

# **G77 AND CHINA PRESENTATION: FORUM ON THE IMPACT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESPONSE MEASURES**

**Views of the G77 and China on Area (g):  
*Just Transition of the workforce and the creation  
of decent work and quality jobs***

**Bonn, ·38th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies**

**5 June 2013**

# Dec. 8.CP/17 -Area (g)

## General context

- This matter has to be seen in the **broader context** of the achievement of **sustainable development**, in accordance with **nationally defined priorities**.
- The results of **Rio + 20** should be taken into account, in particular the affirmation that **poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge** facing the world today (par.2 of the Rio + 20 outcome document). Also, that outcome document recognised “the **importance of a just transition**, including programmes to help workers to adjust to changing labour market conditions” (par 152).

## General context: Some relevant UNFCCC provisions and principles

- Preamble par. 21: “... responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with a view to avoiding adverse impacts on the latter, taking into full account the legitimate priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty”
- Article 3.4: “The Parties have a right to, and should, promote sustainable development. Policies and measures to protect the climate system ... should be appropriate for the specific conditions of each Party and should be integrated with national development programmes, taking into account that economic development is essential for adopting measures to address climate change”

## General context: Some relevant UNFCCC provisions and principles (cted.)

- Article 3.5: “Parties should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to sustainable economic growth and development in all Parties, particularly developing country Parties... Measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade”
- Article 4.7: “... economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country Parties”

# General context: Some relevant UNFCCC provisions and principles (cted.)

- Article 4.8: “... give full consideration to what actions are necessary ... to meet the **specific needs and concerns** of **developing country Parties** arising from... the impact of the implementation of response measures...”
- Articles 2. 3 of KP: “The Parties included in Annex I **shall strive to implement policies and measures**... in such a way as to **minimize adverse effects**, including the ... **effects on international trade**, and social, environmental and economic **impacts** on other Parties, especially **developing country Parties** and in particular those identified in **Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9**, of the Convention, taking into account **Article 3** of the Convention...”
- Article 3.14 of KP: The COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol shall consider **what actions are necessary to minimize the adverse impacts of response measures on developing country Parties**. Among the issues to be considered shall be the establishment of **funding, insurance and transfer of technology**.

Previous COP decisions: From **Cancun onwards**, the **just transition** has been included, as follows:

- **Decision 1.CP /16** (just transition included both in **shared vision** and **response measures**): “Recognizing the importance of avoiding or minimizing negative impacts of response measures on social and economic sectors, promoting a **just transition** of the workforce, the **creation of decent work** and quality jobs in accordance with **nationally defined development priorities** and strategies...”
- **Decision 2.CP/17** (**response measures**): “Urges Parties in implementing their policies and measures **to promote a just transition** of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities and strategies”
- **Decision 1.CP/18**: Reaffirms **same content** of decision 1.CP/16

## Workforce as a **vulnerable sector** to response measures due to the following **challenges**:

- **Adverse effects of climate change** will impact **employment** (e.g.: agriculture productivity will be diminished and jobs affected; infrastructure and industry will also be impacted)
- The **transition towards sustainable development** will imply **social consequences for the workforce** that will lose jobs in the context of economic transformation in developing countries.



# Workforce as a **vulnerable sector** to response measures due to the following **challenges** (ctd)

- There are **risks of job losses and impacts**, related to **specific vulnerabilities of the workforce to the economic transformation** and to the **negative economic and social consequences** of response measures.
- **Barriers implemented by developed countries** –such as agriculture subsidies, standards and tariffs- could **hinder economic and social development** and poverty eradication in developing countries and, therefore, **affect the workforce** in those countries.



- The workforce in developing countries is among the **most vulnerable social groups** due to the **rapid growth of a young population** in those countries, and the **need to ensure** that population a decent **work**.
- This will require **education programs** to enable young population to enter the labour market.

# WHAT ACTIONS ARE NEEDED?

- There is a need to minimize hardships for workers ensuring them the continuation of their employment and building capacities for their integration in the context of structural transformation derived from action related to climate change.
- Public policies are instrumental in addressing the needs of workers, in accordance with nationally defined development priorities, circumstances and conditions.

# WHAT ACTIONS ARE NEEDED? (CTED.)

- It is important to consider developing mechanisms for a just transition and creation of decent work through a consultation process involving the relevant stakeholders (public and private sector, trade unions, and other civil society actors, among others).
- There will be “no one-size fits all solution”. It should be a country-led process. Rio + 20: “We affirm that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions which is our overarching goal...” (par.56).

# WHAT ACTIONS ARE NEEDED? (CTED.)

- In addition, there is a need for developed countries to undertake an assessment in the design and implementation of their response measures, including unilateral ones, of the economic and social consequences of those measures on developing countries.
- This assessment should be done in terms of the impact of the response measures taken by developed countries on, inter alia, employment, income, economic growth rates, and living standards in developing countries.

# WHAT ACTIONS ARE NEEDED (CTED.)

- This assessment needs to be undertaken both in quantitative and qualitative terms and must take into account the specific national conditions of developing countries and their priorities, needs and circumstances.
- This would be done in the context of the obligations of developed countries to striving to avoid and minimize the negative economic and social consequences of their response measures on developing countries.

# WHAT ACTIONS ARE NEEDED? (CTED.)

Moreover, the fulfillment of the obligations of developed countries of provision of financial resources, including for transfer of technologies and capacity building for developing countries, is also important to ensuring support for workers that may be affected by social and economic consequences of response measures.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!