

In session workshop Forum on response measures

Just Transition: ITUC Presentation June 2013

(g) Just transition of the workforce, and the creation of decent work and quality jobs



Just Transition within the UNFCCC

1. The rationale for a Just Transition of the workforce
2. Components of a Just Transition
3. What can be done internationally by the UNFCCC



Remember Copenhagen.....



Background: ITUC's work on response measures

- Transition to a low carbon economy will bring major transformations to the world of work.
- These transformations bring both challenges and opportunities, but not necessarily at the same time or place, nor affect the same people.
- Need to support a Just Transition: recognized by 1/CP16: policy interventions supporting workers and communities in the transition to new jobs, or transformation of traditional roles.
- To facilitate the transition, the trade union movement has been working on building the capacity of workers and trade union organisations.



Rationale for a Just Transition

A shared vision

- Takes into account jobs, decent work and equity.
- Links climate change mitigation and employment.
- Response measures create job opportunities in new sectors, but challenge traditional and energy intensive industries.
- So the spirit of CP/16 – all Parties commit under the “Shared Vision” section to a Just Transition, further developed under response measures, is so important: a clear message of understanding to working families that the transformation, if well managed, can meet the needs of working people, through decent and good quality jobs.



Questions to address in securing a Just Transition

- How will we ensure that jobs arising from climate investments are good quality/decent jobs?
- How will we support workers and their families in the transition?
- What is the role of governments and international institutions (UNEP, ILO) in securing a Just Transition?
- What can the UNFCCC and a more developed climate regime do to foster its implementation?



Understanding a Just Transition

“Just Transition” can be understood as the conceptual framework in which the labour movement captures the complexities of the transition towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, encapsulating public policy needs, so as to maximise the benefits and minimise the hardships for workers and their communities in this transition.



6 key components of Just Transition

1. Sound investments
2. Research and assess impacts of emission reduction scenarios.
3. Social dialogue
4. Training and skills
5. Social protection
6. Local analysis and economic diversification

UNFCCC: What can be done internationally?

Many policies will be applied nationally BUT UNFCCC can play a role in:

- Sharing best practice on **anticipating** impacts
- **Planning &** Identification of successful policies
- Assess financial needs
- Establish dialogue with stakeholders to collect good practices
- Build bridges with ILO discussion on JT – report back in November?



Conclusion

- Just Transition: citizens' fears addressed.
- Building support for more ambitious climate action

Resources

- *CLIMATE CHANGE: its consequences on employment and trade union action*, Sustain Labour/ UNEP, 2011:
<http://www.sustainlabour.org/documentos/ClimateChangeGuideENlq.pdf>
- Anabella Rosemberg, *Building a Just Transition: the linkages between climate change and employment*, International Journal of Labour Research, 2010, Vol. 2, Issue 2, 2011.
- *Greenworkplaces Guide, 2012*
http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf/ETUC_greenworkplaces_guide_GB_.pdf

Thank you!
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