

TUNGO statement to the UNEA Committee of the Whole (COW)

Cluster 1 Resolutions:

23 May 2016 - social protection and a Just Transition.

On behalf of the Worker's and Trade Union Major Group, I wish to link the comments just made, to the need to deliver on social protection floors in the context of environmental protection and poverty eradication, within UNEP's framework and its support to the implementation of the SDGs.

We know that workers and communities are at the frontline of environmental degradation and often bear the brunt of climate impact. To realize the Paris Climate Agreement and the fulfillment of the Agenda 2030, and to ensure that 'we leave no one behind', we stress the need for the creation of decent work which includes social protection and quality jobs.

We underline the need for governments - at national, through to local authorities, and businesses to adopt "Just Transition" policies in order to achieve the economic and industrial transformation necessary to move towards a low-carbon and climate resilient economy. The planning and dialogue needed, to ensure that the transition IS JUST, that it delivers justice, involves workers and trade unions, civil society, communities, and all of us. This is important to maximize the benefits of climate action while minimizing hardships for workers and their communities and indeed our whole society. This fundamental action and policy coherence is to ensure that the social and employment impacts and opportunities deliver truly sustainable development for current and future generations.