

# ITUC Frontlines Briefing: Climate Justice COP 22 Special Edition



November 2016

## Trade Unions' Topline Demands for COP22



1

### Raise Ambition and Realise Job Potential of Climate Action

COP22 must deliver concrete emission reduction initiatives before 2020, strong processes for reviews that increase national commitments, and the agreed objective of staying below 2°C and aiming at not surpassing a 1.5°C increase in average temperature.

2

### Deliver on Climate Finance and Support the Most Vulnerable

COP22 must deliver certainty on how climate finance commitments will be achieved so that there are sufficient resources for supporting communities' resilience to the impacts of climate change and supporting efforts to reduce emissions and build a just transition to a zero-carbon economy. Current commitments to mobilise USD 100bn annually by 2020 should be a floor for post-2020 finance.

3

### Commit to Securing a Just Transition for Workers and Their Communities

Paris Agreement took a first step in securing the commitment to a just transition for workers. COP22 must consolidate it. Just transition elements must be incorporated in NDCs and have future work on this issue under SBI/SBSTA. National Contributions supported by zero-carbon development roadmaps are critical.

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ITUC Frontlines Briefing: November 2016

# Foreword

## Trade Unions and Climate Change: We will build ambition. We will have a Just Transition.

The times when climate action was raised as a job killer are behind us. Ambitious emissions reduction and adaptation policies are now recognised as vital to protect jobs, people and communities from the impacts of climate change, and investment is creating jobs in renewable energy, public transit, energy efficiency in buildings, sustainable agriculture, forestry, water and more.

We are living in a time of contradictions. A minority of corporate interests intends to benefit until the last minute from a socially unfair, environmentally-damaging and undemocratic system by obstructing change. Many governments bow to these interests while austerity policies, attacks on regulation and public services remain on the same governments' tables, even when those policies have proven to be disastrous and their countries face climate-aggravated crises.

For the past years, the international trade union movement has stood strong in calling for ambition from our political leaders on climate because we all know: "there are no jobs on a dead planet".

In 2015 government leaders from all over the world signed the Paris Agreement, which will regulate international climate action from 2020 onwards. For unions, every step that contributes to global governance in favour of rights, justice and solidarity – every investment in climate action is a welcome one. However, **we are conscious that the long-term**

**objective governments have set for themselves and our societies of "staying well below 2°C in average temperature increase, and aiming at 1.5°C", will only be reached if concrete measures are taken to dramatically change our production and consumption patterns and if national emissions reduction objectives, in particular in developed countries, are reviewed with greater ambition, before 2018.**

Reaching the agreed goals will also require governments to deliver on their climate finance commitments and agree to provide more support so that everyone can contribute to the global effort. The Paris Agreement is one step in a long journey for protecting our climate. This is not only a matter of principle – it is a matter of need: we need ambition to trigger sustainable investments and decent jobs at a time when we face historic levels of unemployment with half of the world's workers either unemployed or in vulnerable employment, with two in five young people in this situation.

We know millions of workers and families still depend on a fossil-fuel-based economy for their jobs and livelihoods. They have generated the energy required for today's prosperity. Governments and employers, with workers and their unions, must sit together and commit to protect our future through a just transition strategy – a plan which guarantees decent work for all. The inclusion of a just transition in the Paris Agreement is an important first step.

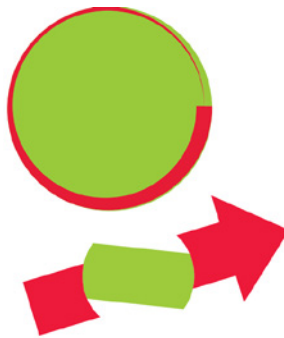
Corporations who refuse to diversify their energy base instead set out to frighten workers. But fear will not deliver for working families in communities dependent on fossil fuels. Fear will just increase the costs of action and make the prospects for organising the transition we need to build together more difficult. A difficult set of challenges confront us. The imperative to make our societies compatible with all forms of life and with the restrictions of limited planetary resources must be met with national and international plans that must deliver on social justice and prosperity for all. The decisions

by global leaders to meet the sustainable development goals by 2030 with the Paris agreement chart a course to a zero-poverty, zero-carbon world, but this journey will only be realised when people act to make it happen.

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary,  
International Trade Union Confederation

@SharanBurrow



**The ITUC has established a Just Transition Centre to support unions and other allies in national and industrial dialogue.**

# 1. The international trade union movement and climate change

The commitment of the international trade union movement to this issue has its landmarks that underpin the progress made on climate change at the national and sectoral level.

The 2006 Assembly on Labour and Environment was the first statement of commitment of the international labour movement to tackle climate change<sup>01</sup>.

This resolution constituted a key input into the ITUC Foundational Congress (Vienna, 2006)<sup>02</sup>, which would recognise in the Constitution the importance for trade unions to act on environmental issues. The 2nd ITUC Congress (Vancouver, 2010) went further on defining the policies for the labour movement and dedicated a full resolution to climate change which underscores the commitment to supporting a transformation of our societies allowing us to remain under the 2°C temperature increase goal; a goal which recognises the need for developed countries to take the lead in reducing emissions according to their capacity and responsibility; and the importance of linking climate action with jobs and decent work and the call for a just transition – these points were at the heart of the discussions<sup>03</sup>.

A further step was taken in 2012 at the 2nd Assembly on Labour and Environment<sup>04</sup>, a must-read for anyone involved or interested in the links between trade unions, climate and environment. Building on previous decisions, the Assembly detailed union commitments with the climate agenda: challenging employers and

governments, making workplaces key in the transformation, linking climate action to new rights, and working in alliance with other movements to foster change. These are key features.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process was instrumental for structuring trade union inputs on climate change, and for energising a community of union leaders ready to take up the challenge of fighting for climate and workers' justice. From a handful of unionists participating in COPs in the 1990s, union involvement grew to reach more than four hundred union leaders from all over the world in the key Summits of COP15 in 2009 and COP21 in 2015. However, numbers don't tell the whole story. At the UNFCCC, trade unions developed a strategy, on the one hand raising our voices both in support of ambition on emission reductions and for climate financing for developing countries. In addition, we advocated for governments to recognise the strong link between social justice, employment and climate change, and most importantly, commit to ensuring a just transition for workers affected by the transition to a zero-carbon economy. The Paris Agreement made an historic step in this direction.

In parallel, trade union actions around the world grew in number and ambition. A campaign launched in 2015 #Unions4Climate brought them under the same banner and shows commitments that go far beyond the lowest common denominator.

<sup>01</sup> <http://www.sustainlabour.org/documentos/Resolution.Assembly.EN.pdf>

<sup>02</sup> [http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc\\_constitution.pdf](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc_constitution.pdf)

<sup>03</sup> [http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/CONGRESS\\_Decisions\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/CONGRESS_Decisions_EN.pdf) Page 65

<sup>04</sup> <http://www.sustainlabour.org/documentos/Trade%20Union%20Resolution%20on%20Labour%20and%20Environment.pdf>

## 2. Our mission: social justice & decent work for all; our goal: a just transition for all workers & communities

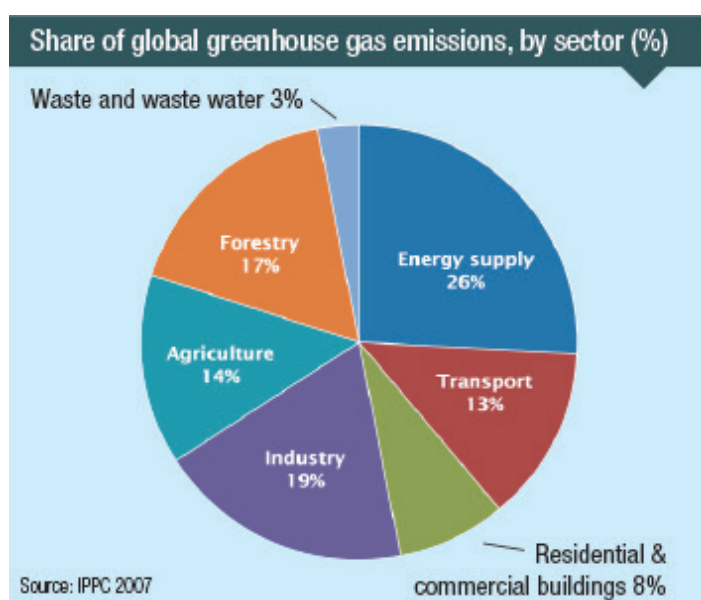
The international trade union movement's engagement on climate change is based on the belief that trade unions have a vital role to play in improving the quality of jobs, in protecting jobs in existing workplaces and industries by demanding sustainable industrial transformation, organising workers in new decent jobs emerging from environmentally sound investments and policies and fighting for the just transition measures that will ensure we leave no one behind.

### Jobs, industrial transformation and just transition

Industrial transformation is an imperative.

The industries of today are the foundations for the industries of tomorrow. The next 15 years will be critical. The opportunities for jobs are significant. So too are the challenges.

In order to have a chance to stay within the 2°C limit, and even more for the internationally agreed 1.5°C objective, emissions should be reduced to zero as soon as possible, and no later than between 2055 and 2070. Entire economic sectors must transform their carbon footprint to reach that goal. All jobs must be made climate-compatible.



### Jobs in energy, transport, construction, industry, agriculture and services – all sectors hold opportunities

Investment needed in infrastructure by 2030 is estimated to be up to USD 90 trillion. With infrastructure requirements in transport, energy, water systems and the built environment, this could mean USD 6 trillion per year on average over the next 15 years. This means jobs. With the right framework in place, we need to ensure those are decent jobs and that they contribute to building a fairer economic system as much as they provide the foundation to stay within planetary boundaries.

## Cost of Climate – Fast Fact

Climate change is predicted to halve the coffee-growing area that supports 120 million people.

A 2010 study by the Millennium Institute for the ITUC showed that if just 12 countries invested two per cent of GDP each year for five years in major sectors, this could generate around 48 million jobs.

The ILO has found that most studies show a positive net employment effect of policies facilitating climate transition. Net gains are up to 60 million jobs, combining economic growth with environmental improvement. Climate adaptation and resilience policies also offer opportunities for job creation and improvement, including in the public sector, in particular at the municipal level, which should be strengthened to respond to the climate challenge.

While all sectors hold opportunities, the key to the transformation of our industries and our communities is energy – reliable, renewable energy. The estimates vary, but studies show that at least 80 per cent of current fossil fuel reserves will need to be left in the ground to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Opponents to the transition to alternative energy sources cite their relative cost, but ignore health and pollution costs in our current energy dependency on fossil fuels – not to mention the hefty subsidies these fossil fuel businesses enjoy.

Universal access and democratisation of energy is needed if we are to achieve ambitious climate action. Energy, along with other common goods that belong to humanity (air, water), must be guaranteed for all, and public oversight and administration are grave matters of public debate. Energy companies need to be restructured in order to allow for such democratic involvement of those affected and public oversight, including that of workers' participation.

New models of renewable energy driving decentralised systems of power generation and distribution are needed. Cooperatives established to meet community energy needs are increasingly seen as an option and often assisted by municipalities. Energy transition plans at the national and subnational levels need to be developed in ways that serve the public good, meet science-based emissions reduction targets, reduce energy poverty and facilitate cross-border cooperation in research and development. These plans should involve communities in decision making while ensuring that the energy transformation is equitable and sustainable according to the principles of a just transition and participatory democracy.

The transition towards a sustainable, zero-carbon society must provide a means to pivot decisively away from ecologically and socially destructive methods of fossil fuel extraction (as in the case of “fracking” for shale gas, tar oil exploitation, among others) towards renewable energy. It also requires prioritising the global common good against the profits of large fossil fuel companies that continue to promote the use of ever greater quantities of coal, oil and gas.

Education is key to raise global awareness of the climate emergency. It becomes urgent to increase the place of education to sustainable development (ESD) in all action plans and programs that aim to fight against climate change

## Cost of Climate – Fast Fact

The Spanish developer Solarpac Corp. Tecnologica won contracts to sell power from a 120-megawatt solar plant for USD 29.10 a megawatt-hour at an energy auction. That's the lowest price on record for electricity from sunshine, surpassing a deal in Dubai in May. It's the cheapest to date for any kind of renewable energy, and was almost half the price of coal power sold in the same event. According to Solarpac General Director Inigo Malo de Molina, it's one of the lowest rates ever for any kind of electricity, anywhere. Bloomberg. September 2016.



## We will leave no one behind

Despite the opportunities for jobs, there will be significant challenges for many workers and their communities. The ITUC is determined that no one be left behind and that the energy revolution be supported by just transition measures.

In addition to sustainable industrial transformation, we must ensure that the energy costs for private households and companies remain affordable in the transitional phase. The burden must be distributed fairly, taking into account pressures on low-income households and en-

ergy intensive industries where change will be felt most. Unions want a clear vision of future industrial and energy options and the impact on workers. It is our job to fight for a transition that is just. In sectors where job losses are unavoidable, social partners (unions and employers) need to develop binding transition plans and strategies that offer new opportunities to employees and actively shape structural change.

Unions represent workers employed in the energy and fossil fuel sectors and in other areas that will be affected. While companies make the necessary changes to compete in an environmentally sustainable economy,

### Case Study

## Renewable development, Costa Rica

Ralf Bartels, Head of Mining and Energy Policy at Indus Costa Rica shares land borders with two countries: Nicaragua and Panama. Despite being a small country in Central America, it is making huge efforts to reach a sustainable development model with renewable energy, while working with national enterprises such as the Costarrican Electricity Institute (ICE).

Costa Rica is a pioneer country in Central America region producing 100 per cent renewable energy

It has the biggest hydroelectric power station in central america, called Reventazon.

In 2015, according to UN ECLAC more than a half of the energy produced in Central America was from renewable sources, and Costa Rica placed itself as the first producer of that renewable energy with 31 per cent.

From 2015, Costa Rica's renewable energy production ranges from 100 per cent to 96.3 per cent; most of this energy is obtained from water, wind, sun and biogas.

The cost of fuels went down from USD 199 000 in 2014 to USD 18 000 in 2015, which means that Costa Rica saves more than USD 180 000 on fuels, and that helps ICE to offer better price rates to customers.

Costa Rica provides 100 per cent energy and telecommunication coverage country wide, even in those remote places where it is not profitable to develop these services. And because of ICE's experience with international standards and certifications, it collaborates with others countries in Central America, supervising their projects on renewable energy production.

I am proud as a Costa Rican citizen of the sustainable practices we support in our country."



**Mónica Quesada Gómez.**



we must recognise the fears of people who believe they will lose their jobs. These workers are the backbone of many communities and they must be guaranteed a future. Redeployment, the chance to further develop their skills and make a contribution in new sectors and secure pensions must be an integrated package of guarantees.

An economic conversion of this magnitude will require very robust research, innovation and training policies in order to facilitate adequate labour market adaptation. Vocational training and the package of transition policies should not be limited to a few wealthy countries. Decisions should be made in coordination with workers and trade union representatives. Trade unions demand financial support be made available so that developing countries can deploy just transition measures.

### Transforming business and industries: A workers' right to know

All industries must use technologies and processes that contribute to a zero-carbon economy. All workers have a right to know what their employer is planning to ensure their jobs are secured through this transformation.

## Cost of Climate – Fast Fact

“It’s as if the country was being attacked along every border, simultaneously,” said Andrea Dutton, a climate scientist at the University of Florida and one of the world’s leading experts on rising seas. “It’s a slow, gradual attack, but it threatens the safety and security of the United States.” New York Times, *Flooding of Coast, Caused by Global Warming Has Already Begun*, September 2016<sup>i</sup>.

<sup>i</sup> <http://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/09/04/science/flooding-of-coast-caused-by-global-warming-has-already-begun.html?smid=tw-nytimes&smtyp=cur&r=1&referrer=https://t.co/62T2WLh5Tr>

Unions will support dialogue in existing industries and organise workers in new industries. The formula for decent work includes mature industrial relations, fair wages, safe and secure work, and respect for workers’ rights including dialogue.

### Case Study

## Port Augusta, Australia

“Port Augusta is a test case for how Australia will handle the transition.”<sup>ii</sup> Power stations and coal mines in Victoria’s Latrobe valley are set to shut down in coming years, and what will happen to the people working in those jobs is far from clear. ‘We ought to have been planning for what we call a *just transition*,’ he says. Scales says the Australian Services Union acknowledges that the world needs to move away from coal and is calling for a plan that will allow those workers to be retrained and redeployed to assist with the transition.” Guardian Australia<sup>iii</sup>

“We were hoping to have new things built before the closure so we could have an increase in jobs, not a big gap.”

**Gary Rowbottom, power station worker**

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/24/port-augusta-busting-a-gut-to-reinvent-itself-as-a-solar-city-when-coal-fired-power-is-switched-off>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/24/port-augusta-busting-a-gut-to-reinvent-itself-as-a-solar-city-when-coal-fired-power-is-switched-off>



*"The only sustainable Energy Transition is a Just Transition. Global trade unions have successfully campaigned to have a commitment to a Just Transition inserted into the preamble of the Paris Accord. What next happens at the national level will determine if this term has any meaning."*

*Climate Policies can achieve 'Energy Transition' with or without Justice. That may suit people who are solely focussed on the emissions outcome. It may also suit some business leaders who like to remind us of the terrible consequences of stranded assets and investment uncertainty. It certainly doesn't suit the thousands of workers and their communities who face certain unemployment, the destruction of communities and generations of social crisis. The real problem will be stranded workers and stranded communities."*



Tony Maher, President,  
CFMEU Mining and Energy Union, Australia

## We demand a just transition

This transformation of sectors and industries must be supported by just transition measures. Unions have played our role in UN negotiations and fought for these commitments. Now these are enshrined in the Paris Agreement. This means that carbon-dependent communities and workers must not be forced to bear the costs of change and that plans for industrial transformation in all sectors are developed. We have a right to a seat at the table as we act to stabilise the world's climate by moving toward a zero-carbon-emissions future.

The challenge for unions is to be part of the dialogue that drives investment, shapes industries for sustainability and ensures decent work. Social dialogue, consultation, collective bargaining – workers have a right to be involved in the design of their future.

Workers and communities are on the front lines of climate change, particularly in developing countries. They must lead the transition to a zero-carbon world. If the transition is to be fast and fair, they will need to see concrete plans for a future that, notwithstanding the threats, has both security and opportunity.

Transformation, however, is not only about phasing out polluting sectors. It is also about creating new clean industries, new jobs, new investment and the opportunity for a more equal and just economy. It is about community revitalisation and development so that, for example, the closing of a mine brings new investment, jobs and infrastructure, rather than leaving workers and their families jobless and stranded.

Concrete and transparent plans are necessary to give everyone certainty, from communities and workers to investors and employers. Workers have the right to know what these plans are and to help shape them.

These plans must be built on social dialogue<sup>5</sup> involving workers, communities, businesses and governments so that people feel some power in shaping their working lives and their communities.

To deliver and build the social dialogue for a just transition, the ITUC and its partners are establishing a Just Transition Centre. The Centre will facilitate government, business, trade unions, communities, investors and civil society groups to collaborate in the national, industrial, workplace and community planning, agreements, technologies, investments and the necessary public policies.

<sup>5</sup> Social dialogue is a tripartite process between workers, employers and governments that exists in all countries where unions exist and at all scales, from the workplace to international negotiations. It includes formal processes of negotiation, consultation and information exchange and covers both economic and social issues.

## Case Study

# Renewable Energy for Salt Pan Women Workers India

India is the third largest producer of salt in the world, and in the Little Runn of Kutch (LRK) in Gujarat, salt farmers produce 76 per cent of India's salt. Currently, there are 43,000 salt farmers – called Agariyas – in LRK, out of which 17,000 are members of SEWA, a member-based organisation of poor, self-employed women workers in the unorganised sector economy. These workers do not have a safety net of a regular income, health/life/accident insurance or pension and largely live on a day-to-day income.

An average Agariya borrows money from the salt trader to buy diesel and meet her costs of living; diesel is used to pump brine out of ground water, which is spread over the salt pans specially prepared to enable evaporation of water, and lead to formation of salt crystals.

SEWA launched the Hariyali campaign to deliver to its poor members access to modern energy, in an affordable way, improve productivity to increase incomes and empower its women members.

Like her parents, Devuben Rathod is a salt farmer (Agariya) and is a member of SEWA since 2002.

Since she has been a member of SEWA, in 2013 she agreed to do a pilot solar pump on her salt pan. In the next season, she was surprised that her diesel consumption was reduced by 50 per cent since she ran the solar pump during the day (and continued to run her diesel pump in the night). Further, the higher efficiencies of the solar pump and longer production time increased her production by 140 tons. At the end of season, when she calculated her costs and revenues with SEWA, she could not believe that even with a reduced market price in that year, she was able to save more.

*“We work and live in this desert from October to May, and produce 600 tons of salt. We have to take loans from salt traders to buy diesel, and for our fuel, food and drinking water. The trader buys the salt, takes back his loan and then pays us. Last year we earned Rs 22,000 for eight months. This year, we started using SEWA's solar pump. With this pump, we don't need to take loans from traders. Our income this year will be at least Rs 50,000. I can now send my child to school, and invest in a sewing machine.”*

Devuben Rathod





## Case Study

# The score of sustainability: Germany

Ralf Bartels, Head of Mining and Energy Policy at Industriegewerkschaft, Bergbau, Chemie, Energie (IGBCE), distinguishes between environmentalism and sustainability: “I prefer talking about sustainable instead of green or ecological. There are three dimensions of sustainability, the ecological one, the social one and the economical one and it’s about bringing them together. If it’s only the ecological dimension, then we talk about environmental protection but not about sustainability. If you take the social dimension into account, you start talking about justice, you start talking about just development, about conflicts on ... sharing the goods of the society...”

German unions see no conflict between support for energy transition on the one hand and the continuation of energy intensive sectors on the other. Frederik Moch told us: “Electricity prices are structured so that energy intensive industries pay a lower tariff. The DGB supports this decision. If energy intensive industries were forced to shift their production activities abroad, this would not only result in a loss of jobs in Germany but it would also be bad for the climate and the environment. The energy intensive sectors are important to the development of a low carbon economy. Builders of wind turbines are the second largest users of steel after the automotive industry. The photovoltaic sector needs chemical products as well as cement. Solar power requires aluminium. The energy transition is not possible without the energy intensive sectors. Regarding other industries, companies such as Volkswagen in Wolfsburg, which can produce its own energy, also pays a lower tariff.”

Ralf Bartels agrees: “My main concern in German industry overall is the steel, is automotive, is chemical, it’s all those sectors who depend on energy because I believe that what made the German industry sustainable even in the crisis of 2008 and 2009 and even competitive against countries with wages like China is the inter-linkage between the sectors in a very special way.” Ralf continues: “If you have energy prices which will make the steel companies in the Ruhr area abolished, I wonder how long the automotive industry...will import steel from China to build the VW in Wolfsburg to send it back to Shanghai. So what I’m convinced of is we need a sustainable development of all sectors and I don’t believe in green and brown companies and winners and losers. I believe in sustainable development of companies...”<sup>v</sup>.

Extract from TUC Publication Powering ahead: How UK industry can match Europe’s environmental leaders



Credit: Friends of the Earth

## Rights must be at the heart of any climate response

Climate policies – both those aimed at reducing emissions or those aimed at building resilience and adaptive capacity – must contribute to the realisation of human rights. This is a prerequisite for achieving the sustainability of climate policies: people will always stand with measures that improve the overall quality of life and

their chances to live with dignity on our planet. Having rights integrated in climate policies is a condition for communities to contribute to broader social progress. Respect for indigenous peoples’ rights and their self-determination, gender equality, workers’ rights, and migrants’ rights are fundamental for climate policies to support those who need them the most.

# 3. After Paris: Climate governance needs to be strengthened

A sound global climate regime is a critical part of the solution. Regulations, timelines, shared objectives, common rules – these are fundamental for ensuring that there are no free-riders, that a level playing field is built and that the most vulnerable are protected.

In Paris, unions mobilised for a climate agreement that would give us a chance to deliver a fair world for current and future generations. This requires governments to raise their ambition on emissions reduction targets before and after the entry into force of the new agreement, and developed countries to provide clarity on the delivery of their climate finance commitments. All governments must recognise for the first time in a binding UN agreement that there is a requirement to protect workers and communities in the biggest policy-driven transition of our history by committing to putting in place just transition strategies.

None would challenge the Paris Agreement being considered a diplomatic success. That said, the goal it sets for the international community is not accompanied by clear targets and the means to make it achievable in the time available. Significant work is therefore needed both nationally and internationally, to fill the gaps so that we protect people and the planet from climate change.

We must ensure the following:

- National contributions are comprehensive and incorporate aspects related to employment and just transition.
- The sound design of the five-year review cycles agreed in Paris, where national contributions are measured against each countries' responsibilities and capacities, and where civil society contributes to these assessments building the credibility of the system.
- Clear standards for measuring progress and reporting ensuring promises are realised.
- Climate finance commitments are delivered, including the mobilisation by developed country governments of USD 100 billion by 2020, and building on that sum to reach new, more ambitious commitments is critical for supporting developing countries in their development objectives.
- Funds are committed for financing just transition measures at the national, sectoral and regional level.
- Technology and knowledge transfer becomes a reality. Support for research and innovation in developing countries, including a substantial increase for research and development (R&D) budgets, is needed to ensure ownership and appropriateness of innovations, as well as preventing new forms of dependency.

## 4. Climate action – part of ambitious action for sustainable development

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In 2015 the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) gives the international community a chance to build coherence across policy areas. Every effort must be made to avoid silos in national implementation. From a union perspective, ensuring Goal 8 on ensuring “Decent Work for All” requires alignment with climate objectives, so that every job created contributes towards climate protection and resilience.

The adoption by the International Labour Organization and its three constituents (governments, employers’ and workers’ representatives) of the “ILO Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all” is a major landmark in providing international guidance to governments and social partners willing to make a just transition a reality in their countries.

The need for all international agencies to align their policies with climate goals is needed to reach the Paris Agreement objectives. Trade agreements should not be used to hinder climate action or social progress.

The call for coherence is not limited to international levels. Social dialogue and planning are needed at the national level, in particular in developed countries to close the gap in emissions that prevent us from being on a safe emissions trajectory. Unions are conscious that each decision on investment, infrastructure, employment, trade and taxation policies, among others, matters for the climate transition. Our commitment is to support these policies going in the right direction.

The struggle for climate justice touches all aspects of our societies. Therefore, working in cooperation with social movements, environmental, gender-based and indigenous groups, as well as with progressive allies in local governments and among employers, is crucial if we are to win this battle. The union movement is committed to strengthen alliances which support a deep transformation of our economic system into a fair, truly sustainable one.

## Case Study

## Fort McMurray, Canada



I am hearing a lot of “what ifs” in discussions about Just Transition. Well I know what happens when your industry shuts down. I was that miner with 33 years’ service when the mine closed down; I was that union president who had to look at my members. Members who were my union brothers and sisters, my

friends, my teammates, school friends – they were much more than just coworkers and they wanted to keep their jobs much more than they wanted “transition”.

We knew the closure was coming for years and we used every means we could to stop it or even delay it. We lobbied every level of government, we had a powerful international union working hard for us. But at the same time we developed a plan B “Transition”. We negotiated closure language in our agreement that included hundreds of thousands of government and company dollars to be used to develop a transition plan and run a transition centre. Finally, we had job fairs with nearly a hundred companies hungry to acquire our skills. Many of our laid-off workers

found good high- paying jobs in energy and mining in cities and mining camps all across Canada and even further. We did good work, very good work but still we fell short. We failed to recognize that moving away was not an option for many of our brothers and sisters. We failed to understand how badly this would hurt our community.

Now I am again that union president in an industry that is the only game in town. In a remote community that is dependent on the oil sands for survival. Again we are talking about Transition but this time the conversation goes a bit further now we talk about a Just Transition and what that means. We need to look to our past and see what we did well and where we fell short. We have time to get this right but we will only get one shot at it.

We need to be all inclusive this time and we need to consider the environment, our communities, and the needs of these workers to continue to provide for their families and contribute to society.

Failure is not an option – there is simply too much at stake.

Ken Smith, President, Unifor Local 707A  
Fort McMurray,  
Alberta, Canada



## Case Study

# Learning from Denmark: The Danish energy transition

Rasmus Prehn describes the Danish transition to green energy as “close to being an adventure”. Slightly misquoting Churchill, Rasmus – a Member of the Danish Parliament representing the industrial city of Aalborg in the North of Jutland – describes the transition as “a very beautiful story about how to take some of the problems in the world and turn them into opportunities.”

Denmark’s story begins in the 1970s. According to Rasmus, “We had a lack of resources, we had the oil prices and ... therefore, we started to ask: how can we find other ways to [source] energy? ... During the 70s we had quite a heavy debate in Denmark, whether or not we should start using nuclear energy ... in Germany and in Sweden they decided to have nuclear, but in Denmark we decided not to. And we were focusing more on renewable energy strategies.”

Denmark found a limited amount of its own oil in the North Sea, but not enough to be self-sufficient. The country also has no indigenous coal industry, importing coal from Colombia, Poland and Australia. Denmark set out, in Rasmus’s words, “from a political point of view, to secure a better environment with less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and it was about political idealism, vision and courage and to see the opportunities in the problems, rather than the problems in the opportunities.” One opportunity, quite simply, was the Danish climate: “In Denmark, of course, we have windy weather ... and, therefore, we have quite a big potential via wind turbines.”

In 2012, Denmark set itself the target to have 100 per cent renewable energy by 2050, to have 100 per cent renewable energy in electricity and heating by 2035 and to phase out the use of coal by 2030. At present, 40 per cent of Danish electricity comes from wind. However, one of the most modern coal energy plants in Europe is in Aalborg, because, at present, there needs to be a back-up for when there is no wind.

The United Federation of Danish Workers, known as 3F, is the largest union in Denmark. In 2004, 3F set up its Green Think Tank, comprising researchers and representatives of leading companies and organisations in the fields of renewable energy and new energy technologies. In October 2015, 3F asked the Economic Council of the Labour Movement (ECLM) to catalogue and describe the total potential for green jobs in Denmark, based on a number of specific, relevant green activities, each of which were a step on the road to a green transition.

ECLM found that green activities could potentially create temporary green jobs for up to 58,000 people a year. These jobs are associated with establishing a new energy infrastructure and with energy renovation. ECLM further found that green activities could potentially create 15,000 permanent green jobs. These jobs are those associated with exporting green technology and those jobs related to operating the new green infrastructure. ECLM included both direct employment and indirect contributions through Danish subcontractors in the value chain.

Among the jobs potential, ECLM identified a possible 1,500 permanent jobs from installing 1GW of offshore wind turbines annually in the North Sea up to 2020. The European Commission expects that the production capacity for EU offshore wind must be increased from 9GW in 2014 to 27GW in 2020, or about 3GW annually for six years. Most of this expansion is expected to take place in the North Sea. Assuming that a third would come from Danish-produced turbines, 1,500 permanent jobs could be created from operations, maintenance and service.

District heating is a system for distributing heat generated in a centralised location for residential and commercial heating. According to Danish District Heating Association’s Green Energy think tank, a doubling of district heating exports would amount to DKK 8bn (£832m) and is expected to be able to generate 4,000 permanent jobs in the district heating sector. ECLM assess that this would generate a further 2,400 jobs in other sectors.

A doubling of Danish water technology exports is expected to boost employment in the water sector by 4,000 people and using the same principle as used in the example of district heating, ECLM believe a further 2,400 indirect jobs would be created<sup>iv</sup>.

<sup>iv</sup> Extract from TUC Publication Powering ahead: How UK industry can match Europe’s environmental leaders



Credit: CGP Grey

# 5. COP22 three top priorities for trade unions on international climate governance:

## #priority 1: Raise Ambition and Realise Job Potential of Climate Action

COP22 must deliver

- Concrete emission reduction initiatives before 2020
- Strong processes for reviews that increase national commitments, through the development of sound, democratic modalities for the agreed “facilitative dialogue” in 2018 which is to lay the ground for the five-year review cycles.

The agreed objective of staying below 2°C and aiming at not surpassing a 1.5°C increase in average temperature requires science, equity and fairness to be brought into the review exercise.

## #priority 2: Deliver on Climate Finance and Support the Most Vulnerable

COP22 must deliver certainty on how climate finance commitments will be achieved so that there are sufficient resources for supporting communities’ resilience to the impacts of climate change and supporting efforts to reduce emissions and build a just transition to a zero-carbon economy. Current commitments to mobilise USD 100bn annually by 2020 should be a floor for post-2020 finance.

## #priority 3: Commit to Securing a Just Transition for Workers and Their Communities

The Paris Agreement took a first step in securing the commitment to a just transition for workers. COP22 must consolidate it through a call to parties to incorporate just transition elements to their NDCs and recommend future work on this issue under SBI/SBSTA. This is essential to support the challenge of industrial transformation in all sectors and in particular jobs and livelihoods for workers in emission-intensive industries. National Contributions supported by zero-carbon development roadmaps are critical for building a long-term vision for transforming our economy, as well as for driving sustainable investments. Factoring-in employment and just transition will align them with broader social aspirations in each country.

# Unions4Climate



## **The UK's Road Map – Powering ahead: how UK industry can match Europe's environmental leaders, Trades Union Congress (TUC)**

The TUC will continue to focus on industrial strategy, and while this will inevitably mean developing new sectors, it will also mean nurturing existing strengths.

1. Build a social, political and business consensus.
2. Develop a road map for change.
3. Implement a balanced energy policy.
4. Agree a sustainable strategy for nuclear development.
5. Build the capacity of renewable energy sources.
6. Relaunch of Carbon Capture and Storage through international cooperation.
7. Reduce reliance on imported gas.
8. Expand the skills base for an energy transition.
9. Guarantee the work of the green investment bank.
10. Create incentives to fund an energy transition.

## **Canada's Road Map – Green Jobs for Tomorrow, Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)**

The CLC supports a green jobs strategy and an environment economic development strategy which places manufacturing and trade policies at the centre of the climate change agenda. The biggest challenge of our generation could also be the biggest opportunity of the century for economic growth and job creation.

1. Establish a price on carbon.
2. Establish a National Green Homes and Green Buildings Strategy.
3. Collaborate with provincial governments to form a National Public Transportation Strategy.
4. Work with provisional and territorial governments to develop a Renewable Energy Development Strategy.
5. Establish hard caps on emissions.
6. Fund a Just Transition.
7. Support not only the expansion, but also the manufacturing of low-carbon transportation options.
8. Facilitate Industrial Transformation.
9. Facilitate renewable energy development in indigenous, rural and remote communities.
10. Establish salient and realistic pathways to decarbonisation.

## **Trade unions @ COP22:**

- Every day, 9:00 – 10:00 Trade union meeting (check screens under TUNGO)
- ITUC booth
- TUNGO office (within the “constituency offices” space)

Publisher responsible in law:  
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