

## Trade Unions' Topline Demands for COP24



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### Raise ambition with Just Transition

Unions want decent jobs on a living planet. Building trust through the guarantees of Just Transition measures will make it possible for governments to raise ambition. This should be reflected in the Paris Rulebook, the implementing guidelines that must be the result of COP24.

2

### Sign the "Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration"

Governments need to commit to the Polish government initiative – the Silesia Declaration – to drive agreement on a Just Transition for workers and the creation of decent work and quality jobs.

3

### Commit to finance for low-carbon development, support the most vulnerable

Adequate climate finance is the cornerstone of effective climate policy. It is needed to realise the low-carbon transition in the global north and to put the global south on a low-carbon development path. Governments must live up to their promise to mobilise USD 100 billion annually by 2020.

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# 1. Foreword

## Not taking up the climate challenge at COP24 puts humanity at risk

2018 will be remembered as the year that climate warning hit the northern hemisphere. While workers and their families in Africa and Asia have been suffering from high temperatures, droughts, fires, floods and changing seasons for many years, this year the north has also been affected by extreme weather. Temperature records have been set in Taiwan, Europe, Canada and the US. Heat strokes have killed many people including in Japan, South Korea and Greece. Workers in construction, agriculture and transport sectors have suffered and even died from work in these conditions.<sup>1,2</sup>

Scientists are again raising the alarm. A domino-like cascade of melting ice, warming seas, shifting currents and dying forests could tilt the earth into a “hothouse” state beyond which human efforts to reduce emissions will be increasingly futile.<sup>3</sup> Scientists also insist that it is not too late and that measures to rapidly end greenhouse gas emissions are available but need to be implemented. We also have to start to take adaptation measures much more seriously.

The Paris Agreement set the climate objectives; “holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels”. The IPCC special report on 1.5°C has made it clear that we have to bring global emissions to net-zero as soon as possible. COP24 has to deliver now with a Paris Rulebook. These negotiations are critical to ensure that the promises made in the Paris Agreement will be met. These rules must frame ambition and solidarity including ecosystem integrity along with the commitment of governments to respect, protect, and take into consideration existing human rights obligations, including the rights of indigenous peoples, public participation, gender equality, food security and Just Transition.

### FAST FACT

In 2017, climate-related disasters were responsible for thousands of deaths and USD 320 billion dollars in losses.<sup>4</sup>

The COP in Katowice, in the Silesia region, the heartland of coal mining in Poland, is a symbolic place for all workers worldwide to see that governments take climate change seriously. We are convinced that a Just Transition and decent work for all are key to unlocking urgently needed ambition in climate policies. Taking good care of the impact on workers’ lives, livelihoods, communities and families will make it possible for ambitious measures to be taken.

Governments can show this commitment by signing onto the **Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration**.

The union movement worldwide has proposed a text, and the Polish government has now adopted this initiative. We must lobby governments to sign up to this declaration. It will strengthen trust and confidence that governments will invest in social dialogue and include the measures to ensure no one is left behind.

### FAST FACT

The last 19 years included 18 of the warmest years on record.<sup>5</sup>

Some governments, cities and industries are rising to the challenge and are managing change through partnerships around Just Transition, but it’s not enough. Equally, the finance commitments that make

these measures possible, along with the plans for mitigation and adaptation of developing economies and the most vulnerable nations, must be respected. It will take all of us.

Unions are committed to build jobs and decent work on a living planet.

**Sharan Burrow, General-Secretary,  
International Trade Union Confederation**

## Case Study

# Responding to Hurricane Maria – Unions deliver life-saving, Sesame Solar Nanogrid Disaster Recovery Office to Dominica

Hurricane Maria was one of the worst disasters to affect Dominica and Puerto Rico. Over three thousand people lost their lives. In Dominica, 85 per cent of the island's houses were damaged, and more than 50,000 of the island's 73,000 residents were displaced.

Through a collaborative effort between Sesame Solar, the ITUC and its affiliate WAWU Dominica, SimpliPhi Power, OutBack Power, the ITF and its affiliate the Teamsters' union (IBT) and DHL Global, a Sesame Solar turnkey, containerised, off-grid, solar-powered Nanogrid Disaster Recovery Office was delivered in June 2018 to Dominica for installation at Princess Margaret Hospital to help the island continue to rebuild after Hurricane Maria and prepare for the 2018 hurricane season.<sup>6</sup> Transportation of the unit from Sesame Solar in Michigan to Dominica was donated by DHL Global Forwarding and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

“When Hurricane Maria hit the Caribbean, I was glued to my television. As a manufacturer of off-grid, Solar Nanogrid Solutions that work ‘inside the box’, I knew we were in a unique position to make a meaningful

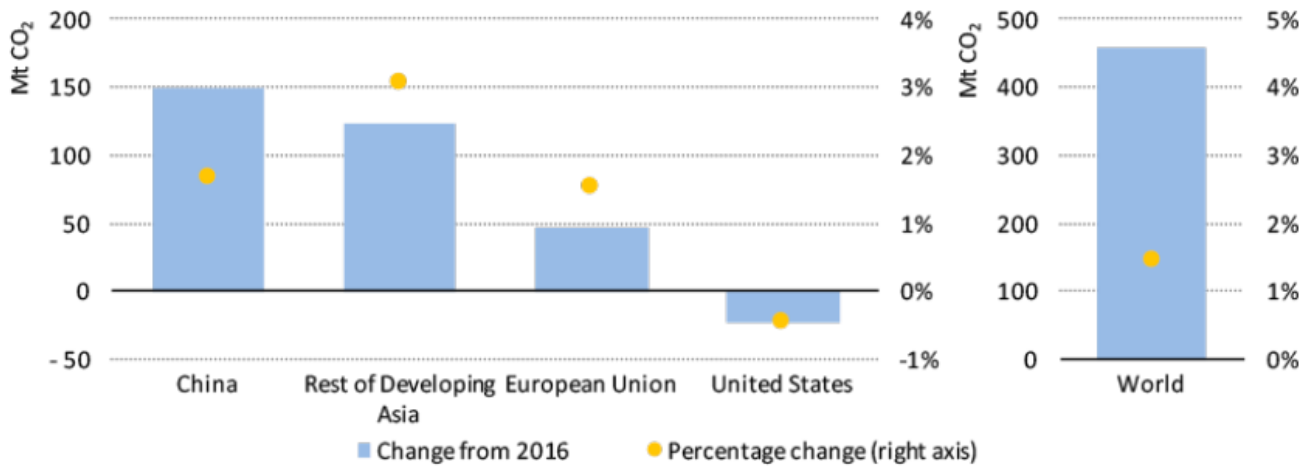
contribution to disaster recovery,” recalls Sesame Solar Board Chair Lauren Flanagan. The Nanogrid Disaster Recovery Office will be of tremendous help to the people of Dominica and will contribute to the country's objective of becoming the first truly climate-resilient country in the world.



## FAST FACT – Emissions rose in 2017 to historic levels.<sup>7</sup>

The growth in energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in 2017 is a strong warning for global efforts to combat climate change, and demonstrates that current efforts are insufficient to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Change in energy-related carbon dioxide emissions by selected region, 2017



# 2. Leave no one behind – A Just Transition is the key to unlocking climate ambition

The urgency to tackle climate change is building year by year. Climate change is affecting workers, their families and communities. Heat records were beaten in all regions in the last year, and heat stress is affecting economies.

This year's flagship report of the International Labour Organization 'Greening with jobs – World Employment and Social Outlook 2018' analysed the implications of implementing the Paris Agreement on jobs. The ILO calculated that even under a 1.5° C scenario, up to five per cent of working hours could be lost due to heat stress in 2030 in Southern Asia and Western Africa.<sup>8</sup>

Climate change is leading to massive displacement of people.<sup>9</sup> A World Bank report projects that without concrete climate and development action, just over 143 million people – or around 2.8 per cent of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America – could be forced to move within their own countries to escape the slow-onset impacts of climate change.

The poorest and most climate-vulnerable regions will be hardest hit by heat stress and displacement of people.

We need more effective climate policies and more ambition from governments. Through Just Transition measures, we can address the impact of climate change on workers and their communities and transition to a zero-carbon, zero-poverty future. Governments must put in place policies to mitigate the impact of climate change, provide necessary adaptation for communities and compensate for loss and damage already experienced.

Just Transition can drive community support and government ambition.

## Just Transition Explained

“Just Transition” is the name of a comprehensive and broad strategy put forward by the global trade union movement to protect those whose jobs, incomes and livelihoods are at risk because of climate policies. It's about realising the shift towards a more sustainable society, a future where all jobs are green and decent, emissions are at net zero, poverty is eradicated and communities are thriving and resilient. It is about support for workers and communities negatively impacted, and about jobs and training, to ensure decent and good quality jobs.

Effective Just Transition policies need a social dialogue process between governments, employers, workers and their unions to develop plans and measures that will build trust and drive effective transformation. It's about workers and their unions having a seat at the table to negotiate their future. This dialogue can include other partners and stakeholders, such as communities and regions, in order to have support from all sections of society to realise Just Transition measures and policies.

The Just Transition Centre has documented good Just Transition practices and assisted unions and other organisations in many countries. Information can be found on the website: [www.justtransitioncentre.org](http://www.justtransitioncentre.org)

### FAST FACT – Cost of climate

**A green economy could reap USD 26 trillion by 2030 and create 65 million new low-carbon jobs.<sup>11</sup>**

### FAST FACT

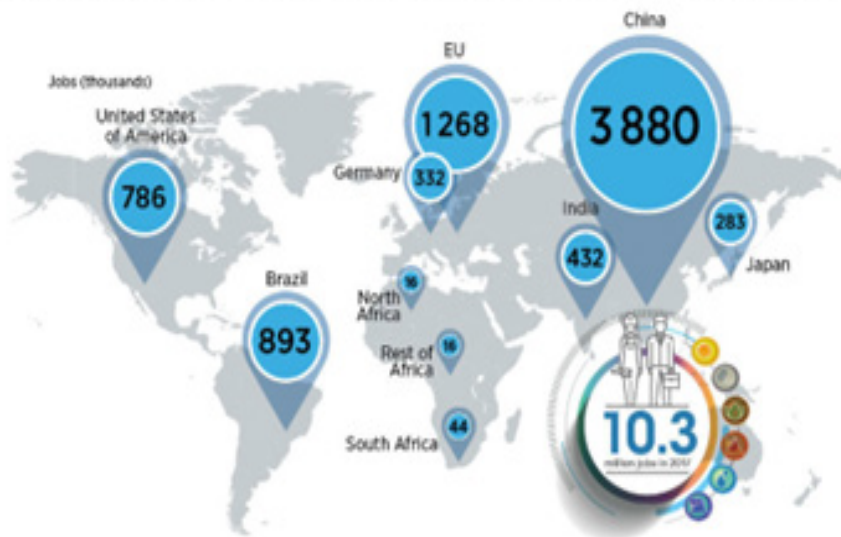
**Seven hundred thousand premature deaths from air pollution could be avoided by 2030 by shifting to a low-carbon economy compared with business as usual.<sup>10</sup>**

## FAST FACT

The renewable energy sector employs 10.3 million people, with most jobs in Asia.<sup>12</sup>

Renewable Energy and Jobs  
Annual Review 2018

IRENA  
International Renewable Energy Agency



THE WORLD BANK GROUP

Photo: World bank

# 3. Trade union demands for COP24

## i. Raise ambition with Just Transition

“Hothouse Earth” is facing us if governments fail to raise and realise ambition. On today’s trajectory, we will not meet the terms of the Paris Agreement.

In order to have a chance to stay within the 2°C limit, and reach the internationally agreed 1.5°C objective, emissions should be reduced to net-zero as soon as possible, and no later than between 2055 and 2070.

COP24 has to establish implementing guidelines, the Paris Rulebook, that operationalise the 2015 Paris Agreement. These rules must provide for climate ambition in terms of mitigation and adaptation policies by all countries, support developed countries to honour their climate finance commitments and provide transparency and accountability mechanisms that make the Paris agreement work. The conclusions of the Talanoa Dialogue and especially the IPCC 1.5°C report are a strong signal for the need of more climate ambition. The Rulebook must be robust and effective so that it guides the parties with the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Unions want decent jobs on a living planet. Building trust through the guarantees of Just Transition measures will make it possible for governments to raise ambition. This should be reflected in the Paris Rulebook.

## ii. Sign the “Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration”

Unions advocated for a ministerial declaration in which countries commit to the “imperatives of a Just Transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities” as decided in the Paris Agreement.

The Polish government, presiding over COP24, has presented a Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration that has the possibility to capture this ambition.

Parties need to commit to the Polish government initiative – the Silesia Declaration – to drive agreement

on a Just Transition for workers and the creation of decent work and quality jobs. This means job creation, poverty reduction, skills development, employment support, social protection, sustainable development and community renewal have to be taken into consideration in the preparation and implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies.

Governments should do this through a representative process of social dialogue involving unions, employers and other civil society partners to ensure the rights, employment impacts and well-being of workers and their communities during the process.

## iii. Commit to finance for low-carbon development, support the most vulnerable

Adequate climate finance is the cornerstone to effective climate policy. It is needed to realise the low-carbon transition in the global north and south. It is essential to support the global south on a low-carbon development path. Governments have to live up to their promise to mobilise USD 100 billion annually by 2020. Climate finance is imperative for developing low-emission and climate-resilient development strategies and adaptation planning processes that create quality jobs.

## In addition, governments negotiating at COP24 must commit to the following:

- Develop a Just Transition work programme inside the UNFCCC and in collaboration with other institutions such as the ILO to collect and analyse good practices and to give guidance to parties on the social and employment aspects of climate policies.
- Maintain Just Transition for workers as a permanent theme within the forum on Response Measures under the Paris Agreement.
- Recognise the Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration in the COP outcome providing a high-level political space to maintain the commitment to Just Transition and solidarity.



- End the shameful mismanagement of the Green Climate Fund. New financial means have to be committed including replenishment of the Fund that shows that countries take equity in climate policy seriously. For developing countries, predictability is a major issue.
- Secure funding commitments for Just Transition projects under the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

## New Just Transition Resources: European Trade Union Confederation – Establishing Just Transition in National Climate Strategies

To assist unions to take an active role in the design and implementation of national climate strategies, the ETUC has prepared “*A guide for trade unions: Involving trade unions in climate action to build a Just Transition*”.





The Just Transition Centre was established in 2016 by the ITUC and ETUC. The Centre brings together workers and their unions, communities, businesses and governments in social dialogue to ensure that labour has a seat at the table when planning for a Just Transition to a low-carbon world.

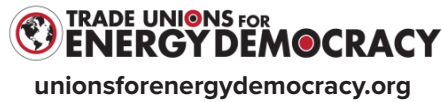
### **Canada's unions help shape a Just Transition for coal workers**

Canada's unions are actively participating in the federal government's task force on Just Transition for coal workers. The Just Transition Task Force for Canadian Coal-Power Workers and Communities has been set up to draft a plan to support affected workers and communities as Canada moves to phase out coal-fired power. The Just Transition Centre has organised workshops in Canada to contribute to the debate and help realise the ambitions of the national unions.

### **Just Transition: A business guide**

To assist companies in implementing a Just Transition, the B Team and the Just Transition Centre published *Just Transition: A Business Guide*. This guidance contains operational advice and tactics, several case studies and analysis of the risks and opportunities of climate action on a company's workforce. It provides ways for companies to engage with workers, unions and governments that are constructive to a clean-energy economy that benefits all.





TUED is a global, multi-sector initiative to advance democratic direction and control of energy in a way that promotes solutions to the climate crisis, energy poverty, the degradation of both land and people, and responds to the attacks on workers' rights and protections. Unions representing 560,000 members have joined so far this year, with others actively deliberating. Today the project consists of 64 union bodies from 24 countries.

- Regional and national expressions of TUED are taking shape in the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, South Africa and Latin America.
- TUED's research and analysis continue to have an impact on trade union debates and policy.
- Partnerships and collaborations with policy allies and movement-based NGOs are moving forward. TUED is playing an increasingly significant role in building a global energy democracy movement.



**COP 24 • KATOWICE**

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

**2018**

## Where to find the Trade unions @ COP24

### **Inside the UNFCCC conference halls:**

- Every day, 9:00 – 10:00 Trade union meeting  
(check screens under TUNGO for meeting room)

### **- TUNGO office**

(within the “constituency offices” space)

## Endnotes

- 1 <https://climate.copernicus.eu/resources/data-analysis/average-surface-air-temperature-analysis/monthly-maps/surface-air-11> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-44779367>
- 2 <https://www.ishn.com/articles/108983-usps-worker-dies-heat-suspected> and <https://www.vox.com/2018/7/27/17611940/heat-wave-2018-cost-workers-deaths-health-climate-change> and <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/07/19/national/tokyo-emergency-personnel-respond-record-number-calls-amid-heat-wave/#.W2lmSCgzZaS> and <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2018/07/30/editorials/feeling-heat-climate-change/#.W2lm4igzZaQ>
- 3 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/06/domino-effect-of-climate-events-could-push-earth-into-a-hothouse-state>
- 4 <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-09-05/secretary-generals-remarks-launch-new-climate-economy-report>
- 5 <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-09-05/secretary-generals-remarks-launch-new-climate-economy-report>
- 6 <https://www.ituc-csi.org/life-saving-sesame-solar-nanogrid>
- 7 <http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/GECO2017.pdf>
- 8 ILO, World Employment and Social Outlook 2018: Greening with jobs, 2018, figure 1.9.
- 9 <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/verisk%20index.pdf>
- 10 [https://newclimateeconomy.report/2018/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/09/NCE\\_2018Report\\_ExecutiveSummary.pdf](https://newclimateeconomy.report/2018/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/09/NCE_2018Report_ExecutiveSummary.pdf)
- 11 [https://newclimateeconomy.report/2018/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/09/NCE\\_2018Report\\_ExecutiveSummary.pdf](https://newclimateeconomy.report/2018/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/09/NCE_2018Report_ExecutiveSummary.pdf)
- 12 <http://irena.org/newsroom/pressreleases/2018/May/Renewable-Energy-Jobs-Reach-10-Million-Worldwide-in-2017>

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