JUST TRANSITION
SOLIDARNA TRANSFORMACJA

COP24·KATOWICE 2018
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration

We, the Heads of State and Government,

Emphasizing that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and a common concern of humankind and that Parties to the Paris Agreement recognized the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge;

Stressing that addressing climate change requires a paradigm shift towards building a low greenhouse gas emission and climate resilient economies and societies for all that offers substantial opportunities and ensures continued high growth and sustainable development, while ensuring a just transition of the workforce that creates decent work and quality jobs;

Reaffirming that Parties to the Paris Agreement on climate change are taking into account the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, in accordance with nationally defined development priorities, and also reaffirming that the Paris Agreement emphasizes the intrinsic relationship that climate change actions, responses and impacts have with equitable access to sustainable development and eradication of poverty;

Recognizing the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and that natural disasters and other exogenous shocks, exacerbated by climate change, bring devastating effects to vulnerable workers and people living in poverty with limited savings and no social safety net, increasing the challenges of and the obstacles to just transition, especially for countries characterized by fragile environmental conditions and least developed countries;

Also recognizing that circumstances of economic sectors, cities and regions that are most likely to be affected by the transition vary from country to country depending on their level of development;

Taking note of the importance of the International Labour Organization's "Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all", and its considerations, as appropriate, by Parties while fulfilling their commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate change;

Highlighting that the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as its Sustainable Development Goals confirm the need to tackle environmental, social and economic problems in a coherent and integrated manner:

1. Stress that just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs are crucial to ensure an effective and inclusive transition to low greenhouse gas emission and climate resilient development, and to enhance the public support for achieving the-long term goals of the Paris Agreement;

2. Emphasize that development measures to make infrastructure climate-resilient and enhance institutional capacity in this respect have the potential to be a source of decent jobs creation for both women and men while improving resilience, especially in vulnerable countries;

3. Underline employment opportunities that the transition to low-greenhouse gas emission and climate resilient economies have already created and the potential for the creation of a number of additional jobs as a result of increased global ambition;

4. Recognize the challenges faced by sectors, cities and regions in transition from fossil fuels and high emitting industries, and the importance to ensure a decent future for workers impacted by the transition, while working to ensure sustainable development and community renewal;

5. Note the importance of a participatory and representative process of social dialogue involving all social partners to promote high employment rates, adequate social protection, labour standards and wellbeing of workers and their communities, when developing nationally determined contributions, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and adaptation planning processes;

6. Highlight the importance of further work on the just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, including:

i. Sharing experiences from Parties, relevant international organizations, observer organizations, as well as other stakeholders, in supporting workers, cities and regions in the transition towards low-greenhouse gas emission and climate resilient development;

ii. Encouraging taking into consideration the issue of just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, while preparing and implementing nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and national long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies;

iii. Encouraging support for developing countries to promote low greenhouse gas emission and sustainable economic activities that will create quality jobs in regions, cities and non-urban areas;

iv. Encouraging that the transition to low greenhouse gas emission and climate resilient development is in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals;

7. Invite all relevant United Nations agencies, including the International Labour Organization, and international and regional organizations, observer organizations including social partners as well as other stakeholders and interested Parties to implement this Declaration.