



**Intervention on behalf of the Global Labour Movement at the  
Press Conference of the Just Transition Alliance**  
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A just plastics treaty must explicitly recognize the rights of all workers — across the whole life cycle of plastics, from production to waste management and disposal — with a dedicated Just Transition section (Article 10) guaranteeing decent job creation, safe conditions, social protection, and no exclusion from decision-making and implementation for workers, especially those in vulnerable groups like women, youth, and waste pickers. This is a matter of dignity, social justice, and survival for millions worldwide.

We need to be all clear about the concept of Just Transition, as in the negotiations we are seeing there is an increasing effort by different parties to redefine it in their own way. There is no need to reinvent it, as this concept has existed for at least 10 years, is found in the Preamble of the Paris Agreement, is clearly defined by the International Labour Organisations (ILO) under the 2015 [“Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all”](#) endorsed by the social partners (meaning states, workers’ and employers’ organisations) at international level.

We need to ensure the conceptual and legal consistency of Just Transition across all the international and multilateral instruments the plastic treaty needs to be aligned to, including with international labour law to which it belongs.

A Just Transition ensures that workers and communities are not left behind as the world shifts to a low-carbon and less plastic-dependent economy. More specifically, it is a framework that encompasses adequate provisions and resources to accompany policies underpinning industrial transformations such as the measures that will be hopefully agreed in INC5.2 to move away from plastic economy.

Just Transition measures especially include - among others - active labour market policies to create new decent jobs into which to guarantee the transition of workers all along the life cycle of plastics so they can maintain and improve their income and livelihoods.



All states need to take the responsibility for the human, labour and social rights for their own populations and for ensuring decent work and livelihoods for their own workers employed along the full life cycle of plastics, be them in the formal or in the informal economy, including waste pickers, indigenous, and other vulnerable workers, as per their international commitment under international labour law and their membership to the ILO.

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), representing over 300 million workers, demands that Under Article 10 the treaty:

- **Includes binding Just Transition commitments respecting human and labour rights throughout the plastics value chain.**
- **Guarantees occupational health and safety (OHS) and decent work for all along the full plastics supply chain, including for informal and indigenous workers**
- **Provides for active labour market policies, vocational training and (re)skilling programmes, and transition pathways for affected workers towards formalization**
- **Guarantees social protection, including income loss compensation mechanisms**
- **Ensures meaningful worker participation and oversight of the development and implementation of Just Transition measures through social dialogue and collective bargaining**
- **Requires countries to provide National Just Transition Plans to measure and assess progress towards Just Transition targets**
- **Establishes a dedicated Just Transition Fund through an appropriate financing mechanism with clear industry contributions.**

States have the responsibility to mobilize financial resources, technology, and legal and moral obligation to support fair labor practices, skills development, social protection, and decent work nationally and globally.

The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC 5.2) is a crucial opportunity to embed labor and human rights protections into the treaty.

Solidarity and a legally binding global plastics treaty are essential to hold all countries accountable and to protect all workers concerned by the transition away from plastic-intensive industries.

This approach is vital to promote environmental justice and decent work globally.