainable livelihood <b>[and decent work]</b>, (...) building community capacities and <b>[public] infrastructures, access to technologies and innovations, etc.</b></p>	<p><b>Background:</b>  The best way to reduce vulnerability is to provide people with decent jobs and livelihoods. Trade unions call in this paragraph for adding decent work among the policies aimed at increasing resilience to climate change. In addition, we are asking for the addition of the word “public” to highlight the importance of infrastructure and investment in reducing vulnerability.  <b>Status:</b>  Awareness about the linkages between decent work and vulnerability to climate change is still low. All our efforts will have to be deployed in order to obtain this reference.</p>
<p><b>5. Include the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work</b></p>	
<p><b>INSERT A REFERENCE</b> TO THE ILO DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND RIGHTS AT WORK in Paragraph 19 – Subparagraph 22 (a) Alternative 4 (page 32),</p> <p>[The implementation of the adaptation framework shall (a) [Be undertaken in the context of:]  <u>Alternative 4</u>  (iii).4 The respect for, protection and promotion of fundamental human rights and basic rights as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Cultural and Political Rights, the <b>[ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work]</b>, and other relevant conventions and treaties.</p>	<p><b>Background:</b>  This proposal aims at ensuring that all activities that are undertaken to adapt to climate change will respect UN Covenants and the ILO Declaration. This is fundamental if we want climate policies to become also drivers for sustainable development and decent work. A government has submitted a proposal to include a reference to UN covenants in paragraph 19. We need then to support this amendment and call on governments to introduce an additional reference to the ILO declaration.  <b>Status:</b>  There is no reference to ILO standards in the UNFCCC and this might make it hard to introduce it into the Copenhagen agreement. All governments will have to be worked upon to understand the need for having the ILO Declaration mentioned.</p>
<p><b>On MITIGATION</b></p>	
<p><b>6. Include the need for developing long-term industrial policies &amp; access to energy for all when implementing low-carbon strategies</b></p>	
<p><b>INSERT A NEW PARAGRAPH</b> UNDER the new section on objectives, scope and guiding</p>	<p><b>Background:</b>  This proposal aims at ensuring that sufficient attention will be given to the transformation of</p>

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<p>principles (Page 69)</p> <p>All parties, when putting in place low-carbon strategies, shall/should develop long-term sustainable industrial policies, in order to retain and create good and “green” jobs, modernise industry and develop and deploy technology.</p>	<p>industrial sectors in the transition towards low carbon economies, and that workers and communities will be able to benefit from these policies through the improvement of their occupations or the creation of new ones.</p> <p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>This is the first time we propose this inclusion. Governments might understand the objective, while not necessarily agree with the need for introducing “domestic” issues in an international agreement. We should insist on the need for establishing a “level playing field” at the international level.</p>
<p><b><u>INSERT A REFERENCE TO ENERGY ACCESS FOR ALL</u></b> in Paragraph 70 (Page 86)</p> <p><i>NAMA’s should be undertaken (...) in conformity with prior needs of sustainable development, eradication of poverty <b>[and ensuring energy access for all citizens]</b></i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>The need for ensuring energy access for all citizens is key for promoting sustainable development in developing countries. Energy access must remain a priority when developing climate change policies</p> <p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>Securing energy access for all is a traditional union demand, but there are no mentions of it in the UN Climate Convention or in the negotiating text. <b>Some governments, particularly from Latin America</b>, could support such a proposal and it could well be supported by other civil society groups.</p>
<p><b>7. Promote the sound regulation of market mechanisms</b></p>	
<p><b><u>INSERT A NEW SUBPARAGRAPH</u></b> UNDER Paragraph 139 (Page 134)</p> <p>Market mechanisms must be transparent, with active public oversight and function with a rational but strong regulatory system</p>	<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>For markets to provide sufficient incentives to get the economy to move towards a more sustainable path, governments will need to put in place a transparent and strong regulatory framework. As this is absent from the text, we are proposing a new subparagraph to be included in the introduction to this section.</p> <p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>We could hardly imagine opposition to this “common sense” type of paragraph, but it might be difficult to introduce it at this stage. We should ask for the support of countries that have been strong supporters of regulatory actions (including the EU, Australia, Norway, Egypt, and Latin American countries, in particular from Central America).</p>
<p><b>8. Focus work on consequences of response measures on vulnerable communities</b></p>	
<p><b><u>INSERT A REFERENCE TO COMMUNITIES</u></b> in Paragraph 160 (Page 144)</p> <p><i>Adverse economic and social consequences (...) paying particular attention to the needs and concerns of the poorest and most vulnerable developing country Parties <b>[and communities]</b></i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>The three amendments proposed for this section are placed in a very difficult context. The section is entitled “potential consequences of response measures”, an issue introduced by Saudi Arabia and other oil exporting countries in order to slow down the process of emission reductions, by saying that they are vulnerable countries that can lose revenue if countries reduce their use of fossil fuels. As trade unions our role is to emphasise</p>

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	<p>the need for addressing the vulnerability of people. This is the reason we are introducing the amendment in its own right.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> There might be opposition from oil exporting countries, but support from various governments could make this attainable.</p>
<p><b><u>INSERT A REFERENCE TO CIVIL SOCIETY</u></b> in Paragraph 164 (Page 145)</p> <p><i>A forum shall be established (...) and shall be open to participation from all Parties, intergovernmental organisations [and civil society]</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b> One of the proposals for dealing with the potential social, economic and environmental consequences of climate measures is to open a forum. We ask here to be involved in this forum.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> This forum, proposed by the Chair, has been bracketed so may be challenged, but we should seek to support it.</p>
<p><b><u>INSERT A REFERENCE TO SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOUR MARKET ASSESSMENT TOOLS</u></b> in Paragraph 165 (Page 145)</p> <p><i>The forum should implement a work programme that includes</i> <i>(c) economic diversification [and labour market assessment]</i> <i>(c.6) [social protection and decent work programmes]</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b> With this amendment we are calling on governments to add the assessment of labour impacts and the need for decent work programmes to the “Work Programme” of the forum.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Again, this text proposed by the Chair, has been bracketed, but we should support it..</p>
<p><b>On TECHNOLOGY &amp; CAPACITY BUILDING</b></p>	
<p><b>9. Support references to the need for workers’ education and vocational training when dealing with technology absorption, energy services and adaptation activities</b></p>	
<p><b><u>SUPPORT THE REFERENCE TO TRAINING (in bold below)</u></b> under the “New section on national actions to enhance the development , application and diffusion of technologies” (page 176)</p> <p>x.1 Parties will (...): <i>(e) Establish training, information and workforce development programmes to build capacity, including national centres of excellence, to ensure that all market actors understand the costs, performance and benefits of climate change technologies;</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b> At the moment, there are many discussions taking place on the need for transferring technologies to developing countries. An efficient and sustainable transfer of technologies will not succeed without training workers in recipient countries.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> This paragraph was introduced in June and it mentions specifically the need for providing training and information for workers in order to build their capacity. There should not be opposition to it per se, but as this text has been added recently and contains other more conflictive issues, we need to ensure that at least this concept remains.</p>
<p><b><u>INSERT A REFERENCE TO WORKERS EDUCATION AND TRAINING</u></b> under paragraph 185, when establishing the “technology assessment needs” (page 182)</p> <p>185. Parties should develop technology road maps (...) which should include <i>b) capacity building, [including workers’</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b> As above</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Taking into account the precarious condition of the previous amendment, we are proposing to add workers’ education and training policies when countries provide information about their technology and financing needs.</p>

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<p><b>education, training and retraining activities providing the required skills to promote technology absorption]</b></p>	
<p><b>On FINANCING</b></p>	
<p><b>10. Developed countries to commit public funds for mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries</b></p>	
<p><b>INSERT A REFERENCE TO PUBLIC OVERSIGHT AND SUPPORT THE REFERENCE TO PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDING in paragraph 172 (Page 154)</b></p> <p><i>(...) [Additional public funding with appropriate public oversight will be needed]. The public sector shall be the major source of funds, while market mechanisms and other private sector sources would play a complementary role in addressing climate change.</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b> In order to ensure the adaptation of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, developed countries have to provide sufficient public funding. This is the rationale of this paragraph, and we support it. In addition, we are asking for strong public oversight for this funding, so as to emphasise the role of the public sector in climate change (important in this context, overly oriented towards private funding). The possibility for developing a global carbon tax, managed by the public sector should be explored as a means for enhancing the private sector contribution in a stable and transparent manner.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Trade unions need to advocate a balanced and responsible approach to this issue, even if gaining support may be difficult.</p>

Other sections for which we seek for support	
<p><b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p>	
<p>PARAGRAPH 2 (page 8)</p> <p><i>2. Recalling that (...) [The adverse effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by [those segments of the] population particularly in developing countries who have contributed least to climate change but [who are already in vulnerable situations [owing to factors such as geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status and disability]]. These adverse effects (...) have a range of direct and indirect implications for the full and effective enjoyment of human rights including the right to self determination, statehood, life, food and health and the right of a people not to be deprived if its own means of subsistence, particularly in developing countries (...). The AR4 demonstrates clearly that negative impacts of climate change are already evident and widespread, in particular in vulnerable regions of the world, and are increasingly posing a risk to</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b> We support the paragraph because of the importance of its reference to human rights and to the negative impacts climate change will have on vulnerable populations of the world and the risks it poses to the attainment of sustainable development and MDG as well as to human health and security.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> The reference to human rights has been introduced in the June session. It is in a prominent position, and might find opposition; we need to ensure it retains its place in the text.</p>

<p><b><i>ecosystems, food productions, the attainment of sustainable development and of the Millennium Development Goals as well as to human health and security.</i></b></p>	
<b>SOCIAL PROGRESS</b>	
<p>PARAGRAPH 9 (page 13)</p> <p><i>9. [The shared vision for long-term cooperative action (...) [aims to address climate change and achieve the mutually supportive and intertwined pillars of sustainable [and climate-resilient] development, that are economic development, social progress and the protection of the environment, as well as the survival of all states (...)]</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>We support the inclusion of this paragraph, currently in brackets, because it provides reference to social progress as one of the pillars of sustainable development</p> <p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>This paragraph is currently in brackets.</p>
<b>MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT</b>	
<p>PARAGRAPH 25 (e) (page 45) - on activities related to migration or displacement</p>	<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>We support alternative 3, because it includes socio-economic aspects of climate change and knowledge sharing on economic diversification and economic resilience.</p> <p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>It is unclear which alternative has most support.</p>
<b>DEFORESTATION/ REDD</b>	
<p>PARAGRAPH 108 (page 113)</p> <p>Alternative 4 – Option 2</p> <p><i>REDD-plus actions should promote sustainable development, <b>including social and environmental benefits</b>, such as biodiversity.</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>We support Alternative 4, option 2, as it refers to the inclusion of social and environmental benefits in the context of REDD-plus</p> <p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>It is unclear which alternative has most support.</p>
<p>PARAGRAPH X.3, under Means of Implementation (page 117)</p> <p><i>x.3 A REDD-plus mechanism should be transparent, efficient, and equitable; and it should ensure a fair distribution of REDD derived benefits among all relevant stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities, in response to their efforts in REDD activities.</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>We support this proposal because it makes reference to a fair distribution of REDD-plus benefits.</p> <p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>This paragraph has just been included in the June session; it contains important principles for the union movement.</p>
<b>SECTORAL APPROACHES</b>	
<p>PARAGRAPH 131 (page 131)</p> <p><i>131. (...) The most climate-sensitive sectors, including GHG-intensive and climate-vulnerable sectors, shall be fully considered for the development, transfer and deployment of environmentally sound technologies.</i></p>	<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>We support the existing text regarding the prioritisation of certain sectors in “Sectoral Approaches”.</p> <p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>This paragraph has not yet been challenged; it</p>

	contains important principles for the union movement.
<b>EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING</b>	
<p>PARAGRAPH 199 (page 197)</p> <p><i>Alternative to paragraph 199. (d) To strengthen communication, education and awareness-raising at all levels, especially at the local and community levels;</i></p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>We support the alternative to paragraph 199 because education and awareness-raising at the local and community levels are essential if we want to successfully address the cultural transformations which have to take place.</p> <p><b>Status:</b></p> <p>This paragraph has just been included in the June session; it contains important principles for the union movement.</p>