



International Trade Union Confederation

**Activity Report of Bert De Wel  
Workers and Unions Major Group**

**December 2020**

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The workers and Unions major group is represented at the Major Group Facilitation Committee (MGFC) by myself and Rhoda Boateng (ITUC Africa). I participated in the MGFC's activities such as the coordination teleconferences as far as my availability allowed me to do.

### **Activities**

In the runup to and after UNEA4 in 2019, the Workers and Unions major group stepped up its capacity building efforts in the global movement on plastics and chemicals. An example of this work can be found here: [For the sake of workers, governments must commit to a new paradigm on plastics and chemicals](#)

While 2020 was supposed to be the year of biodiversity, the spread of covid-19 and the resulting pandemic indicated that this initiative was long overdue. This year, the workers and union major group has been focussing strongly on dealing with the immense impact of the covid-19 pandemic on workers and their families. More info can be found here: <https://www.ituc-csi.org/covid-19-responses>

The global workers and union movement has been stressing the interlinkages of the social and ecological crises. This article presents the links between protecting biodiversity and the concept of Just Transition that is promoted by the global union movement: [How can a Just Transition help protect our climate and biodiversity?](#)

The workers and unions major group has been promoting the concept of Just Transition as the answer to deal with the devastating impact of climate change and environmental deterioration. The concept has received strong backing as it is included in the Paris Climate Agreement. The global union movement has been mobilising its membership to promote and negotiate Just Transition agreements at the national level and at the company level through social dialogue processes and through participation in climate mobilisation initiatives. More info can be found here: [The climate emergency is a core trade union issue: that's why it's time to 'Climate-Proof Our Work'](#) An overview of different activities and strategies related to the challenges and opportunities to integrate climate issues in the activities of the workers organisations can be found in this report: <https://www.equaltimes.org/just-transition-putting-planet#.X9s3NNhKhPY>

### **Contact**

Bert De Wel  
Policy Officer  
ITUC International Trade Union Confederation  
email: [Bert.DeWel@ituc-csi.org](mailto:Bert.DeWel@ituc-csi.org)  
[www.ituc-csi.org](http://www.ituc-csi.org)