

POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

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This policy is the basis for the Palme Center's work on the issue of the environment and climate. It describes how we view the issue, how we work with it and why. The policy applies to all Palme Center operations – national and international – and the implementation work is specified in the action plan for environment and climate and in the staff manual.

THE PALME CENTER'S APPROACH TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CRISIS

The climate crisis and its decisive implications for people and ecosystems all over the world is the greatest challenge of our times. It demands that we act now. The development model that has delivered an ever higher standard of living in our part of the world has done so at the price of increased inequality, environmental destruction, comprehensive species depletion, unsustainable exploitation of our common natural resources and at the expense of the poorest. All over the world, the consequences are already tangible and extensive. Developing countries are hit particularly hard due to having limited opportunities and resources to adapt and weak social systems, and because these countries suffer first and worst from drought, floods, pandemics, and lack of access to water, food and energy. Many partners of the Palme Center already experience the impact of environmental and climate change.

We believe that the climate and environment issue is basically about justice. The rich countries of the world account for the greatest use of the Earth's resources and the largest emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, but the adverse effects of climate change hit people in poorer countries who contribute least to emissions the hardest. The industrialised countries of the world are not only driving this crisis forward directly by their domestic emissions, but also through unsustainable value chains and the import of goods from countries where environmental legislation is minimal or non-existent, where people's working conditions are unbearable and trade union organisations are weak.

We are now faced with a global challenge to rapidly make the transition to fossil-free societies, to move to sustainable patterns of production and consumption and to break the link between economic growth and the depletion of the planet's resources. At the same time, we shall eradicate poverty and create equal and good living conditions for the entire population of the Earth. The Palme Center's approach to the environment and climate issue is the trade union movement's battle cry: a just transition. We are part of this global initiative for a transition that takes care of the people who need to find new jobs, incomes and ways of life. For a fossil-free, economically, socially and environmentally sustainable world. In the transition that is now a necessity, it is of the utmost importance to secure the rights of workers and other vulnerable groups and to establish a constructive dialogue between employees and their trade unions, employers, decision-makers and society at large.

WORKING METHODS

The labour movement in Sweden and internationally is an essential part of the work for sustainable development. Through organisation, mobilisation, and advocacy, from grass root level to those in positions of power, problems and challenges resulting from environmental destruction and emissions are made visible to decision-makers. The environment and climate issue is local and global, and solutions to the problems must be anchored at all levels. This makes the Palme Center's member and partner organisations well suited to form and participate in the decision-making and change processes that will be required.

The Palme Center, through the strong popular roots of our member and partner organisations in Sweden and in the countries where we operate, wants to be a platform for joint work and, together with our partners around the world, develop and promote the labour movement's role in the transition to sustainable development. We also want, within the framework of communication work in Sweden and internationally, to help highlight the environment and climate issue, to increase understanding of the seriousness of the situation we find ourselves in and to push for concrete action.

More specifically, the Palme Center works on the climate issue within the framework of three areas: 1) The Palme Center as an organisation with a focus on our own environmental and climate impact and how it can be minimised; 2) environment and climate analysis of our operation and how it is affected by the current climate situation in operational planning, assessment, follow-up, support activities and educational activities; and 3) operational development to aid a just transition, encourage and support the growth of alliances and new operations aimed at securing a just transition.

OWNERSHIP AND FOLLOW-UP

The content of this policy is reviewed and adopted annually by the Board of the Palme Center. The Secretary General is responsible for ensuring that the policy and related documents are known and complied with in operations and that follow-up of compliance with the policy is conducted annually.