



Frontlines Briefing October 2015

Climate justice: Paris and Beyond



ITUC CSI IGB International Trade Union Confederation

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On the road: Paris and beyond

The trade union climate summit held in Paris in September saw more than 200 trade union men and women from more than 60 countries reaffirm the commitment to fight for ambitious climate action, based on a 'just transition': climate action that limits temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius or less.

Unions know there are no jobs on a dead planet. And many delegates described the loss of lives and livelihoods their countries have already experienced.

Climate impacts hit working people first, and with extreme weather events, changing seasons and rising sea levels, whole communities stand on the Frontlines. In order to stabilise the climate, we need to make profound changes to energy systems – and therefore to all economic sectors. Our members are involved in every aspect of this challenge; from activists campaigning for action on climate to workers organising in new industries to workers in fossil fuel production.

For the ITUC this means that we will not leave anyone behind. We demand the guarantee of social dialogue that will ensure that there are plans at national, industry and enterprise level for a 'just transition'.

Workers have a right to know:

- a right to know what their governments' plans are to decarbonise their economy and to protect jobs and pensions;
- a right to know what their employers' plans are to decarbonise the workplace and to protect jobs; and
- a right to know where their pension funds are invested.

A 'just transition' will include:

- wage safeguards and job security for workers involved;
- training, skills development and redeployment with decent work alternatives;
- respect human rights and guarantee social protection measures, including pensions to support people through the transition; and
- investment in community renewal including the construction and services associated with renewable energy.

We are extremely distressed that the Co-chairs have left critical language on this issue out of the operational section of the draft agreement, and we emphasised this as we presented our three topline demands to Minister Fabius, the French Foreign Minister, President of COP21.

Trade unions' topline demands for COP21

1. RAISE AMBITION AND REALISE JOB POTENTIAL OF CLIMATE ACTION

The Paris Climate Agreement must ensure governments take concrete steps to reduce emissions even further before and beyond 2020, in line with an equitable 2°C pathway, and agree on a robust mechanism of periodical review for raising ambition over time.

2. DELIVER ON CLIMATE FINANCE AND SUPPORT THE MOST VULNERABLE

The Paris Climate Agreement must provide clarity on the way developed countries will fulfil their commitment to mobilise \$100bn by 2020 securing sufficient resources for adaptation, and identify means for increasing this objective afterwards.

3. COMMIT TO SECURING A 'JUST TRANSITION' FOR WORKERS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

The Paris Climate agreement must affirm the commitment to secure the jobs and livelihoods of those involved in emission-intensive sectors by adding strong references to the need for a “ ‘just transition’ which creates decent work for workers” in the operational part of the Paris deal.

Minister Fabius in reply said: “Paris is a turning point for our planet.... The role of trade unions will be absolutely decisive. To reach an agreement in Paris there needs to be a mobilisation of all of society’s forces. For today, in aggregate, national plans to cut carbon emissions are leading us towards 3 degrees [Celsius] of global warming by the end of the century.”

The Minister candidly acknowledged that trade unions are on the front line of industrial transformations that lie ahead, whether in coal mining, power generation or industrial sectors. Yet in retraining and new job creation, “unions are in a great position to be part of the transformation that workers are facing.”

Indeed, for unions the job potential is critical. There are jobs in all industries and services.

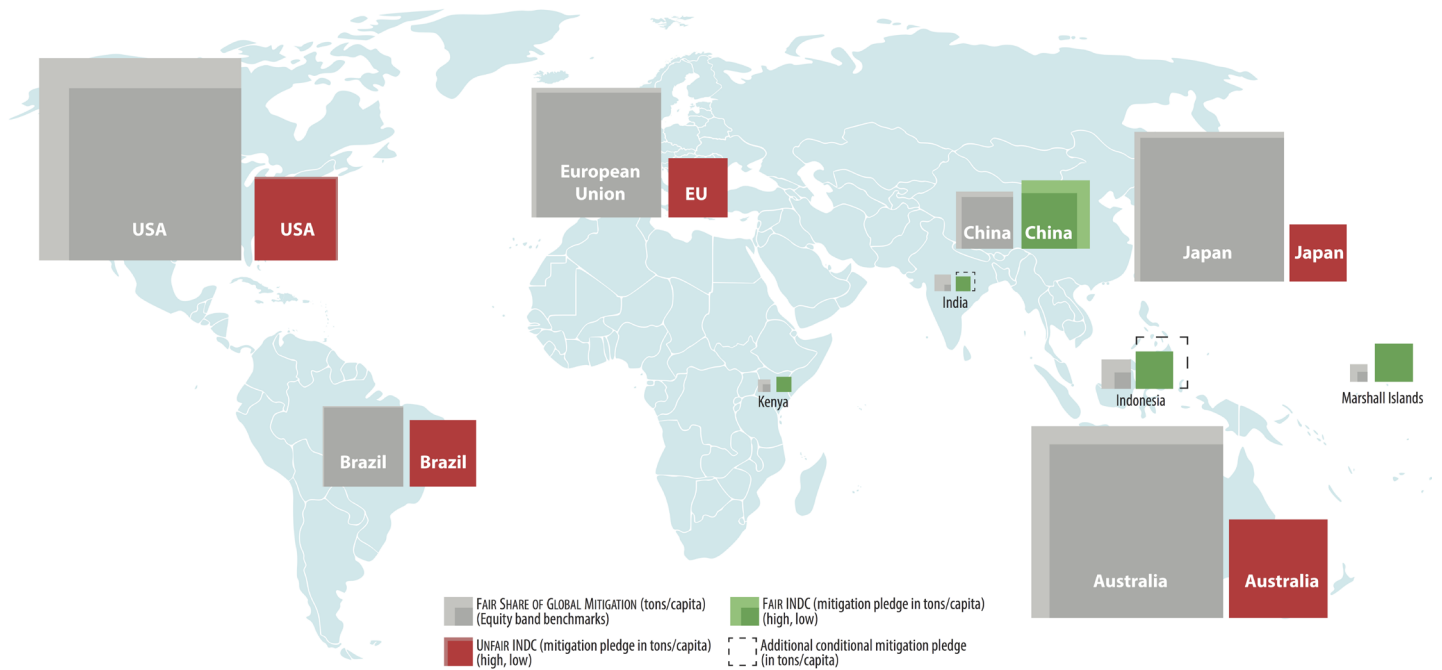
With the endorsement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and a Climate Agreement, the pathway for zero carbon/zero poverty can be built.

Unions are already focussed on the work that is required to secure the industrial transformation beyond Paris, and there are draft letters in this briefing you can send to governments and employers.

The union climate summit consensus was that this is the most significant challenge the world will face in the next 30 years, and it will take all of us. Without urgent action we will lose the war on climate change with horrendous consequences for all working people and their communities as Minister Fabius said in referring to the current refugee crisis: “If we can’t act on climate change, can we imagine what that would mean for migration? We would have to add zeros to that number”.

Government ambition is still too low. The graph shows the gap in emissions.

WHO HAS COMMITTED TO THEIR FAIR SHARE OF GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION?



So let's use the next few weeks to tell our governments we need more ambition and a plan for action before 2020. Let's tell them we expect their support and commitment to 'just transition' and let's mobilise for public rallies in Paris and many other cities around the world.

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary,
International Trade Union Confederation

Countdown to Paris: What you can do

Join a rally 28 - 29th November



Stand out in the crowd and wear your green hard hat to show unions want action on climate.

Decorate your hard hat with union logos and stickers to make them stand out.

If you are in Paris on Sunday 29 November, join the Paris rally, bring your own hard hat, or we will give you one on the day.

Not in Paris? Join the union rallies in Sydney, Washington, Berlin, Johannesburg, Lima.

Or find your city at globalclimatemarch.org and organise a union crowd and get them in green hard hats decorated with your union stickers.

Don't forget to bring along your union's banners and rally for climate.

Share your rally photos on Twitter [#unions4climate](https://twitter.com/unions4climate)

Send a postcard before Paris

With just weeks to go, send your government a "postcard" calling for them to raise their ambition and close the emissions gap.

Wish them a bon voyage, but tell them there's no deal without 'just transition'.

Call union members to support climate action and the jobs that can be generated

Together we'll demand a 'just transition' and workers' right to know our governments' and employers' plans for a zero-carbon future.

Climate events and the trade union space in Paris

For the fifth time, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in cooperation with Global Unions and the French national trade union centres is organising a space where trade unions and trade union-related organisations will present their experiences and share, debate and plan with other actors (governments, social and environmental movements, enterprises, UN

and regional agencies) their climate-related actions. Two days of the trade union forum will take place in the civil society space in Le Bourget ("Génération climat"), and two days will be organised in the Climate Forum in Montreuil, where the French Coalition 21 will organise debates for civil society.

Trade Union Climate Forum

3rd December	4th December	5th December	6th December
Génération climat (Le Bourget)	Génération climat (Le Bourget)	Climate Forum (Montreuil)	Climate Forum (Montreuil)
Union-led events	Union-led events	Cross-Constituency Just Transition plenary	Cross-Constituency Just Transition plenary

Climate events in Paris: How to get there

COP21 – Le Bourget

The official conference site and the Climate generations space will be organized in an 18-hectare site, the **Parc des Expositions Paris-le Bourget**, close to Le Bourget city, in the northern Parisian suburbs of Seine-Saint-Denis.

To reach the conference center by public transport, you can either take the metro or the RER (regional train). If you are staying at the trade union hotel hub of La Villette, you can take metro Line 7 until Fort D'Aubervilliers and then the shuttle provided by the organisers (estimate a 30 minute journey). Otherwise, you can take RER line B get off at Le Bourget, and take the shuttle provided by the organisers (estimate a 40 minute journey from Gare du Nord).

Address: **Parc des Expositions Paris-le Bourget**

Union Days: 3 – 6 December 2015

1. There will also be a people's space where we will hold and attend civil society events. Our own Union Days will be here in the 3 – 4 December in Le Bourget.

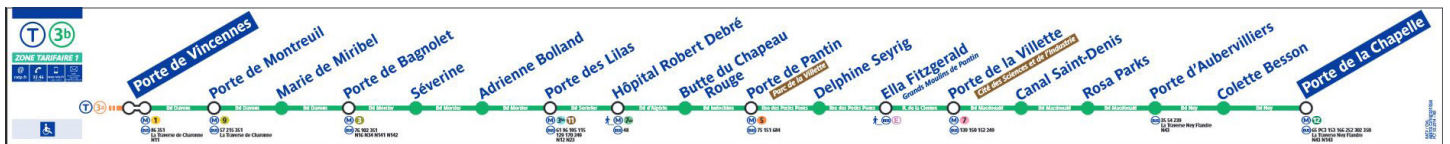
2. The civil society weekend events are 5 – 6 December in the Citizens' Summit in Montreuil.

Hotel

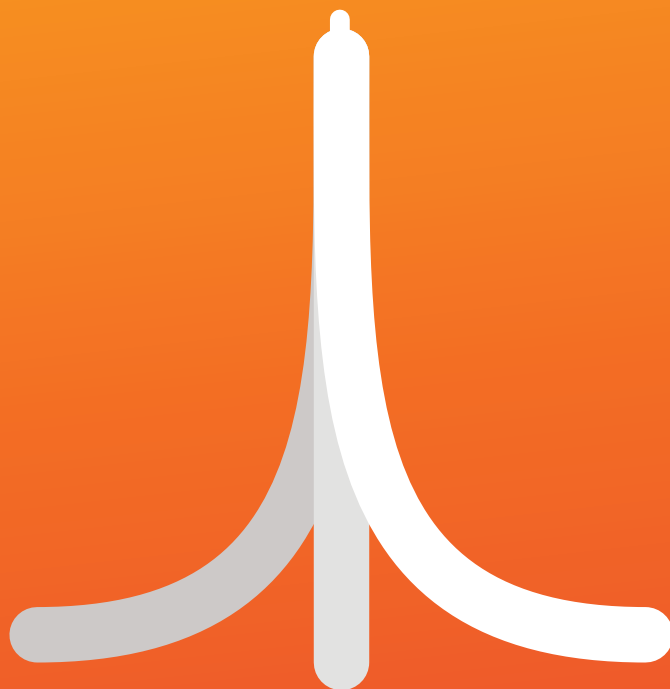
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Trade unions' Topline demands for COP21



1

Raise Ambition and Realise Job Potential of Climate Action

The Paris Climate agreement must ensure Governments take concrete steps to reduce emissions even further before and beyond 2020, in line with an equitable 2°C pathway. They must also agree on a robust mechanism of periodical review for raising ambition over time.

2

Deliver on Climate Finance and Support the Most Vulnerable

The Paris Climate agreement must provide clarity on the way developed countries will fulfil their commitment to mobilise 100bn USD by 2020 to secure sufficient resources for adaptation. It should also identify means for increasing this amount post 2020.

3

Commit to Securing a Just Transition for Workers and Their Communities

The Paris Climate agreement, in its OPERATIONAL section, must include a commitment to “Just Transition” measures. This is essential to support the challenge of industrial transformation in all sectors, in particular jobs and livelihoods for workers in emission-intensive industries.

