



## **L7 Statement to the G7 Environment Minister's meeting, Metz, 5-6 May 2019**

The L7 welcomes the meeting of the G7 Environment Ministers as well as the priority given to combating inequalities through the protection of biodiversity and climate.

The L7 fully support the efforts to combat climate change and we would like to use this opportunity to underline the urgency of ambitious climate action based on the IPCC's 1.5°C report. Governments must step up and commit to a Just Transition for workers and the creation of decent work and quality jobs if we are to reach the climate ambition needed to stop climate warming at 1.5°C.

L7 Statement to the G7 Environment Minister's meeting, Metz, 5-6 May 2019 Worldwide, trade unions are actively supporting climate policies that protect the climate whilst taking into account the impact on workers, their families and communities. We call this approach a 'Just Transition'.

The imperatives of a Just Transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs are recognised in the Paris Climate Agreement that, together with the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, should lead to a zero-poverty and zero-carbon world. In this regard, the L7 would like to remind the G7 of the importance of the ILO "Guidelines for a Just Transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all". The guidelines rest on a set of concepts known as the decent work agenda: Rights at work, social dialogue, social protection and employment.

The importance of the Just Transition principles was further emphasised at the COP 24, in Katowice, Poland. Here, more than 50 countries and the European Commission signed the "Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration". By adopting the Silesia Declaration, countries committed themselves to take seriously the impact of climate change and climate policies on workers, their families and communities when they prepare and implement their new nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans and national long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies. As such, these countries committed themselves to implement Just Transition policies, which involve engaging with workers and their trade unions to prepare new climate policies and Long Term climate strategies.

The L7 considers Just Transition measures as a crucial condition to implement the ambitious climate policies we urgently need. Without the correct social conditions (involving investments, social dialogue, social protection, social justice, skills and education, etc.) there will never be enough support in society for the structural reform of our economies needed to protect the climate.

As such, the L7 asks the G7 governments to;

- Ensure an implementation of the Silesia Declaration and the just transition principles in nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and national long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies
- support and encourage investments in sectors with high employment creation and environmental protection potential, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, with particular attention being paid to energy poverty, sustainable mobility, and the upgrade of transport infrastructures among other investments
- step up the commitments for climate finance to assist the countries in the Global South to make a low carbon transition
- develop environmentally-sound industrial strategies, which puts decent work and low emissions and efficient use of resources as equally important priorities
- support an increase in the level of funding for local populations in vulnerable countries facing extreme weather events.

The L7 looks to the G7 governments to live up to their responsibility by hearing the call for action. Governments must take action against climate change through a Just Transition for workers ensuring a transition to a zero-poverty and zero-carbon world where no-one is left behind.



The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) represents 207 million workers in 163 countries and territories and has 331 national affiliates.



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