



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



International
Labour
Organization



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Call to Action for Fostering Social Dialogue for a Just Transition to a Resilient Low-Carbon Economy

This Call to Action is signed at the occasion of the 1st Hamburg Sustainability Conference in Hamburg, Germany, on the 7th of October 2024.¹

Unmitigated climate change can cost human lives, undermine jobs and enterprises, reduce productivity, and threaten workers' rights and health. Some of the world's regions most affected by climate change are often the least equipped to adapt to its effects. Climate action can generate sustainable growth and employment opportunities and foster social inclusion, but in the absence of coherent policies, it can also pose challenges in terms of job losses, skill mismatches, inequalities, and potential business closures.

Promoting a just transition is a crucial enabler of sustainable development and climate ambition and needs to be placed at the centre of climate action. Just transition involves maximizing the social and economic opportunities of climate and environmental action, including an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises and decent work, while minimizing and carefully managing challenges. The complexity of a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all is also compounded by the implications of technological change and demographic shifts.

Many countries are in the process of strengthening governance structures and creating adequate mechanisms to guide policy and investment decisions towards a just transition to a low-carbon resilient and job-rich economy. Meaningful social dialogue, including collective bargaining and tripartite cooperation,² is an essential tool in addressing opportunities and challenges related to climate change and the effects of the green transition as it helps to build broad-based consensus and to enhance the positive economic and social impact of climate policies, while promoting decent work and social cohesion.

Incorporating just transition with social dialogue provisions and in line with national contexts and priorities in countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Adaptation Plans (NAP) and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), is a must and therefore a key step to support equitable climate action.

¹ The "Call to Action" was initiated by a co-creation team around Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development.

² <https://www.ilo.org/resource/social-dialogue-0>

1) Objective

This Call to Action aims to scale up international cooperation in support of a just transition to a resilient low-carbon economy worldwide in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goal 8 on decent work world-wide³ and Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action⁴. It is in accordance with international frameworks, in particular the Paris Agreement, the International Labour Organization's (ILO) "Resolution concerning a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all"⁵, the ILO's "Guidelines for a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All" as well as the German development cooperation's "Agenda for Decent Work Worldwide"⁶ and other relevant agendas, priorities and initiatives. Its implementation will follow the principles set out in such frameworks and be based on national contexts and priorities, while building on and ensuring coherence with existing ongoing work, including lessons and experiences from UN and international climate change processes, and making links with other relevant initiatives.

This Call to Action invites governments, workers' organizations, employers' organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to step up efforts to cooperate in promoting social dialogue worldwide through alliance building and concrete measures to accelerate a just transition in all countries and support sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions.

2) Priorities for joint action

- Leveraging alliances among social partners and beyond to support and enhance their engagement for a just transition on all levels, fostering innovative solutions through collaboration and knowledge sharing.
- Promoting social dialogue as an important tool for sustainable development, economic resilience, regional value creation, social cohesion, and decent work in accordance with the relevant International Labour Standards (ILS) and in a way that is inclusive, by creating decent work opportunities, reducing inequality and by leaving no one behind.
- Enabling effective representation of all social partners in transformation processes, including their involvement in local, sectoral, national and transnational networks and partnership formats by:
 - o Strengthening the perspective of workers and employers in just transition through the dissemination and scaling up of best practices from advisory, research, networking and training activities.
 - o Recognizing and ensuring a rights-based approach for workers and their unions in implementing a just transition through capacity building and active participation in climate policies and NDC reviews. This includes strengthening trade union's capacities in social dialogue and to support their members in the transition to sustainable economies, anticipating and shaping training and education for the jobs market of the future and promoting robust and sustainable social security systems.

³ "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all".

⁴ "Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity towards climate change-related disasters and integrating climate change measures into policies and planning while building knowledge and capacity".

⁵ <https://www.ilo.org/resource/ilc/111/resolution-concerning-just-transition-towards-environmentally-sustainable>

⁶ <https://www.publikationen-bundesregierung.de/pp-de/publikationssuche/bmz-agenda-2255798>

- Strengthening the capacity of Employer and Business Membership Organizations (EBMOs) in social dialogue and to support their members in the transition to sustainable economies, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, active participation in NDC reviews, and the promotion of an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises.
- Promoting the development and implementation of strategies and policies to strengthen social dialogue and just transition at the international, national and other appropriate levels, including by:
 - Assisting the integration of decent work and just transition in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement through social dialogue, for example with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – ILO project “Social Partners as Agents for Just Transition. Powering the 2025 Round of NDCs with Decent Work and Just Transition” (Launch HSC 2024).
 - Supporting consultations and expert dialogues on social dialogue and just transition, including through the “NDC Partnership”⁷.
 - Developing gender responsive, inclusive, integrated and coherent just transition frameworks and instruments that are coordinated with relevant economic, social and environmental policies in consultation with the social partners.
- Supporting engagement in multilateral and regional processes and platforms such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and related agreements, the G7, the G20 and other UN initiatives that advance a just transition worldwide, including the the ILO-led Global Coalition for Social Justice, UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, the ILO Climate Action for Jobs initiative as well as other ongoing initiatives in relation to just transition or climate action.

3) Coordination of the Call to Action

In order to facilitate the inclusion of workers’ and employers’ organizations and all other relevant stakeholders, and promote just transition and social dialogue, the supporters of this Call to Action intend to consult regularly on relevant activities and progress made in achieving the abovementioned priorities for joint action. Going forward, supporters of this Call to Action will look to existing national and international platforms, such as the Climate Action for Jobs initiative, to advance common goals and share achieved results and lessons learnt.

4) Status

Whereas this Call to Action is not legally binding and subject to supporters’ available resources, it seeks to catalyse significant change. It may be adapted by mutual consent in writing as its supporters respond to emerging challenges. Supporters may end their cooperation under this Call to Action in writing.

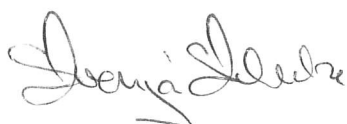
This call is open to endorsement by international organizations, governments and other relevant public institutions, and international or national employers’ or worker’s organizations.

⁷ <https://ndcpartnership.org/> (Germany, Brazil and South Africa are members)

Interested stakeholders may contact ILO or BMZ to make themselves known.

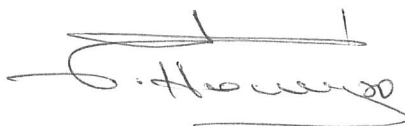
Signed in Hamburg on the 7th of October 2024 in the English language.

For the Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development of the Federal
Republic of Germany (BMZ)



Svenja Schulze
Federal Minister

For the International Labour
Organization (ILO)

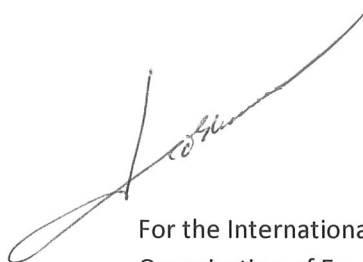


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