OECD WEEK 2019 TRADE UNION KEY MESSAGES



Working Together towards a Just Transition for the Digital Transformation: An Opportunity for Inclusive Change

he digital transformation — together with the transition to low-carbon economies — promises to transform labour markets and economic life as radically as any revolution in recent history. Already, recent decades have been difficult for most OECD countries: the labour share of income has fallen, inequalities have risen, and international co-operation has become increasingly difficult. Against this backdrop, technological deployment needs to be orchestrated with care, to reverse rather **Trade u** than exacerbate these trends.

In this effort, the TUAC emphasises the urgency for a new model of growth. Without increased collective bargaining, increased government spending to stimulate growth, and increased multilateralism, the current malaise will continue. Through these mechanisms, governments together with social partners should adopt "Just Transition" plans — already

on the way for the green transformation — and facilitate a human-centric approach to digital change. At the same time, corporate regulation – including competition and corporate governance rules – must be remodelled and regulation applied to enforce existing rules and establish new rules for the digital economy.

The rate of change is fast, and it is exciting. But our trade unions remind the OECD and its members that our collective decisions will determine whether the changes are for good.

Trade unions stand ready to 'negotiate the algorithm', to secure quality jobs and close any digital divides.



Three Keys to Making the Digital Transformation Work for Everyone

Digitalisation offers opportunities for well-being and for reducing inequalities. But the downside risks are substantial. To address both opportunities and risks, the OECD has endorsed a multi-stakeholder and whole-of-government approach to digital change with a framework for national transformation strategies. The TUAC recommends that such strategies utilise the following three keys:

A Just Transition.

initiate Long-Term Planning

A Just Transition is an internationally recognised mechanism in climate change agreements. It should extend to digital change, outlining concrete investment plans and engaging in social dialogue to keep or move people into quality jobs. Parliaments, local governments and civil society need to be involved to make it a truly inclusive process that aims at closing divides, including global north-south, gender and urban-rural.

The Future of Work.

™ Re-Empower Labour

Recent decades have seen a decline in collective bargaining, contributing to wage stagnation and the rise of precarious work. Re-empowered trade unions will not only help address the growing wage gap; they can help expand social-protection systems, secure quality jobs, set standards on the introduction of new technologies, govern training and ensure the same rights for all forms of work.

The Future of the Firm.

Better Rules for Corporation Regulation

Globalisation and corporate consolidation have increasingly centralised power in the hands of a few corporations. Governments and social partners should work together towards robust and enforceable regulation to protect data privacy; to promote business transparency and due diligence; to facilitate competition for innovation, labour and customers; and to design a fair tax regime.

About TUAC

The Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) to the OECD is an international trade union that represents 59 trade union centres and 58 million workers at the Organisation and in consultations with its Members, including at the annual OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, in Committees and Working Groups, and G20 and G7 processes. Over 500 trade union representatives take part each year in TUAC and OECD meetings.

Main activities

- Informing OECD Policies
- Facilitating Policy Dialogue
- Conveying Trade Union Positions
- Convening Meetings

To address future challenges, comprehensive policies need to be developed in consultation with all stakeholders. Social dialogue and collective bargaining are more important than ever. TUAC is focused on promoting policies that create sustainable and inclusive growth and quality jobs worldwide. It closely monitors policies on investment, financial markets, corporate governance, responsible business conduct, digitalisation, skills, development and climate change.



Read the full TUAC MCM Statement

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