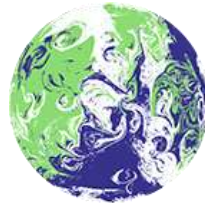


DRAFT ITUC #COP26 PRIORITIES

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**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



Social justice enables climate ambition: unions set course for COP26

ITUC COP26 priorities:

1. Climate ambition with Just Transition: raise climate ambition with Just Transition policies and measures in enhanced NDCs.
2. Human and labour rights: implement inclusive climate policies that respect and promote human and labour rights.
3. Climate finance: provide climate finance to decarbonise the Global South.
4. Industry policy and investment: implement strong industrial policies and investment plans underpinning the transition to zero-emission economies.

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Social justice to stabilise the planet and a New Social Contract

As the impact of climate change is felt on a global scale, it is clear that current policy commitments are not enough to drive the transition to a zero-carbon economy. Despite efforts by trade unions, environmental and social movements, more action is needed to avert the catastrophic consequences of climate change.

The commitment of leaders to emission reductions by 2030 and to climate neutrality and net-zero emissions by 2050 not only fall short of moderating temperature rises to 1.5 degrees but are not supported by effective policy measures to deliver them.

It is *now* that we need ambitious plans, not *tomorrow*.

The increasing impact of climate change is disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable people. Lives, livelihoods, health, and the quality of life and of work were under threat prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but there is no doubt that resilience has been further eroded. Without investment in jobs, Just Transition and universal social protection, the world's people will only be at greater risk.

2018-2019 – The cost of climate inaction on lives, jobs and economic growth:

During the past 20 years, there has been a 53.7% increase in heat-related mortality in people older than 65 years, reaching a total of 296,000 deaths in 2018.

The high cost in terms of human lives and suffering is associated with effects on economic output, with 302 billion hours of potential labour capacity lost in 2019.

India and Indonesia were among the worst-affected countries (in 2019), seeing losses of potential labour capacity equivalent to 4–6% of their annual gross domestic product.

(The Lancet, Countdown on health and climate change, 2020).

The Covid-19 pandemic has taught us that we need to take much better care of nature. The devastating spread of zoonotic diseases was made possible by the devastation of our biodiversity and industrial agriculture practises. The pandemic has shown that we need to tackle the closely linked crises of inequality, biodiversity devastation and climate change in a coherent way. Integrating biodiversity protection will be crucial if we are serious about avoiding the same mistakes that lead to the global pandemic.

Without **'social justice'** and a New Social Contract, we cannot build trust in the vital industrial transition critical to stabilise the planet.

The global labour movement has climate policies at the centre of a vision for a fairer, more resilient society for all, reflected in our five demands for a New Social Contract:

1. Creation of climate-friendly jobs with Just Transition. Job-creating industrial transformation plans are needed to achieve net-zero carbon emissions, along with jobs in health, education, care and other quality public services.

2. Rights for all workers, regardless of their employment arrangements, to fulfil the promise of [the ILO Centenary Declaration](#) with its labour protection floor including rights, maximum working hours, living minimum wages and health and safety at work.
3. Universal social protection that underpins a Just Transition and builds resilience; establishment of a Global [Social Protection Fund](#) to build social protection systems for the poorest countries.
4. Equality. End all discrimination due to income, race or gender, to ensure that all people can share in prosperity; the appalling concentration of wealth in the hands of a few at the expense of the many must be undone.
5. Inclusion. No one will be left behind. A new economic model and a new model of development must ensure inclusion.

COP26 must guarantee public safety and equitable participation

Public safety.

The safety of the participants, people in the UK and in the countries that send participants to the COP is central to the delivery of the event in Glasgow.

Urgency of negotiations.

The climate emergency does not allow for any further delay in action. The commitments in the Paris Agreement have to be turned into real action. The 2021 COP is a critical moment to demand that policymakers are accountable for what they promised.

Equitable participation.

Any pandemic-motivated decisions to organise the conference in a (partly) digital way need to take into account the equitable participation of all parties and non-party stakeholders and observers. All parties, including the most vulnerable and civil society, should have their rightful voice at the COP. Attention to time zones and communication needs must be considered to make this possible. Transparency and open negotiations will ensure the fairness and ambition of the COP process.

Trade union demands for COP26

COP26 in Glasgow must deliver on the needs of the world and make major steps forward with implementing ambitious climate policies. 2021 is the year for governments to align climate, economic, social and labour demands. With the US government back at the table, we need a renewed energy by all governments in multilateral cooperation, the only way to tackle the climate emergency effectively and efficiently.

1. Climate ambition with Just Transition: raise climate ambition with Just Transition policies and measures in enhanced NDCs.

Countries must increase their ambition, setting new, stronger NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions). Wealthy countries must substantially increase their climate finance contributions for developing countries in order to enable a change of course, putting the world on track to holding temperature increases to 1.5°C. Putting Just Transition at the heart of all climate policies is the only way to raise ambition. Investing in climate action can deliver good jobs and livelihoods for everyone. This requires:

- ALL countries to introduce Just Transition measures and policies in their national climate plans (NDCs). Countries that have not done so should do it now and engage with unions in the preparation of the revised NDC. The ILO Just Transition Guidelines continue to be a framework to help governments, social partners and stakeholders in this work. Countries that have included Just Transition measures should implement them, guided by effective social dialogue processes. Find out how the NDCs rate for ambition, Just Transition policies and social dialogue: <https://www.ituc-csi.org/scorecards-2020-ndcs>
- COP26 must recognise that climate justice and social justice are linked through the SDGs and that global solidarity through finance and technology sharing is backed by universal social protection to build resilience against future global shocks. The pandemic has made this evident, including the ever-growing inequality between the Global North and South. COP26 cannot ignore the systemic flaws of our current economic model, which jeopardises any effective climate policy.

2. Human and labour rights: implement inclusive climate policies that respect and promote human and labour rights.

Labour rights are human rights. They are central to our Just Transition demands and need to be integrated in all aspects of the UNFCCC negotiations. Dealing with the climate emergency is an opportunity to create good and decent jobs. This means that policymakers not only need to talk about the jobs that will be created, but they need to also engage in dialogue with the organisations that represent workers in order to guarantee that all labour rights are respected and decent work opportunities are created. Employment plans need to be a foundation of climate plans.

The respect and promotion of labour and human rights is particularly relevant for the negotiations on NDCs, Article 6 (dealing with carbon markets and non-market approaches), climate finance, loss and damage and on adaptation. All these items should contain explicit reference to the respect of labour and human rights.

The global trade union movement supports the Gender Action Plan, agreed at COP25, which aims to advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action. The work of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) also has our support. When taking action to address climate change, the respective obligations on, *inter alia*, the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities should be respected, promoted and considered.

3. Climate finance: provide climate finance to decarbonise the global South.

At the 2009 Copenhagen climate negotiations, developed nations committed to provide “*scaled up, new and additional, predictable and adequate funding*” to meet “*a goal of mobilizing jointly US\$100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries*”. In December 2020, the Independent Expert Group on Climate Finance, mandated by the UN Secretary-General, concluded that the US\$100 billion goal for climate finance for developing countries will not be met in 2020 (based on currently available data). Significant extra effort by rich countries is needed, and more support needs to go to climate adaptation, as most finance is currently directed to mitigation projects. Countries need to agree on a comprehensive and effective loss and damage financing instrument. Finally, there is an urgent need to impose strict climate finance criteria that guarantee that financial support is additional and with no strings attached. The tendency to more and more ‘blended’ finance (less grants and more loans) needs to be stopped.

4. Industry policy and investment: implement strong industrial policies and investment plans underpinning the transition to zero-emission economies.

Hard-to-abate industry sectors, such as steel, aluminium, cement, chemicals, aviation, shipping and trucking, are responsible for nearly one-third of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. They have a vital role to play in meeting the Paris Agreement objective of limiting global warming to well below 2°C. Industry transition roadmaps need to guide the process of decarbonisation in all countries and sectors. Good social dialogue processes are crucial to helping workers, employers, governments and other stakeholders manage change through the planning and implementation of Just Transition measures.

Climate change is on the investor agenda. In 2020, 2,097 investors with US\$97 trillion in assets completed the climate disclosure and reporting criteria of the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). Other investor initiatives are stepping up pressure on the largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters. Still, more pressure is needed to ensure that all investments are climate friendly. These policies have to be accompanied by thorough Just Transition plans and measures by the companies and in the sectors involved.

All industry and investment plans should be 100% climate proof. Governments have to provide a framework for investments in breakthrough technologies such as hydrogen, batteries and others. No industry and investment plans should contain net-zero loopholes. ‘Not-zero’ plans risk locking in fossil fuel technologies through inappropriate use of CCS (carbon capture and storage), CCU (carbon capture and use) and BECCS (bioenergy with carbon capture and storage). Negative emission technologies involving carbon capture will be necessary to stabilise the climate. However, they should only be implemented in hard-to-abate sectors and not serve to prolong the life of fossil fuel technologies. Hydrogen technologies should be assessed on their effective contribution to the Paris Agreement climate goals to achieve a climate-neutral world by mid-century.

Carbon capture projects should not put a burden on the Global South through practices of land grabbing for BECCS. The same reserves need to be put against ‘nature based solutions’ that are implemented as carbon-offsetting projects. The global labour movement welcomes genuine

nature based solutions that combine climate with biodiversity protection (such as mangrove restoration). These projects are opportunities to create good and decent green jobs.

Unions mobilising for climate ambition

- Expose the global gaps in NDCs by sharing ITUC’s global analysis of NDCs on Earth Day (22 April).
- Track your government’s commitments to climate ambition, Just Transition and social dialogue in its enhanced NDC! Demand amendments to NDCs and national plans where there are gaps.
- Organise, organise, organise! Ask union representatives to speak to members about climate action and Just Transition. Set up company Just Transition plans in works councils and make Just Transition collective bargaining deals at the company, sectoral and national level.
- Take part in the annual ‘Climate and Employment-Proof Our Work’ (CEPOW) day of action on 22 September 2021, with workplace meetings to demand action plans.
- Establish contacts with your government on the preparation for COP26 and share the trade union demands for COP26.
- Get ready to be part of COP26, with a virtual or physical presence in Glasgow in November 2021.

Key dates

April – June	Regional consultations on ITUC COP26 Demands (Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia)
22 April	Earth Day – ITUC Call to Action on governments falling behind on NDC and Just Transition
June	SB52 UNFCCC Intersessional (virtual)
July - August	CEPOW training of activists
22 September	Global CEPOW Day of Action
30 September - 2 October	Pre-COP Milan (virtual?)
1 – 12 November	COP26 Glasgow (virtual?)