

## **Stockholm+50: Preparatory meeting statement**

I speak on behalf of the global union federation Public Services International.

The 30 million workers we represent, who have been at the forefront of the Covid-19 pandemic and of addressing the environmental crisis: nurses, community health workers, social care workers, energy, water, sanitation, and emergency services workers, workers delivering local and municipal services, all recognise that economic policies adopted globally over the past 40 years have eviscerated the public services we need to live sustainable, healthy, just, equitable and peaceful lives.

This meeting could be historic: the moment when governments turned away from a global system designed to benefit a tiny minority of billionaires and corporations and agreed to adopt Just, Equitable and Sustainable Covid Recovery Plans that shift us towards decarbonised economies focussed on care – care for each other and for the planet - as our primary principles.

Those plans must include

- Large-scale investments in public health and public social care in every country.
- Development of publicly owned and managed renewable energy systems – to ensure rapid decarbonisation, a just transition and address energy poverty
- Industrial policies that focus on localising production of critical goods including medical and environmental products
- A permanent waiver of trade rules that prevent countries from producing generic vaccines, medicines and other health technologies and prevent localised development and production of environmental goods and technologies
- Reformed macroeconomic policy designed to end tax avoidance by corporations and billionaires and increase spending on public services

This may well be the last opportunity the world has to address the unsustainable, unhealthy and unjust system the wealthy have created. We urge you to grasp it.

Thank you.

Susana Barria