

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

# **TUNGO statement for the SB joint closing plenary**

Thursday 17 June 2021

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Dear Chair, thank you for giving me the floor.

My name is Jennifer Ulrick, I work for Education International, the global federation of teacher unions. I will speak on behalf of the Trade Union NGOs. We represent the global workers and trade union movement.

The last three weeks have been an amazing learning experience on global climate negotiations in a virtual format. We have seen that digital connection and time-zone issues have not prevented parties from slipping into the bad habits of procedural haggling preventing progress on substance. This was for example the case for the work on Response Measures. This does not do justice to the more than 3 billion workers worldwide that feel the impact of climate change on their jobs and livelihoods today. Even more, in the work of the KCI, experts did not fully support social dialogue measures in their work on Just Transition. Workers and their representative organisations – trade unions – need to be fully engaged to have broad support in society for the ambitious climate policies we urgently need.

On capacity building we welcomed the constructive review of the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the convention. Action for climate empowerment is crucial for a just transition to a more sustainable world and an ambitious, robust and inclusive new work programme to support ACE will be key.

On the preparation of COP26, we need more clarity especially from the UK presidency on logistics. Access to vaccines for people in the Global South will be a major part of the solution to make equitable participation possible. The answer from the G7 is insufficient: the TRIPS waiver proposal at the WTO is the only way to achieve urgent equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Finally, we want to thank the SB chairs for their continued efforts to support observer participation and we thank the secretariat for their logistical support to the observers.

Union power is people's power is climate justice!