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International Trade Union Confederation
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UN Climate Change Conference – COP26

TUNGO Statement Closing Plenary

Saturday 13 November 2021

President, Excellencies, Delegates and Observers

I'm Richard Hardy, National Secretary for the trade union Prospect in Scotland, member of the General Council of the Scottish Trade Union Congress, and I was a member of the Scottish Governments ground-breaking Just Transition Commission. I will speak on behalf of the 210 million workers in 165 countries represented by the global trade union movement.

Mr President, no country has ever had so much time to prepare a COP. Never have the challenges been clearer than this year, never have the calls for action from scientists, young people, indigenous communities, women, citizens, activists, and affected and threatened workers in all corners of the world been louder. And yet as the voice of workers we are truly puzzled. To whom have you been listening in the run up to this COP? How has the outcome on ambition, finance, responsibility and inclusion fallen so short?

We believe that this deal will allow countries and companies to trade away our hope for a safe future. The loopholes in the Art.6 mechanisms will undermine the deep and fast decarbonisation that is needed.

Developing countries are going home without guarantees for the money that is owed to them. There are no concrete mechanisms to catch up on the previous promises of \$100 billion a year, only talks about a long-term finance goal, only limited progress on adaptation, and – above all – no Loss and Damage finance instrument. This is plain shameful on the part of those, especially the EU and the US, who have argued against the progress on the urgent needed support for Loss and Damage?

Yes, the global trade union movement is happy that “Just Transition” has finally found its way in the language used by many parties and observers. We saw and appreciate the adoption by donor countries of the declaration on “Supporting the Conditions for a Just Transition Internationally” and applaud the strong commitments made by signatories.

We urge the parties to continue to work towards a Just Transition one that is about jobs, plans and investment. Once again, we call on parties to step up their NDCs and create the millions of good quality jobs and decent work with your climate policies and measures, good quality jobs and decent work which the world desperately requires. In

closing I would ask everyone to remember for all future discussions: labour rights are human rights! Unions need a voice at the table in social dialogue processes that deliver on jobs, just transition plans and investments. This is how we will deliver the climate ambition that is needed. We hoped for greater ambition here in Glasgow, and as we move forward the global Trade Union movement demands that we set our sights much much higher..

People power! Climate justice!