

## Key messages workers and trade unions:

### On international environmental governance

- Discussions on the challenges of governance does not limit to environmental governance. Economic crises expresses clear the deficits of current social and economic governance that need to be resolved,
- Environmental governance it is an important dimension in itself to contribute to the global governance.
- We as trade unions we care about environmental governance. We want a strong organization. A strong institution is not an ultimate goal in itself, but it is a key and indispensable element to achieve international environmental governance, along with other measures.
- Transparency, accountability, compliance, enforcement and access to information need to be ensured.
- Public access to information in a triple dimension: as a citizen, as a worker, as consumer. Access to information for workers at workplace means to be provided with the environmental information regarding the company. It means for workers to be recognised environmental rights at the workplace that allows for participation on the decisions on environmental management.

### On green economy

- There is a general agreement that the economy so far has not been able to deliver on social progress, equity, and on the environmental dimension.
- Green economy if properly plan it offers the means for restructuring the economy in a way that can deliver adequate results. But it is not redefinition of sustainable development.
- In this sense, green economy will not be per se a fairer, pro-poor or pro-decent jobs economy. It is necessary to identify how the transition will be managed and which principles will guide action. It will be also determined by the collective power to demand so.
- Some of the key principles put forward by trade union are that Green economy needs:
  1. **to be based on equity** between countries, so to redistribute the benefits and costs in a just manner; and to reduce the differences between developed and developing countries, respecting the different paths for development.
  2. **to be redistributive** within countries. In the last two decades, in a majority of countries, higher income households earned more and faster than their lower income counterparts, additionally to that the share of wages in total income declined. As part of the redistribution there is a need **to address the fiscal policy**. In this sense, green taxation might offer some responses, if due account is taken of distributional aspects of these taxes. As for example indicated the OECD report on Green Growth green taxation in UK has been 30 times more costly for lower income households than higher income ones.
  3. **to be inclusive**.
    - a. Gender equality and opportunities. The green economy can not only develop male dominated sectors, but needs to provide jobs for working women and facilitate their employability through anti-discrimination and family-friendly, special programs and quotas to hire women for non traditional jobs, green skills training for women and policies aimed at reducing gender wage gaps.
    - b. The youth is suffering the worst employment conditions all over the world. 80 million young people are now out of the market. Young people that try to find their first job have enormous difficulties. Actually, the revolts in northern Africa countries and from West Asia results from the economic and social situation of young people.
    - c. Informal workers

4. **to create green and decent jobs.** Green economy has to be a pro-jobs creation and quality of jobs, not just based on GDP growth. We would like to see governments to commit on national targets and pledges. In order to become an engine for development and poverty eradication, it needs to generate decent jobs.
5. **to bring just transitions.** How to make that “losers” become “potential winners”, that is to say how to manage the change the transition of those sectors that would be negatively affected. The lack of management will make it unfair and much more expensive and will lack of the social support
6. **to widen social protection schemes.** To advance towards a green economy, investments in social security and health systems are just as important as those for example in new energy sectors to build resilient societies and address poverty reduction. A universal social protection floor for many countries where there is none, there would be an important step.
7. **to promote democracy and social dialogue** to achieve its aims and construct inclusive societies
8. **to be based on real economy and non-speculative.** Time has come to go back to the real economy, moving away from the speculative economy. We need stringent regulation of the financial markets and we need regulations, including taxes on speculative flows.
9. **to fulfil social objectives and to satisfy human needs in the long term.** Green economy has to be a driver for social progress. From its inception the green economy has to aim to satisfy human needs in the long term, universally water, food, housing, health, education, transport or culture. It is about the purposes of the economy