



Statement of Renewed Commitment on Trade Union Climate Action

1. The 4th Ordinary Congress of the ITUC-Africa, taking place in Abuja from 20-22 November, 2019, reflected on the realities of climate change and its far-reaching impact on livelihoods, jobs and communities;
2. Notes that the climate-sensitive sectors in Africa especially agriculture and forestry, are the most important sources of employment, livelihood and jobs for most women and men;
3. Convinced about the need to step up climate action to reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions, even though Africa has made the least contribution to global GHG emissions;
4. Recognizes the need to take steps to reduce the negative impact of climate change on jobs, livelihoods and the society as a whole;
5. Notes the considerable progress in Climate Change work over the last four years, including the establishment of climate focal points; the consolidation of the Trade Union Climate Change Network; the organization of various climate change-related research; training and education; capacity building, publications and initiation of campaign and advocacy at various levels.
6. Acknowledges the significant work that some affiliates have been able to undertake at the national level, including the development of trade union policies on climate change; participation in national level climate change discourse and structures; initiation of Just Transition projects; initiation of organizational activities among informal sector workers in waste sector using climate change and environmental concerns as entry point; and raising climate awareness among members;
7. Notes the immense organizational possibilities inherent in using climate action as entry point into organizing the unorganized in various sectors and developing partnerships with a wide range of players in industry.
8. Convinced about the millions of potential Green jobs that could be generated in combating climate change, especially in the area of renewable energy and manufacturing; agriculture and forestry; and waste, water and sanitation management, and contribute to addressing the massive unemployment in Africa.
9. Notes with grave concern the fact that some countries in Africa are now embarking on the establishment of coal and nuclear plants, with the former

threatening to raise GHG emissions and the latter saddling the countries with burdensome nuclear waste.

10. Appreciates the implications of climate change and response measures at the sectoral level, with particular reference to agriculture, transport, energy and manufacturing, waste, water and sanitation management, and recognize the immense potentialities for green jobs creation;
11. Notes the synergies that can be realized through coordinated multi-level work, at global, continental, regional, national and sectorial levels, keeping in mind the UNFCCC, African Union, ECA, AfDB, RECs, National level climate change institutions, as well as Organizations representing various industries;
12. Notes the significant dividends arising from collaborating with partners and allies, appreciating in particular the supportive role of FES, a number of GUFs and CSOs.

Do hereby adopt this Statement of Renewed Commitment on Trade Union Climate Action, and accordingly commit to:

1. *Develop trade union climate change policies at the national and sectoral levels that provide a framework for sustained trade union action aimed at reducing global warming and reducing the negative effects of climate change;*
2. *Strengthen social dialogue processes in national level climate action by building on and using tripartite and collective bargaining mechanism, the application of international labour standards and respect for the spirit of the United Nations climate agreements*
3. *Actively campaign for and promote a Just Transition to low carbon economies and climate-resilient societies, characterised by massive green jobs creation, institutionalized skills development, training and retraining, and life-long education consistent with the fast changing world of work.*
4. *Embark on consistent campaign and advocacy programmes which among others, seeks to raise awareness of climate change; increase the participation of working women, men and the youth in climate action at all levels; further demands for climate justice and in particular for rich industrialized countries to meet obligations in relation to GHG emission reduction, climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building, in line with the UN climate agreements;*
5. *Strengthen concrete trade union programmes and projects and, in this connection, commit to supporting the ITUC-Africa tree planting initiative which seeks to contribute to emissions reduction and a greener environment, with potential for enhancing livelihoods; and establish mechanisms for sharing trade union best practices on climate change.*
6. *Embark on specific campaigns against insidious development choices that are inimical for the climate and environmental health of Africa, especially the establishment of coal and nuclear plants.*

