

## *UNFCCC May–June 2021 Climate Change Conference*

# **TUNGO statement for the joint SBSTA and SBI plenary**

31 May 2021

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Dear co-chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies,

Dear party delegates and observers at this important conference in preparation of COP26 in Glasgow.

My name is Frances O'Grady, General Secretary of the British Trades Union Congress. I'm speaking on behalf of the global union movement, ITUC. We represent 200 million workers in 163 countries.

We've all got a big job to do over the coming weeks. We must show the world that we can make the promise of the Paris Agreement a reality. Deliver an ambitious agreement in Glasgow, halving emissions by 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. And unlock the climate finance we need. Parties are clearly not respecting their commitment to provide 100 billion US dollars a year of climate finance. This must change.

But my key message today is this: you need us!

Workers have been on the frontline of the pandemic. Saving lives. Keeping our countries going. Yet workers are also bearing the brunt of the climate emergency - especially in the global south and in carbon intensive industries.

Our position is clear: You can't make the change we need without a guarantee of social justice. And that's why we're demanding a Just Transition. A strong voice for workers and their organisations. And seats at the table.

The ITUC has taken a hard look at the National Climate Plans. Only 10 have proper Just Transition plans, and only 16 even refer to social dialogue.

This isn't just a numbers game about new jobs created or old ones lost, or how many have to be transformed. Workers are real people, with real families, rooted in real communities. Who need steady jobs, decent livelihoods and a real voice at work. We represent working people in every part of the global economy. We want to put good, green jobs at the heart of a sustainable future.

So, we urge governments to get around the table. Negotiate Just Transition plans with workers and our unions. And make a COP26 agreement that we can all be proud of.

Union Power is People Power is Climate Justice!