


MODULE 2

Learning from what others are doing

 **Prereading:** Read a country report in the [2021 Civil Society Equity Review](#) (in English). See “Activity 2.1.1: What governments could be doing about a just transition” for a list of the countries you can choose from and on what pages to find them.

Session 2.1

What governments are doing

This session focuses on the United Nations' main climate convention and how it works. It looks at the promises of climate action that countries submit under this convention. You will also find several tools to evaluate these national climate promises, based on global climate justice, gender, and other aspects.

After this session, participants will be able to:

- Find their country's climate change plans and commitments.
- Find tools to evaluate if these climate commitments are good enough.
- Explain the concept of a country's "fair share".
- Give examples of transition issues in countries with heavy reliance on fossil fuels.
- Analyse government actions related to a low-carbon transition and make recommendations on how to make the transition just.

Welcome and recap



In the previous workshop (Module), we made sure we understood the causes and impacts of climate change so that we know what needs to change, analysed transitions happening in economies, and developed our ideas of what a just transition means for our organisations and the people we represent. In this Module we are going to explore what governments, unions and civil society organisations are doing about climate-related transitions, to learn from them. This can include learning what we don't want to have happen. << (5 min)



Let's look at what governments are doing about climate change and transitions. One way to find out what a government plans to do is to look at the documents it has submitted to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.

Countries may put lower or fewer targets in their international UNFCCC documents than they have in domestic policy. This is because these are voluntary commitments made in a forum with many other countries and there's lots of

politics involved. Still, the UNFCCC documents provide leads to domestic policies which you can look up on government websites.

A key document to look at is a country's climate promises under the UNFCCC, the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). There are many tools for evaluating these promises. You will find three such tools in the knowledge bank. We are going to use one of them, the Civil Society Equity Review. <<



TOOLS FOR TRAINERS

[Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\)](#) – scroll down to search for a country. All countries that have signed the UNFCCC Paris Agreement have to submit these national climate goals and plans. They cover both mitigation and adaptation.

[National Adaptation Plans](#). Not all countries have provided these, which are not compulsory.

[Low Emissions Development Strategies](#). These are not compulsory and not all countries have submitted.

Activity 2.1.1:

What governments could be doing about a just transition

1. Work in groups of three.

2. Pick one of the reports below on a country in the [2021 Civil Society Equity Review](#). (Only available in English)

These are all countries where fossil fuels play a large part in the economy. Pick your own or a similar country. You decide what “similar” means that is most useful to you: A country nearby? A country with a similar economy?

COUNTRY	Find it on pages
China	30/31
Colombia	32/33
Ecuador	34/35
India	36/37
Indonesia	38/39
Mozambique	40/41
Nigeria	42/43
Nigeria	42/43
Russia	44/45
Saudi Arabia	46/47
South Africa	48/49
Trinidad and Tobago	50/51
United Kingdom	52/53
United States	54/55

If you do not read in English, you can search the internet for “fossil fuel industry” + your chosen country and then “Just Transition” + your country instead to get similar information and perspectives.

3. Read the country report. If it is too much reading in the time available, read only the “State of the fossil fuel sector” and “Just transition and phase-out debate” sections. (10 min)

4. Discuss what you would tell that government to do to take a just transition forward in that country. Each person makes their own notes about some key ideas that emerge from the group discussion. Write them down as bullet points. (20 min)

5. The groups report back. (30 min)

- Start by going around all the groups and each group just says what country they picked.

- Then, the first group reports only one thing they would tell the government.
- If any other group would tell their chosen government the same thing, they put up their hands for all to see – and then they don't report this same thing again when it is their turn.
- Keep going around the groups like this. When a group's next turn comes around, a different person must add the next idea.
- Stop when all groups are finished adding new ideas.

TIPS FOR TRAINERS

You might want to send out the country case studies as pre-reading to use the time in the workshop for discussion. (Step 2 and 3 above.)

Session 2.1

Reflection

- Do you know just enough about the UNFCCC for the purposes of the work your organisation wants to do on a just transition? If you want to get more involved in UNFCCC matters, who would you contact?
- How important is the concept of a country's "fair share"?
- Which of the tools to evaluate a country's NDC (and thus its domestic climate change policies) might you use?
- What ideas did you gain for demands on a just transition that your organisation might put to your government?

➦ On [the course site](#) you will find relevant studies, videos and sites for further exploration of the topics in this session. You'll also find all references.

FAST FACTS

About the UNFCCC

The UNFCCC space is full of jargon and acronyms, and is mainly for those who want to do global policy work. But multilateral forums are an important site of struggle in certain respects.

What is the UNFCCC?

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was established in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and has been signed (“ratified”) by 198 countries.

Who are the Parties?

The Parties are governments and government entities like the European Union, which are signed on to the UNFCCC.

What is a COP?

The Parties to the UNFCCC meet annually in a Conference of the Parties (COP). Individual



countries are represented by negotiators at COPs, and they speak and vote during sessions. COP27 was the 27th Conference of the UNFCCC, held in Egypt in 2022.

The parties to the UNFCCC meet at Conferences of the parties; COPs. At COP27 in Egypt in 2022, the Maldivian delegates reminded the negotiating governments that time is running out. Photo: UNFCCC

Can anyone else get in?

COPs take place within venues run by the UNFCCC and you need to be accredited to get in. The UNFCCC accredits certain organisations which are not Parties as observers. These are media, non-governmental organisations, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organisations. There are also lots of business lobbyists at COPs.

What are the Constituencies?

The non-governmental organisations organise themselves under collectives: business and industry NGOs (BINGO), trade union NGOs (TUNGO), youth NGOs (YOUNGO), environmental NGOs (ENGO), research and independent NGOs (RINGO), local government and municipal authorities (LGMA), indigenous peoples organisations (IPO), and Women and Gender.^[1]

The work of the Women and Gender Constituency led to the Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan being agreed by Parties in 2014 and enhanced in 2019. It seeks to foster gender-responsive climate action under the UNFCCC, including through support for developing countries and increasing local communities' women's organisations' and Indigenous People's access to finance. The Plan notes the need for women to have equal participation at all levels of climate action. It also upholds the centrality of indigenous, local and traditional knowledge.

What is the Paris Agreement?

It is a legally binding international treaty between countries on climate change. It was adopted at COP21 in Paris in 2015. Its goal is to limit global

warming to well below 2°C and preferably to 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels. [Here's a video about the Paris Agreement](#) (time: 1 min 39 sec)



Celebration as the Paris agreement was passed in 2015.
Photo: UNFCC.

What are Nationally Determined Contributions, NDCs?

Under the Paris Agreement, countries are required to submit Nationally Determined Contributions every 5 years starting in 2020. In its NDC, a country communicates the actions it will take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to build resilience to

adapt to the impacts of climate change. The idea is that each NDC must be better than the last one.

What else do countries submit?

Countries also submit **National Adaptation Plans**, and the Paris Agreement invites countries to submit **Long-Term Low greenhouse gas Emission Development Strategies**. These are longer term plans, and the 5-year NDCs fit into the longer-term strategies. Both of these documents are not mandatory.

What about monitoring and evaluation?

Countries must report progress on the actions in their NDCs. The NDCs and the progress reports will feed into a **Global Stocktake**, which will assess the collective progress towards the long-term climate goals.

Because NDCs are determined by the country, there is no guarantee that together they add up to what is needed to stabilise global warming at no more than 1.5°C. There is no way to force any country to improve its NDC, and no sanctions if it doesn't fulfil its NDC.

Timeline for NDC:s and the global stocktake

2020: Countries submitted their first NDCs to the UNFCCC.

2021: First 5-year cycle started.

2023: Having started in November 2021, the first Global Stocktake goes on until November 2023. The Stocktake reviews individual NDCs and their collective achievement against the Paris Agreement goals.

2025: Deadline for countries to submit their second NDCs, hopefully improved based on the Global Stocktake.

2026: Second 5-year cycle starts.

What about action by non-Parties?

The Lima COP20 in 2014 recognised that, in addition to national governments, action by everyone else was also essential to solve the climate crisis. The Lima-Paris Action Agenda was set up to include local and other sub-national governments, companies and investors, NGOs, and others – called “**non-state actors**”.

This has led to **the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action**, a parallel workstream of the UNFCCC to enable collaboration between governments and non-state actors to advance climate

action. The Partnership workstream is led by two High-Level Champions, one from the country of the past COP, one from the country of the coming COP.

UNFCCC and “just transition”

Labour first raised the demand for a “just transition” at COP3 (in 1997 in Kyoto). COP17 (2011 in Durban) established a UNFCCC forum on “the impact of the implementation of climate change response measures”, and adopted a work programme. This identified eight areas of work, one of which was just transition. COP21 (2015 in Paris) established an “improved forum” to focus on (1) economic diversification and transformation (2) just transition of the workforce, and the creation of decent work and quality jobs. This work falls under two UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies, the one for Implementation, and the one for Scientific and Technological Advice. The 2015 Paris Agreement includes “the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs” for the first time in a UNFCCC agreement. Trade unions fought hard for this.



Friends of the Earth International and International Trade Union confederation held an event at COP23 to discuss the need for a Just Transition. Representatives from the trade union and environmental movements spoke about their shared vision for tackling the climate crisis and ensuring an economic transition that is fair for affected workers and their communities.
© Theiva Lingham, Friends of the Earth International

FAST FACTS

The concept of a country's “fair share”

- A “**resource sharing**” approach: The **global carbon budget** tells us how much greenhouse gas emissions we can still afford to emit to have a reasonable chance of staying below 1.5°C. The carbon budget is a scarce resource to be divided up between countries. A “resource sharing” approach looks at how much of the remaining emissions each country should be allowed to emit. Each country gets its own carbon budget which it must not exceed.
- An “**effort sharing**” approach: To stay within the global budget, the science tells us we have to reduce emissions so that globally they peak by 2025, come down by 43% by 2030 and end at net-zero around 2050. (Note that this timeline is criticized by many for being too generous. It allows us to first emit too much carbon during the first half of the century, so that we then have to “clean



Godwin Ojo from Friends of the Earth Nigeria campaigning for fair shares at the climate conference in Paris 2015.
Photo: Luka Tomac/Friends of the Earth International

up” the atmosphere through so-called negative emissions. We still haven’t figured out how to do that on the big scale required.)

The reduction effort is what is needed to get emissions down to the desired levels. An “effort sharing” approach looks at how much each country should reduce its emissions. Different countries or

sectors make different efforts to bring emissions down.

Whether using the resource-sharing (carbon budget) or effort-sharing (reduction targets) approaches, the allocation method should ensure **fair shares** between countries. Both ways, the global total of countries' carbon budgets, or reduction efforts, must keep us within the global carbon budget and reduction targets. If we relax on the emissions coming from one country, another country needs to reduce its emissions to compensate.

How should we divide up the emissions resource, or reduction effort required, between countries? This is a question of global climate justice.

In 1992, the UNFCCC adopted a principle of “**common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities**”. Climate change is a common problem all countries share and have to do something about. At the same time, different countries can be expected to do more or less than others. So-called “developed” countries have already emitted a great deal for a long time, contributing to warming that is happening already, and so bear more responsibility. Developing countries say that they should still be allowed to emit to continue their economic development, at least up to a certain threshold.

Countries' different national circumstances and capabilities also have to be considered. Some countries have much higher capacity to act than others, due to their higher income and wealth, level of development and access to technologies.

But there are no methods agreed at the UNFCCC to quantify a country's “responsibility and capability” or to allocate the global carbon budget or the effort required between countries. You can find a list of different proposals from researchers for fair effort-sharing methods [here](#).

Issues that come into the debate about how to do this include:

- responsibility for historical emissions
- state of economic development and the right to be able to develop to a certain level
- size of population and per capita emissions
- financial, technological and other capacity to reduce emissions.

FAST FACTS

Tools to evaluate countries' NDCs

The Climate Action Tracker

(Available in English)

The Climate Action Tracker is an independent scientific analysis that tracks governments' climate mitigation pledges and action. It evaluates these against what is needed to limit global warming to 1.5°C or at least well below 2°C. It covers all the biggest emitting countries and a representative sample of smaller emitters covering about 85% of global emissions.

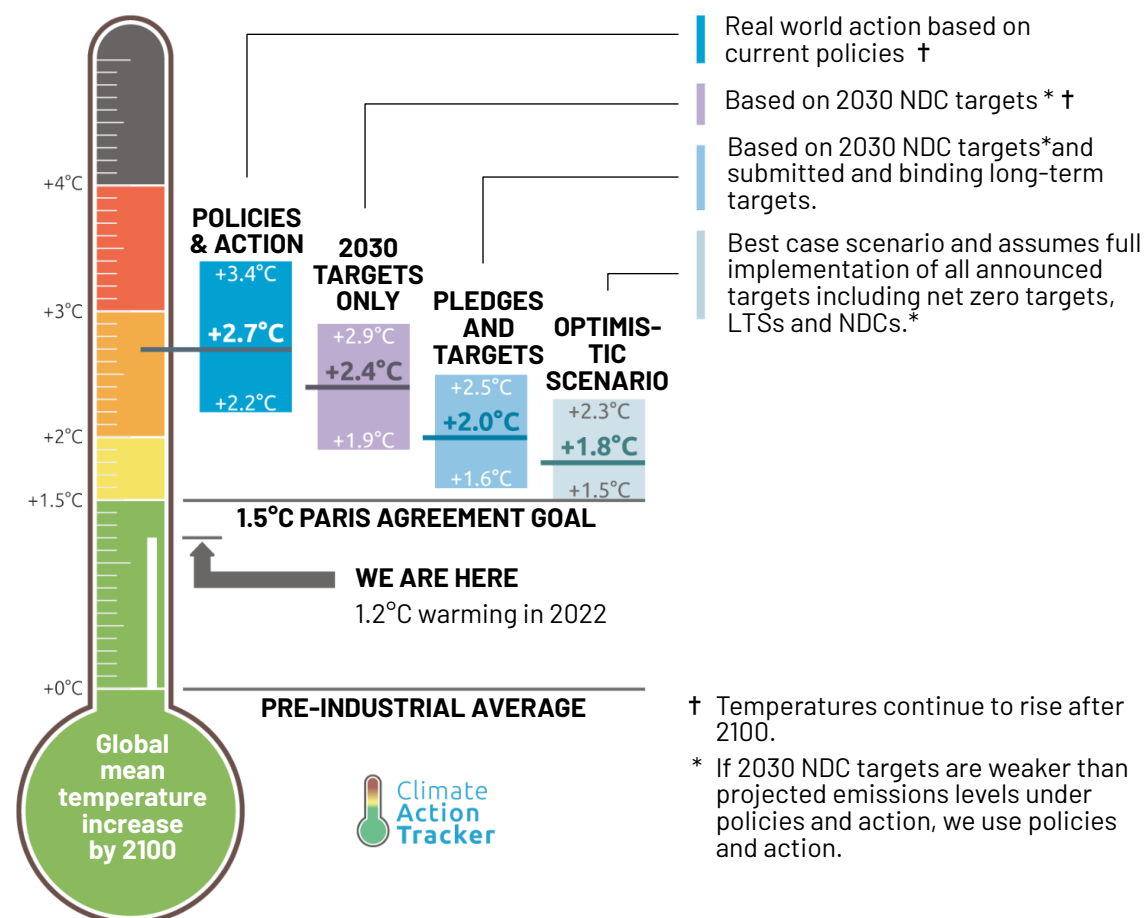
GLOBAL PICTURE

The Climate Action Tracker analyses the combined effect of the individual national pledges to check whether global emissions are on a path to meet the 1.5°C/2°C goals.

It runs a Thermometer to show what global warming ranges we are facing with countries' NDCs and current policies. It also measures the **Emissions Gap** between where emissions need to be in 2030 and the emissions we can expect from countries' NDCs and current policies.

CAT WARMING PROJECTIONS






November 2022 update



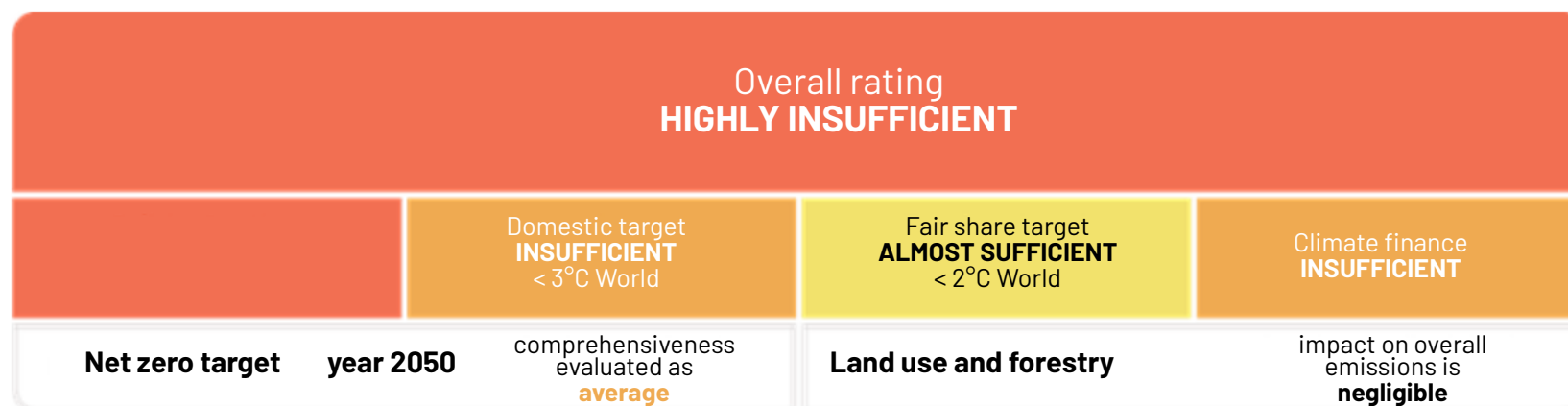
INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY ASSESSMENTS

The Climate Action Tracker:

- **Evaluates each country's emission reduction targets, and whether it is on track to meet those targets** with its currently implemented policies and actions. Because land and plants are carbon sinks, it also flags whether the country's greenhouse gas emissions from land use have a high impact on its overall emissions.
- Checks whether countries which are supposed to **provide finance** to other countries are doing so.
- Rates whether the country is doing its **fair share** of the global emission reduction effort required. It takes what the country's "fair share range" should be from a long list of published studies with different effort-sharing principles and methods.

CLIMATE ACTION TRACKER RATING SCALE	If all governments' efforts were at this level, there is a two-thirds chance that by the end of the century global warming would ...
 Critically insufficient	exceed 4°C
 Highly insufficient	be above 3°C and below 4°C
 Insufficient	be above 2°C and below 3°C
 Almost sufficient	be below 2°C
 1.5°C Paris Agreement compatible	be below 1.6°C over the 21st century and below 1.5°C in 2100

An example of what a country's rating might look like:



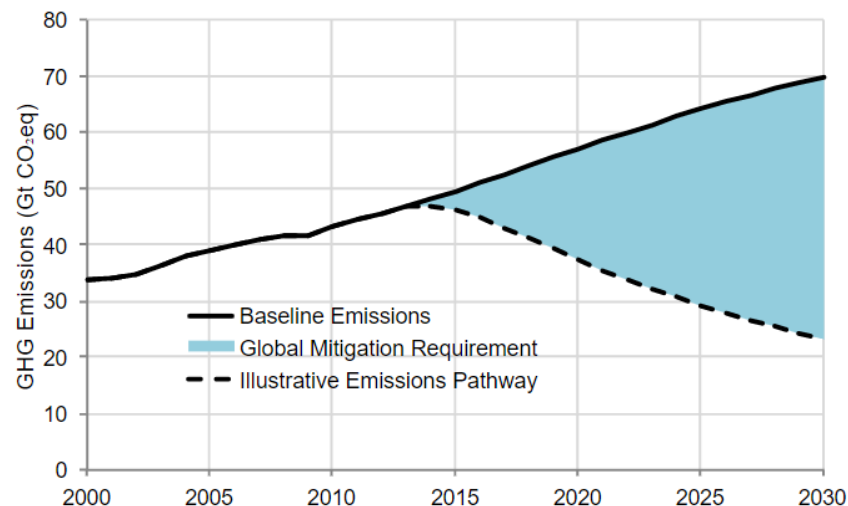
The Climate Equity Reference Calculator^[3]

(Available in English)

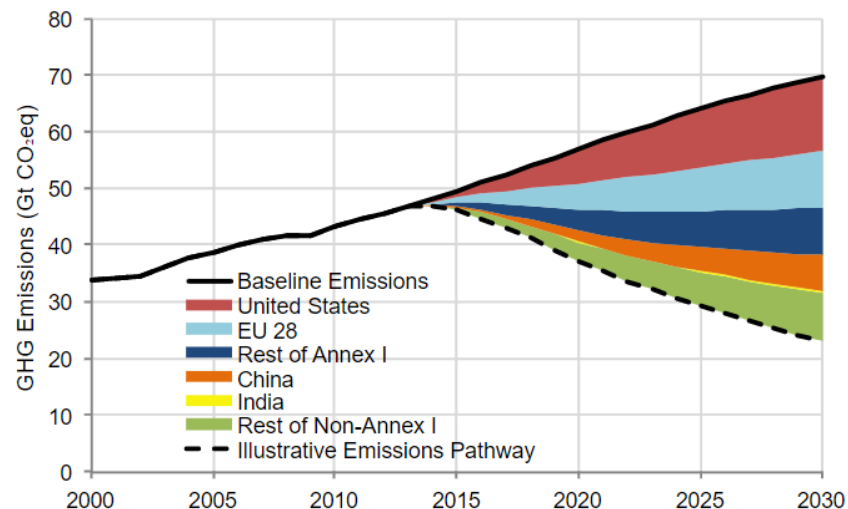
Most civil society and trade union organisations, and many others, use the Climate Equity Reference Calculator to decide what a country's fair share should be of the global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The online tool (in English only) allows the user to specify their own interpretation of national *responsibility* and *capability* for climate action, and some other settings.

For example, you can exclude the emissions and incomes of people below a certain level, because the poor are not the problem and still need access. You can weight how much you value historical responsibility versus economic capacity.

The formulas in the tool apply your settings to all countries. The user can then look up what the fair share is for a specific country or a group of countries (like the European Union), or what the whole world should be doing altogether. In practical, it can all be explained, but we are not going into that in this manual.



The blue area is the total global mitigation effort required to get down from the projected “business as usual” emissions (solid black line) to the desired emissions (dotted line).



On the right is that global mitigation effort shared out “fairly” (according to the user’s settings) between groups of countries.

Civil Society Equity Review

(Available in English, with a summary in Spanish)

Since 2015, the annual Civil Society Equity Review evaluates the state of “equity” in countries’ NDCs and UNFCCC negotiating issues. The Review uses the Climate Equity Reference Calculator above to determine a country’s fair share of the global effort to limit warming to 1.5°C. It then compares this to their emission reduction targets in their NDCs.

Each Review has also focused on an equity issue of particular importance for that year’s COP, and makes recommendations for ways forward. Examples:

2016: Fair share analysis of developed and developing countries groups

2017 and 2018: The importance of considering the extreme levels of inequality plaguing the world.

2019: Focus on climate justice, equity and fair shares in the context of loss and damage from climate impacts

2021: Focus on phase out of fossil fuels, with case studies from 13 countries (China, Colombia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States.

2022: Focus on international cooperation, including under the UNFCCC; to address financing, renewable energy and fossil fuel phase-out; to manage energy price instability; changing the rules and architecture of global trade, investment, finance and technology. (NDCs of USA, EU, South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, Kenya, Mozambique analysed.)

Gender Climate Tracker

(Available in English, Spanish and French)

The Gender Climate Tracker is run by WEDO (Women’s Environment and Development Organisation), a global advocacy organisation. The Tracker probes gender aspects related to the UNFCCC, and is useful for those engaging with policymakers and UNFCCC negotiations.

The Gender Climate Tracker looks at:

- References to gender in official UNFCCC decisions.
- Statistics on women’s participation in UNFCCC processes, including by country.
- [Country profiles](#) A gender analysis of each country’s NDC. The following countries have specific National Gender and Climate Change Plans, which are [collected here](#): Bangladesh, Costa

Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Haiti, Jamaica, Jordan, Liberia, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Tanzania, Zambia.

WHAT IS ASSESSED IN THE COUNTRY PROFILES:

a) Governance

- i) Reference to gender or women in the NDC and in policy;
- ii) What kind of reference it is, e.g. about mitigation, adaptation, capacity-building, implementation, or cross-cutting;
- iii) The ways in which women are positioned in the NDC. Are women positioned as: a group that is vulnerable to climate change impacts; as beneficiaries of projects or policies; as agents of change; or as stakeholders in climate change-related decision-making?

b) Planning

- i) Does any budget in the NDC cater for gender aspects?
- ii) Is there a participatory planning process for the NDC?






c) Implementation and enhanced climate policy

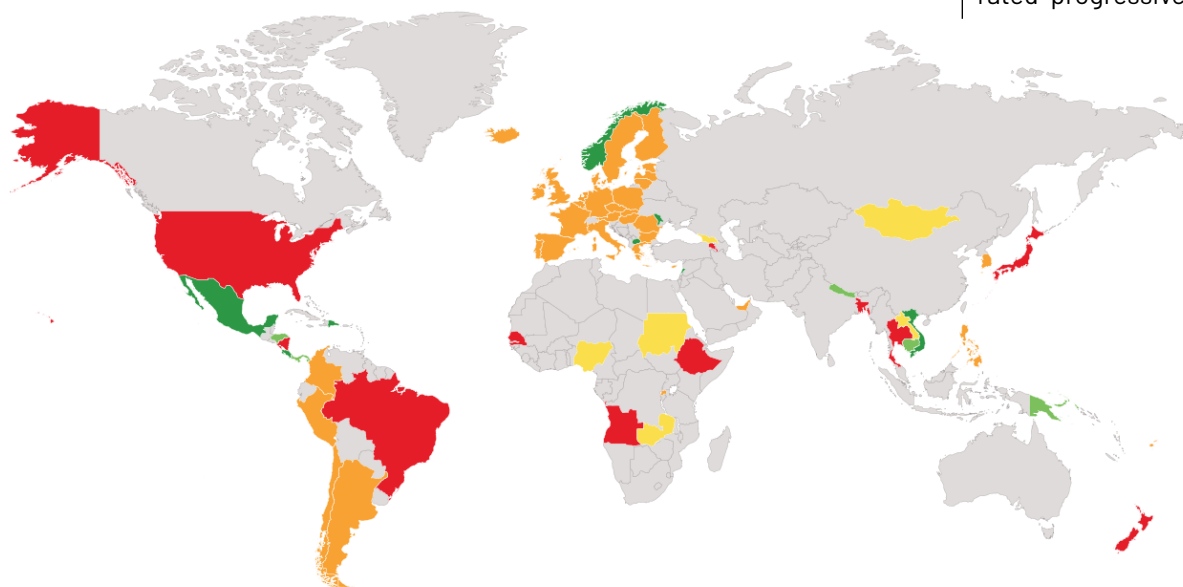
- i) Is there a way or process for monitoring or implementing the NDC?

GENDER SCORE CARD FOR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

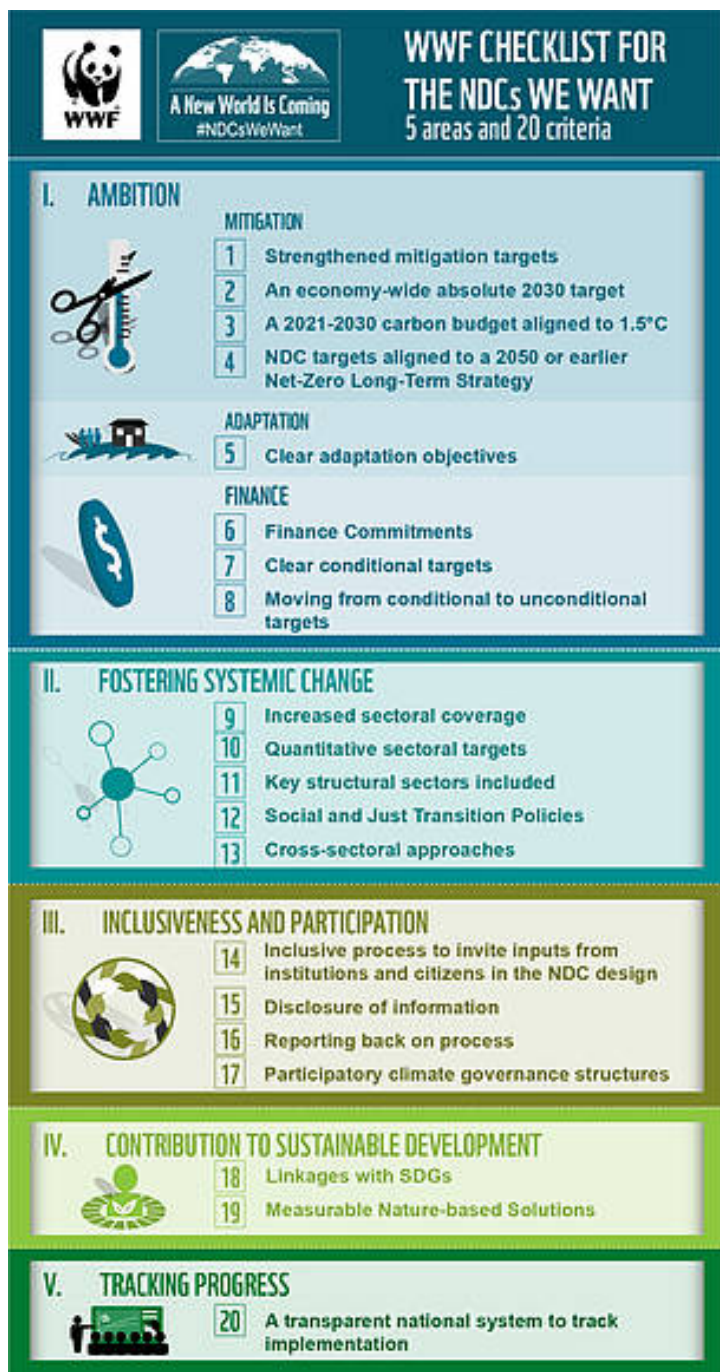
Using those indicators, the organisation CARE reviewed countries' NDCs and gave the NDC a "progressive", "moderate" or "laggard" score for each indicator. The country was given an overall score based on how many of the indicators were scored "progressive".

The results of the scoring are in the publication "[Report Card: Where is Gender Equality in National Climate Plans \(NDCs\)?](#) June 2021 Update".^[4] It also describes what civil society organisations in Tanzania, Uganda, Bangladesh, Nepal and Vietnam did to advocate for gender-responsive NDCs.

	ROLE MODEL Where all 6 indicators are rated "progressive"
	PROGRESSIVE Where 5 indicators are rated "progressive"
	ADVANCED Where 4 indicators are rated "progressive"
	MODERATE Where 3 or 2 indicators are rated "progressive"
	LAGGARD Where all 1 or 0 indicators are rated "progressive"









Source: CARE: Report card: Where is gender equality in national climate plans (NDCs)?



WWF's NDCs We Want evaluation

A country's NDC is evaluated against the checklist and given a rating:

-  **WWF ASSESSMENT IN PROGRESS**
-  **NDC WE WANT**
-  **SHORT WAY TO GO**
-  **SOME WAY TO GO**
-  **LONG WAY TO GO**
-  **NDC WE DON'T WANT**

[Here is an interactive map](#) showing the ratings for all the evaluated countries.

[You can find a country's evaluation here](#)

[More detail on the indicators here](#)

FAST FACTS

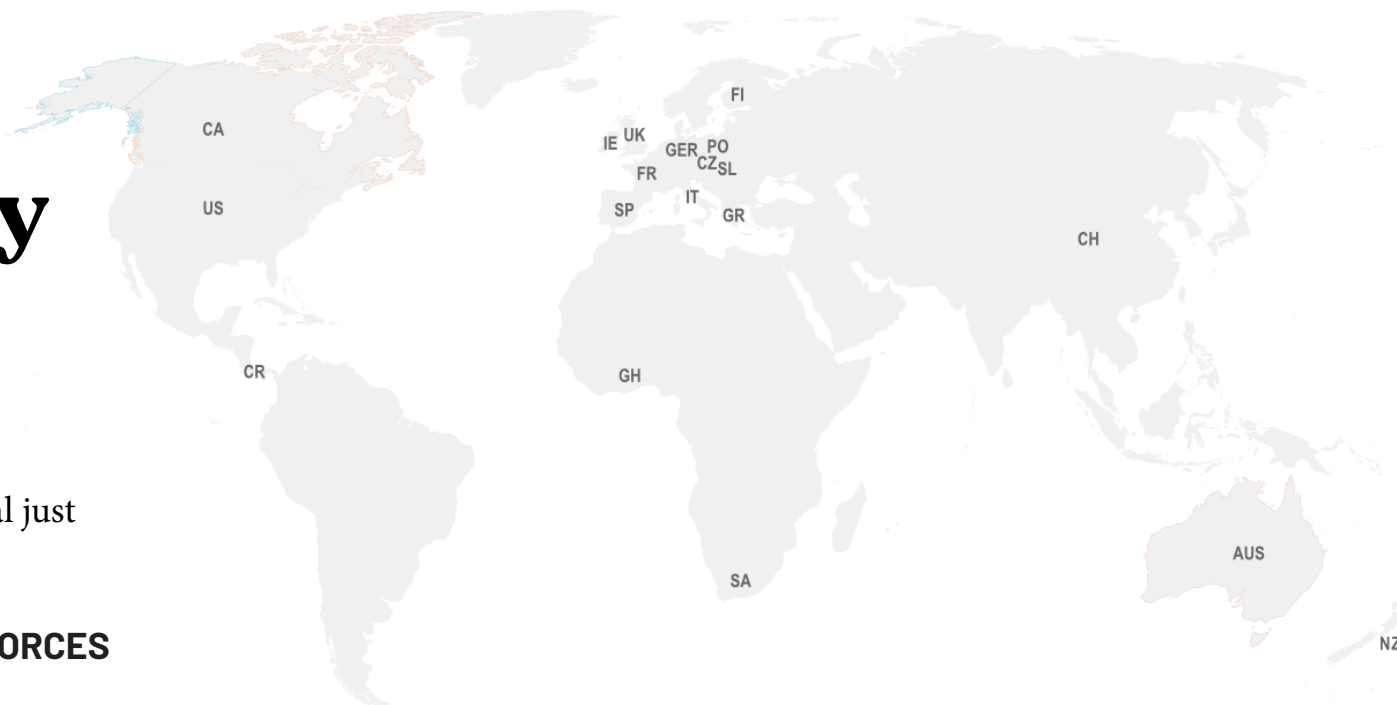
Just transition initiatives led by governments

The UNFCCC's scientific body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, identifies the following government-led formal just transition processes underway:

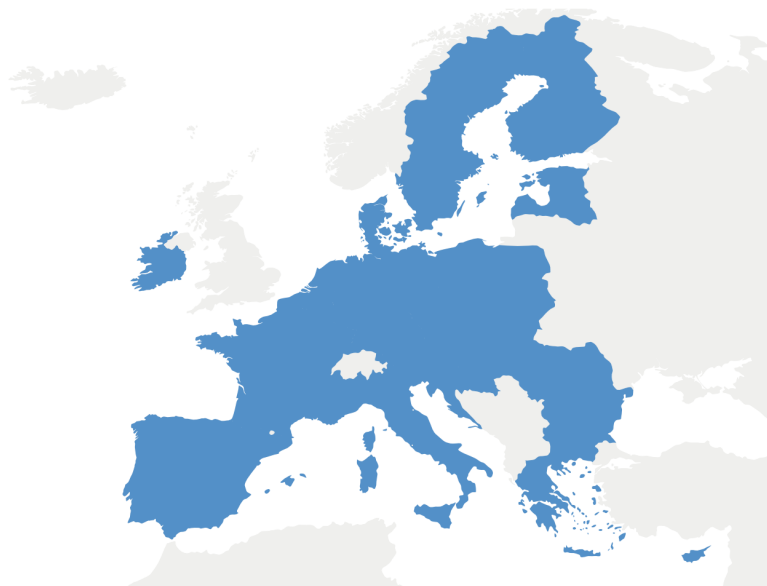
JUST TRANSITION COMMISSIONS, TASK FORCES AND DIALOGUES

- **Australia:** La Trobe Valley Authority
- **Canada:** Task Force on Just Transition for Canadian Coal Power Workers
- **China:** Mine closure provisions in the 13th 5-Year Plan for Coal Industry Development 2016-2020
- **Costa Rica:** National Decarbonisation Plan 2018-2050
- **Czech Republic:** Czech Coal Commission
- **Finland:** Working Group to ensure a fair and just transition and acceptability of climate measures
- **France:** 2018 Ecological Transition Contracts programme
- **Germany:** German Commission on Growth, Structural Change and Employment ('German Coal Commission')
- **Ghana:** The National Dialogue on Decent Work and Just Transition to a Sustainable Economy and Society
- **Greece:** National Just Transition Fund for Lignite Areas

- **Ireland:** Just Transition Fund Ireland
- **Italy:** Enel's Just Transition Framework and Futur-e project
- **New Zealand:** Just Transitions Unit within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- **Poland:** The 1998 Mining Social Package and Special Privileges for the mining communes
- **Slovakia:** Transformation Action Plan of coal region Upper Nitra
- **South Africa:** Presidential Climate Commission
- **Spain:** Framework Agreement for a Just Transition on Coal Mining and Sustainable Development
- **UK:** Scottish Just Transition Commission
- **United States:** Partnership for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalisation Plan (POWER+)

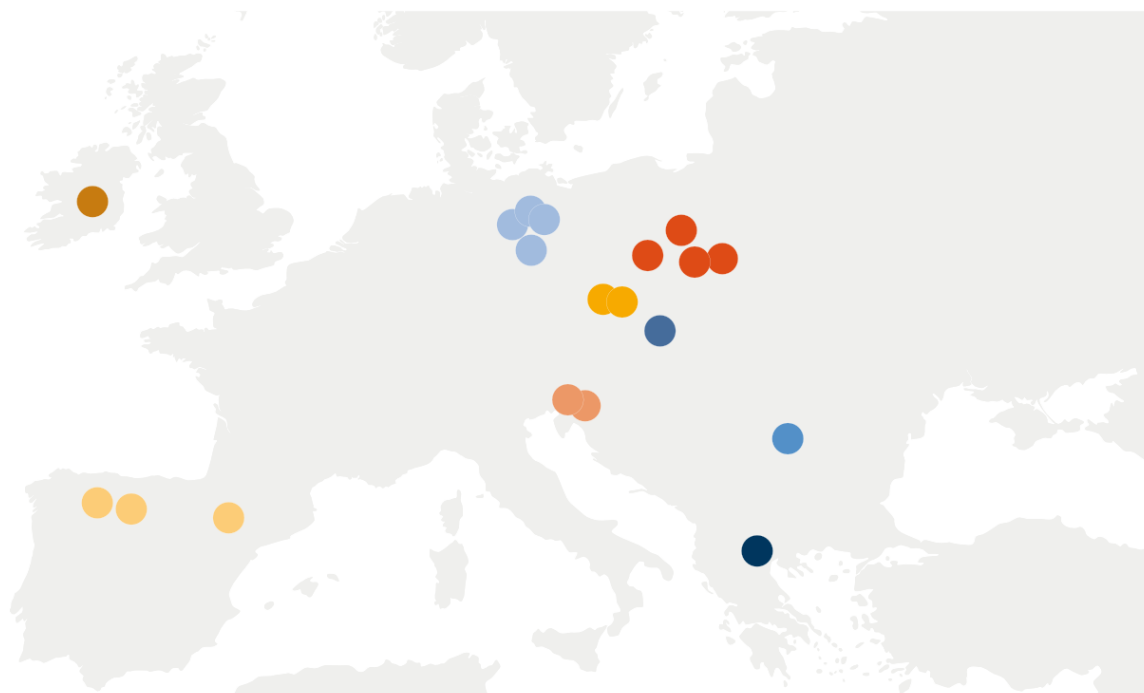


EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL – JUST TRANSITIONS FUND



EUROPEAN UNION'S PLATFORM FOR COAL REGIONS IN TRANSITION

- Silesia, Lower Silesia, Greater Poland, Lesser Poland
- Moravia-Silesia, Usti, Karlovy Vary
- Western Macedonia
- Jiu Valley
- Midlands
- Brandenburg, Saxony, Saxony Anhalt, North Rhine-Westphalia
- Asturias, Aragón, Castilla-y-León
- Upper Nitra
- Zasavska, Savinjsko-Šaleška



Session 2.2

What unions are doing

This session provides participants with information on what changes are needed in relation to water, food systems and energy in order for those systems to be climate friendly. It also sets them thinking about justice aspects in those transitions. It gives people a framework for analysing the character of climate-related transitions in relation to the political economy of a country. They will also get to practise applying the framework to a case study of a country.

After this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe what needs to be done to deliver water, food and energy security, or even sovereignty, in a way that also provides climate solutions.
- Analyse transitions in their own country or other contexts, and assess how transformative they are.
- Apply good ideas from transitions in other countries to their own.



We now turn from governments to organised labour. It is trade unions who first raised the idea of a just transition. It was initially raised in a defensive way, to protect workers against job losses or other impacts of shifts to “greener” industries and legislation. It has since expanded to be about justice issues more broadly. But both strands are still there: issues of decent job creation and reskilling and social protection for workers in shrinking sectors, and broader social justice issues. For some, it goes as far as the overthrow of the current dysfunctional economic system. <<

Activity 2.2.1:

Listen to trade unionists

1. 1. Each participant picks any one of the videos below to watch, to hear trade unionists’ ideas on just transition, the role of unions and their experiences of just transition processes in their country.

- Canada: [Tara Peel from Canadian Labour Congress](#) (English) (3 min) *
More from Tara Peel, on [trade unions’ goals for a just transition](#) (English) (5 min 48 sec)
- Colombia: Ideas from a workshop [exchange between Colombian and Dutch trade unions, universities and policymakers](#) (English, with Dutch and Spanish speakers from 1:48) (3 min 19 sec)
- Ecuador: [“What Transitions: Vision from Ecuador”](#) presentation by Ivonne Yanez of Acción Ecológica (English) (14 min 42 sec)
- Germany: [Fredrerik Moch, German Trade Union Confederation](#), DGB (English) (3 min) *
- Indonesia: Maria Emininta, Confederation of All Indonesian Trade Unions on [how to ensure decent jobs for workers during the energy transition](#) (English) (watch from 2:40)
- New Zealand: [Sam Huggard, New Zealand's Council of Trade Unions](#) (English) (3 min) *
- Nigeria: [Hauwa Mustapha, Nigerian Labour Congress](#) (English) (3 min) *
- Norway: [Are Tomasgard, Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions \(LO\)](#) (English) (3 min) *

- Philippines: Josua Mata, Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRO), on [social ownership of electricity](#) (English) (6 min)
- South Africa: Lebogang Mulaisi, Congress of South African Trade Unions on [how the transition can advance the position of women in work](#) (English) (1 min 52 sec)
- Spain: [Carlos Delgado Quesada, Comisiones Obreras](#) (English) (3 min) *
- Sweden: Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, former president of LO Sweden, on the role of [hydrogen and green steel as a pathway to a fossil fuel-free economy](#) (English) (6 min)
- Trinidad and Tobago: [“Take a Stand for Trinidad and Tobago – Climate Change and Justice”](#) by Ozzi Warwick, Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (English) (10 min)
- UK: Clara Paillard, Public and Commercial Services Union, on the [Million Climate Jobs campaign](#) (English)
- United States: About a [collective bargaining agreement](#) between company Ørsted and union NABTU, covering all construction jobs in all of Ørsted's offshore wind projects in the US (English) (4 min 17 sec)
Judy Sheridan-Gonzalez, New York State Nurses Association, on [actions in the US against the oil pipeline and fracking](#), and on worker/community links (English) (watch from 12:10)

The videos marked * are about the role of trade unions in the just transition processes in their country. They are from ITUC Just Transition Centre's booklet *Union experiences and lessons from Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Nigeria and Spain*^[1].

2. Participants can share an idea from the video they watched that they will take back into their organisation's work. (20 min)

TIPS FOR TRAINERS

Search on YouTube or other open source platforms for videos in the languages of your country.

If the workshop is online:

Everyone can watch their own video choice on their device. Remind everyone to mute their microphones.

If the workshop is in person, everyone can watch a video of their choice on their phone or laptop, or else play one of these videos on a screen for everyone:

- **2017 video of the Director of ITUC's Just Transition Centre, Samantha Smith, on a [trade union perspective on just transition](#) (English) (7 min).**
- **[A panel of trade unionists hosted by Naomi Klein and Jeremy Corbyn at COP21](#) in 2015, with speakers: Clara Paillard, UK Public and Commercial Services Union; Josua Mata, Philippines SENTRO, Judy Sheridan-Gonzalez, USA New York State Nurses Association (English) (27 min)**
- **European Trade Union Confederation video on [climate change impacts on the workplace and the role of unions](#). (English) (9 min 37 sec)**

Activity 2.2.2: Integrating climate change into decent work programmes

- How climate change and just transition considerations might come into this programme.

TIPS FOR TRAINERS💡

Maybe you can't invite SOLIDAR or one of the other organisations above from the Decent Work programme to make an input. Then ask trade unionists in your country about programmes they know of around a decent work agenda. Ask someone involved in that to make an input at your workshop.

1. SOLIDAR makes an input on the Decent Work, Social Protection, and Freedom of Association programme in the Middle East and North Africa, carried out by 20 civil society organisations (see image below).
(10 min)^[2]

2. Participants brainstorm: (10 min)

- How learnings from this programme might contribute to decent work and social protection campaigns within a just transition



Activity 2.2.3: Role play collective bargaining

1. Watch [this video by the European Trade Union Confederation](#) to get an idea of how unions could engage in processes of change of industries and workplaces (English) (2 min 20 sec).



You will notice the video highlights the following aspects of the transition. These aspects are not so much about transforming the economic system, but about getting the most for workers within the current system. Unions must take care of the interests of the workers that pay them to do so. So it is likely the focus of union engagement cannot ignore these aspects:



Governance and industrial relations



Economic diversification and industrial policy



Shifting skills



Social protection



Preparing and mobilising trade unions

Source: ETUC



2. Study some ideas for union action (10 mins). In 2013 in South Africa, the SA Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) and WWF conducted a series of workshops on climate change and transport, focusing on cutting carbon emissions. The unionists then developed ideas for union actions to take the issues forward at different levels. Here are some of their ideas:

UNION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- **Develop a national union policy and strategy for a transition.** This would involve strengthening union mandates to act on climate and researching international trends.
- **Coordinate national trade union office bearers**, calling joint or umbrella meetings of the relevant Bargaining Councils. Then it is easier for sector coordinators to take up the climate discussion.
- **Work collectively on any inter-union issues.**
- **Bring it up in social dialogue.** Engage The National Economic Development and Labour Council (the cooperation forum for Government, labour, business and community organisations) to amend any relevant legislation.
- **Create a job loss fund** for laid-off and older workers.
- **Propose to the trade union federation (COSATU in South Africa) that it should coordinate a national process for passing members from one union to another when there are sector changes**, so that members are not lost.

AT WORKPLACE/LOCAL LEVEL

- **Put climate change updates and information and awareness raising on the agenda** of monthly meetings with employers.
- **Ask management of all companies what their carbon reducing plans are.** This might also involve negotiating with management about making changes in the workplace and in the work process to cut emissions.

- **Encourage the workplace to save energy.** Present a cost-benefit analysis to management to show them how they will save on electricity and fuel costs if changes are made.
- **Negotiate that any savings made by the company because of steps to reduce carbon emissions are shared with workers.**
- Use workplace and bargaining forums to **ensure management keeps workers informed** about changes to technologies.
- **Negotiate with management about training for green skills,** in this case driver training so that drivers can drive more efficiently.
- **Recruit new members** – the bigger the union membership, the more the demands and plans of the union carry weight.
- **Engage and sensitise members on possibilities of job losses and gains** from measures to reduce carbon emissions.
- Work with the media, schools, members of the public, NGOs and civil society to **raise awareness at a provincial level.**

AT SECTOR LEVEL

- **Urge larger companies to develop a ‘mobility plan’** to make travel to and from work more energy efficient and time friendly to workers.
- **Identify the sector contributing most to emissions at the provincial level** and run local campaigns educating this sector.
- **Form union teams within the high-emitting sectors** and be at the forefront of advocating the issue of climate change.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

- **Develop a strategy for national, provincial and local bargaining** on just transition issues.
- **Engage management to begin to budget for emissions reductions and training of workers for the transition.** (Done by shopstewards)
- **Include green policies in all negotiations** – companies don’t have such policies.
- **Defend working conditions as companies make low-carbon changes.**
- **Weave climate protection arguments into bargaining around issues of commuting and flexible hours.**

- **Encourage employers to create incentives for the use of public transport.** Promote bicycling and walking.
- **Prepare for possible cut downs** due to the transition by compiling demands now already.
- One of these demands must be that **any workers that lose their jobs must be reskilled** for other work.
- If there are retrenchments the **companies should help workers set up cooperatives,** and then actively support the cooperatives by buying from them.
- **Demand that new jobs be decent,** not insecure. Many can be in communities e.g. walking children to school.

RESEARCH TO INFORM UNION STRATEGY

- **Research what companies where we organise are doing that causes emissions, and any plans they have to reduce emissions.** These plans may affect working conditions, may change processes and technologies, or involve restructuring.
- **Do research at workplace and provincial level to get information about workers;** what categories companies might start retrenching; what are the new jobs emerging?
- **Analyse what jobs will be lost or gained, and by who.**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- **Start an induction process for workers,** in this case bus drivers so they know that they are delivering a public service and therefore need to work hard to make sure buses run on time and are reliable.
- **Engage the relevant authority,** in this case the Transport Sector Education and Training Authority, about providing skills to workers that are required in a low-carbon economy.
- **Negotiate education and training for workers in new technologies and skills** that will be needed.
- **Use skills levies for retraining.** (In South Africa companies have to pay into a national skills training fund. The company gets money back when it trains its own workers.)

3. Role-play a collective bargaining meeting of the National Bargaining Council for the Road Freight and Logistics Industry. (1 hour)

- Participants with names starting with A to M will be the unionists, those with names starting with N to Z will be the company bosses.
- The trade unionists have put on the agenda:
 - Company plans to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change
 - Changes to jobs and working conditions
- Unionists – be ready with some demands! You might like SATAWU’s ideas above under “Collective bargaining”.
- Bosses – are some of these issues the companies’ own business, not the workers’ business? Are there ways you want workers to help you make the transition profitably?

TIPS FOR TRAINERS



You could give participants 10 minutes in their separate groups to do a bit of preparation, or you could just start the role play.

Let one of the training organisers act as the chairperson of the Bargaining Council meeting, and let them kickstart the role-play. The chairperson might start by asking whether the agenda items are adopted by bosses and unionists, but don’t spend too long discussing that.

Ask unionists to explain what they want to discuss under each agenda item; then ask the bosses to respond. The chairperson can allow caucuses. A caucus is when the unionists or the bosses call for a break in the meeting to huddle and discuss an issue among themselves, for example to break a deadlock or develop a shared response to something the other side has proposed.

Try to get unionists and bosses to agree, but if a deadlock is reached, call the discussion to a halt because they must each go back to their structures and discuss.

Not all countries have collective bargaining systems, check with participants. You may need to explain that a bargaining council is a body that is established by

one or more employers' organisations and one or more trade unions, covering a sector or geographic area.

The bargaining council hosts forums when these parties negotiate collective agreements with each other, and then all are bound by these agreements.

If the workshop is online:



If you want to give participants some preparation time, send them randomly into two groups, called "Bosses" and 'Unionists" (then the division will not be alphabetical by their names but just by the group they find themselves in). After preparation time, bring them back to the main meeting and the "chairperson" starts the role play. If one or the other group calls for a caucus, and the chairperson agrees, they can elect to go back into their separate groups.

Session 2.2

Reflection

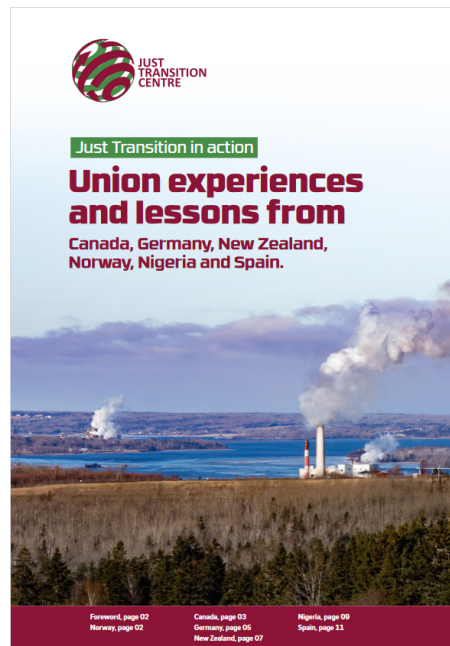
- How would you balance the need to protect workers' rights within the current economic system with organising for a deeper economic transformation?
- In your context, how will this balancing work in practice when bringing unions and social justice organisations together?

FAST FACTS

A scan of global trade union federations' work and resources on climate change

ITUC – International Trade Union Confederation

338 affiliates which are national trade union federations, representing 200 million workers in 168 territories



FOCUS ON JUST TRANSITION

ITUC has long advocated for “just transition”. ITUC and partners established [the Just Transition Centre](#) in 2016. You’ll find news on union actions [here](#). (English, Spanish, French)

[Report with case studies on Canada, Norway, Germany, New Zealand, Nigeria, Spain](#)

VIDEOS

3/3/22 [interview with then ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow](#) on what a just transition should look like, the political and social momentum needed to make it a reality, and the potential it has for promoting gender equality and workers’ rights.

IWA – International Workers' Association^[4]

Membership is unknown, affiliates:

- **Argentina:** Federacion Obrera Regional Argentina
- **Brazil:** Confederação Operária Brasileira
- **France:** Confédération nationale du travail
- **Germany:** Freie Arbeiterinnen- und Arbeiter-Union
- **Italy:** Unione Sindacale Italiana
- **Norway:** Norsk Syndikalistisk Forbund
- **Poland:** Związek Syndykalistów Polski
- **Portugal:** AIT-Secção Portuguesa
- **Russia:** Konfederatsiya Revolyutsionnikh Anarkho-Sindikalistov
- **Serbia:** Anarho-sindikalistička inicijativa
- **Slovakia:** Priama Akcia
- **Spain:** Confederación Nacional del Trabajo
- **United Kingdom:** Solidarity Federation

FOCUS ON JUST TRANSITION

From the Slovakian Priama Akcia union's statement on the 22/10/21 Global Climate Strike: "Ecosystems are just one of the victims of capitalism and the state. Today more than ever, we need to replace capitalism with production and service provision without the profit motive and wage labour. This should be at the heart of our future thinking about climate change.

Capitalism and the state are not destroying only nature itself, but also our lives. Every day. At work and in our relationships with other people. They poison us with their hierarchies and power. That's why we organize. Together we are stronger and can achieve more. We make decisions horizontally, without support from the state, outside of parliamentary or municipal politics and business influence. We are working on resolving problems at work, but we also deal with problems linked to the climate crisis, even at international level within the IWA."



Global Climate Strike in Bratislava, October 22 2021.



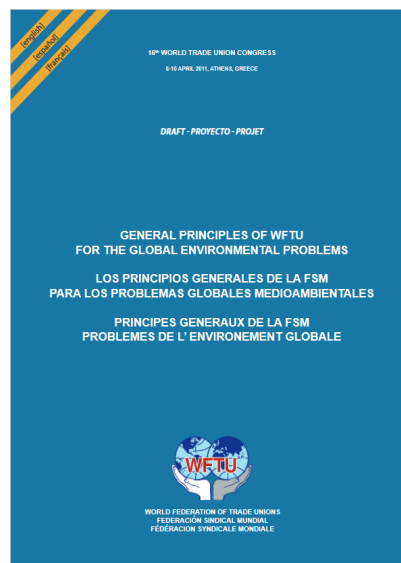
WFTU – World Federation of Trade Unions

105 million members in 2022^[5]

National trade union federations are affiliates.

WFTU also organises in [sectoral Trade Union Internationals](#):

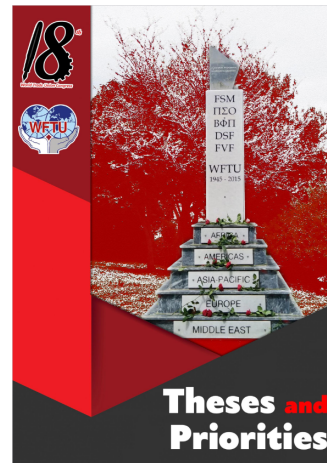
- Agroalimentary, Food, Commerce, Textile and Allied Industries
- Banks, Insurance, Financial Unions
- Construction, Wood, Building Materials Industries
- Hotel, Tourism
- Chemical, Energy, Metal, Oil and Allied Industries
- Mining, Metallurgy, Metal Industries
- Public Services and Allied Workers
- World Federation of Teachers Unions
- Transport
- Pensioners
- Textile, Garment, Leather



FOCUS ON JUST TRANSITION (1/2)

From “[General Principles of WFTU for the Global Environmental Problems](#)” (abbreviated quote):

“[O]ver the last 50 years the environment is receiving increasing pressure from the productive forces in the imperialist new order. The consequences are more and more intense for the working class, the farmers, the poor and middle strata of the city, in other words, the majority of the planet’s inhabitants, whether they belong in the developed or the developing countries. The root cause is none other than the very nature of the exploitative system. However, imperialism, capital, monopolies and the governments that serve them do not play without an opponent. They have against them the working class, the poor and the middle farmers, the self-employed, the small business owners, the working intelligentsia in the developed and developing countries, the vital interests of which are identical with the need for a harmonious cohabitation between people and nature.”



FOCUS ON JUST TRANSITION (2/2)

From “[Theses and Priorities](#)” document for discussion at the World Trade Union Congress in 2022 (abbreviated quote):

“[T]he number of long-term unemployed is growing in sectors affected by the green transition, e.g. the closure of lignite power stations, and the popular families shoulder the burden of the workers’ retraining.

The so-called new paradise of green growth includes expensive electricity, flexible labour relations and cheap labour force, new burdens on the popular families’ shoulders for purchasing green vehicles and appliances, green indirect taxes and the overall drain of the people, in order for the state to support the new green investments of business groups.

At the same time, the investments of the so-called green growth lead to the environmental degradation of protected areas ... aggravating the local economies and the life of the working class. In conclusion, the exploitation of the working class increases, to provide incentives for new and profitable capitalist investments under the pretence of [addressing] climate change.”

BWI – Building and Wood Workers International

360 trade union affiliates representing around 12 million members in 117 countries in the building, building materials, wood, forestry and allied sectors



FOCUS ON JUST TRANSITION

[Report on climate justice initiatives being taken by BWI affiliates as at 2022](#) (English)

BWI passed climate resolutions at its World Congress in 2022.



VIDEOS

[Videos](#) on Argentina (Spanish), Austria (German, English), Ghana (English), India (English text)

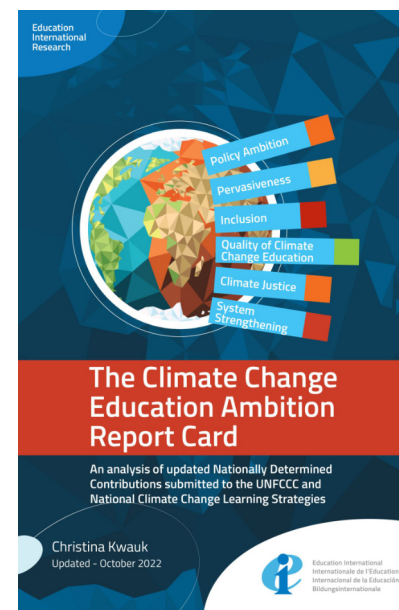
EI – Education International

383 member organisations, representing over 32 million teachers and education support personnel in 178 territories



FOCUS ON JUST TRANSITION

[Manifesto](#) for the Teach for the Planet campaign for climate education, based on science and with a civic action focus.

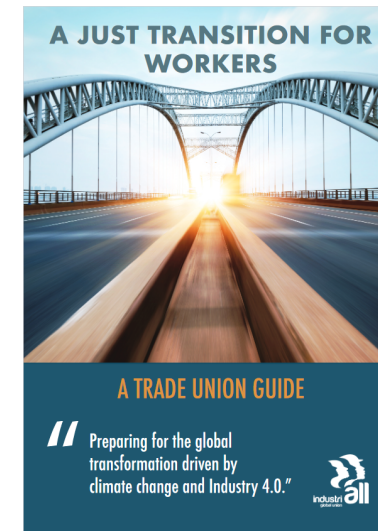
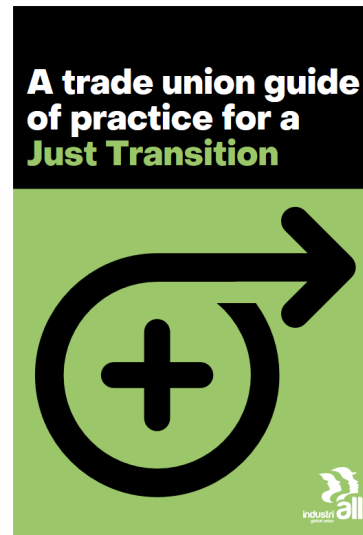


VIDEOS

[The climate crisis: an education crisis](#) (English) (7 min 47 sec)

IndustriALL

Affiliates represent over 50 million workers in 140 countries in the mining, energy and manufacturing sectors



FOCUS ON JUST TRANSITION

[Just Transition | IndustriALL](#)

Scroll down on the page above to find:

A guide on how to build a just transition strategy/ plan in your union (Available in English, Spanish, French, Russian.)

A Just Transition for workers: a trade union guide. (Available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#).)

In April 2022, with ITUC and LO Norway, and 121 participants from unions in 32 countries, IndustriAll launched the **Initiative for a Just Transition in the energy sector**.

VIDEOS

[Corinna Zierold on the role of trade unions, employers and workers in the energy transition](#), and the importance of social cohesion in the process (English)(1 min 33 sec)

IAEA – International Arts and Entertainment Alliance

Made up of global federations:

- FIA (Actors)
- FIM (Musicians)
- UNI-MEI (Entertainment, Media, Arts)

IFJ – International Federation of Journalists

Represents 600,000 media professionals from 187 trade unions and associations in more than 140 countries.



FOCUS ON JUST TRANSITION

[Working Group on Climate Change](#)

VIDEOS

[A survey of journalists about climate change reporting](#) (English)

ITF – International Transport Workers' Federation

670 affiliated unions in transport sectors, with 18 million members in 150 countries.



FOCUS ON JUST TRANSITION

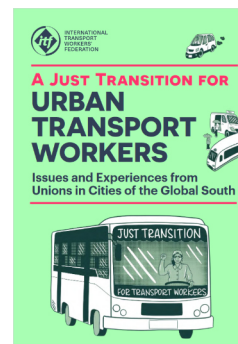
The ITF has been working on issues of climate change and just transition as it relates to transport for a long time and has excellent resources. [Sustainable Transport | ITF Global](#)

[The Future is Public Transport campaign](#)

[Publications](#) Some examples:



[download](#)



[download](#)



[download](#)



[download](#)



[download](#)



[download](#)

VIDEOS

[Alana Dave, ITF Director of Urban Transport, in webinar "Trade Unions for Just Transitions"](#) (English)

[Fair and Sustainable: building the future aviation industry | ITF Global](#) (English) (4 min)

[The Future is Public Transport campaign](#) (English) (3 min)

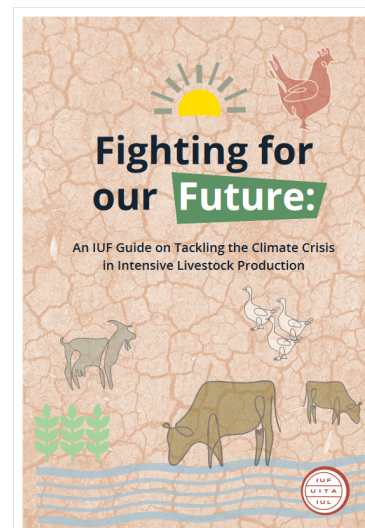
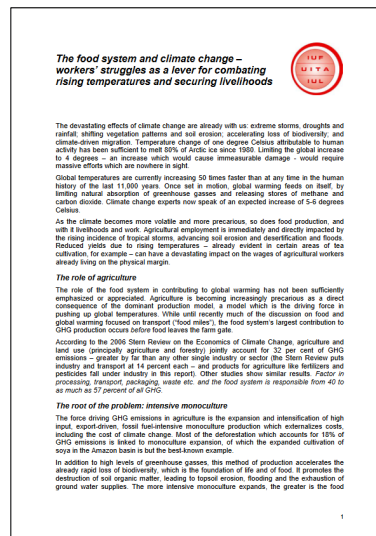
[Mexico City case study](#) (Spanish/English) (5 min)

IUF – International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations

407 affiliates for workers across the food chain in 126 countries.



The food, farm, hotels and more global union



FOCUS ON JUST TRANSITION

The document “[The food system and climate change – workers’ struggles as a lever for combating rising temperatures and securing livelihoods](#)” was endorsed by the IUF Executive Committee in 2013.

['Fighting for our future,' IUF's first Climate Crisis Guide for affiliates](#) (Available in English, German, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish and French.)

PSI – Public Services International

30 million members working in the public sector of 700 affiliates in 163 countries.

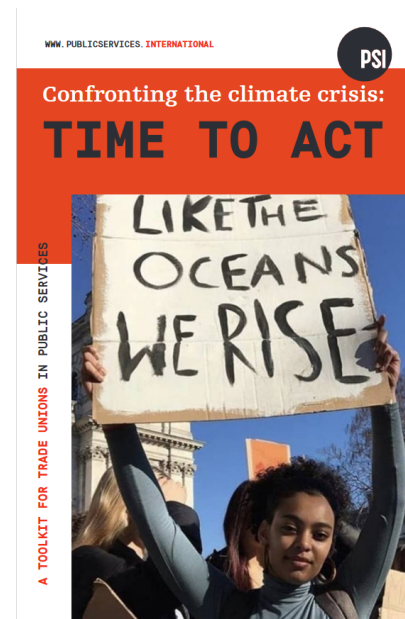


**PUBLIC SERVICES
INTERNATIONAL**

FOCUS ON JUST TRANSITION

[Climate Crisis - a brief from PSI](#) (Available in English, French, Spanish, German, Swedish and Japanese)

Toolkit with workshop activities (Available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Russian and Arabic)



VIDEOS

[A worker who is a first responder in the face of storm surges and typhoons in the Philippines](#) (English) (6 min 28 sec)

[A water worker on privatisation of water supply in Jakarta](#) (Indonesian, English subtitles) (7 min 9 sec)

[3 webinars from the Union to Union Cambio Climático project](#) (Spanish)

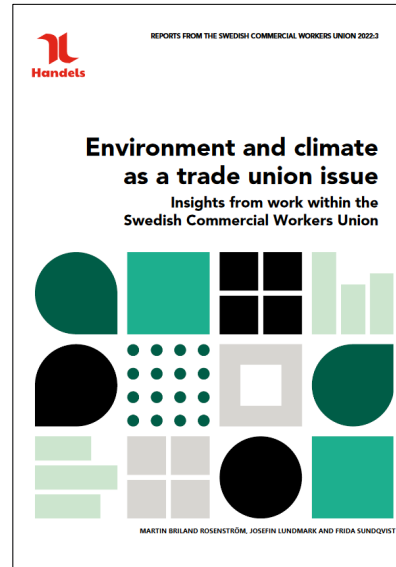
UNI – UNI Global Union

Representing over 20 million workers in the services sectors in 150 countries



FOCUS ON JUST TRANSITION

[Environment and climate as a trade union issue](#)
(English)



Wikipedia [has a list of regional federations](#), for example the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions and the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas, and national federations. Such regional federations would be the starting point for reaching out in your country or region to build alliances.

Session 2.3

What civil society organisations are doing

This session focuses on how civil society can contribute to the movement for just transition. In here you will find three examples of climate justice movements, one local (the US), one national (Peru) and one multi-national (Africa). It also describes how you can find out about other climate justice alliances, movements or networks.

After this session, participants will be able to:

- Research how others have organised climate justice movements to spark ideas for what their own organisation might do.
- Find contacts to link their organisation with others working on climate justice in their region and globally.
- Use more effective presentation skills.



Now we are going to learn from a few civil society movements and networks focused on climate justice. We will also learn from each other about alliances or movements you are connected to.

There are so many collectives doing things about climate justice at local, national or multi-national levels. We only have one case study for each level. It is a good idea to look at [Climate Action Network's website](#) and dig into the regional or national nodes. At the websites of the nodes you will find out about civil society organisations in your region, in your own language. <<



Young people sign petition cards supporting the Ugandan 'Speak up 4 Climate Justice' campaign.
Photo: Oxfam International

Activity 2.3.1:

Learning from case studies

In the manual you will find three case studies of civil society climate justice movements:

- Local: Youth vs Apocalypse in Oakland, USA
- National: TierrActiva Peru
- Continental: Pan African Climate Justice Alliance

1. Work in pairs.
2. Pick one of the case studies.
3. Each read it for yourself.
4. Then discuss with each other: what interests you about this case study?
5. Prepare to present the movement to the group, and highlight what you can apply in your own context. You can use images or sound or video clips in your presentation, you can make a PowerPoint presentation, or you can just talk.
6. Go back to the full group. Each case study will be presented by one of the pairs, chosen by the facilitator. Any other pair that chose the same case study can then add some comments.

TIPS FOR TRAINERS

If the workshop is in person, pairs can be formed by turning to the person next to you.

Allow 10 minutes for people to read quietly, then remind all pairs to start discussing.

Give the pairs some time to prepare their presentation; more if you want them to show things like images or slides.

When you pick the pairs to present the case studies, pick people who have not spoken much before.

If the workshop is online:



You will have to create random groups and send participants into them two-by-two.

TIPS FOR TRAINERS

It is good to learn from what others are doing outside of one's own context. But if the case studies provided in the manual do not suit the participants you could change Activity 2.3.1 to have participants research their own case studies in their own languages. They could go via the nodes on CAN's website to find regional networks and national organisations, or just search on the internet.

Activity 2.3.2:

Share about your own alliances or movements

Go around all participants: What alliances or movements (beyond your own organisation) are you involved in that are or could take up a just transition agenda?

Session 2.3

Reflection

- Which of your fellow trainees might you contact outside the training course, to build new links between their programmes and yours?
- How might you connect local, national and global struggles?
- Identify global or regional climate civil society networks you will explore.

➦ On [the course site](#) you will find relevant studies, videos and sites for further exploration of the topics in this session. You'll also find all references.

FAST FACTS

Global climate civil society networks

Climate Action Network (CAN)

A global network of about 1 900 civil society organisations, of which 34 are international organisations. It has member organisations in over 130 countries, with 10 regional nodes and 12 national nodes. [Get in touch with these here](#)

CAN says it is “driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and to achieve social and racial justice”.

CAN is the recognised convener of civil society in relation to the UNFCCC and other international forums. It makes submissions based on members’ inputs, takes up actions at the COPs, and equips its members to deal with technical United Nations climate stuff. It is part of the group that produces the annual Civil Society Equity Review of national climate commitments (NDCs) and hot topics relating to the UNFCCC.



At the same time as doing global advocacy, the Climate Action Network aims to be driven bottom-up by grassroots movements and local communities, and connect them to each other and international forums.

CAN aligns with other movements and stakeholders in the climate space and beyond, such as with trade unions, justice groups, youth movements, the women and gender constituency, faith groups and Indigenous People’s networks.

CAN works on 5 areas:

- Centering people and climate impacts, for example through the #WorldWeWant campaign

At the top-level climate conferences (the COPs) Climate Action Network daily announces a Fossil of the Day, being the country which has most held back progress on climate ambition and action.

Photo: CAN

- Ending fossil fuels
- Transformative national climate action plans
- Building power through movements
- Multilateral processes and advocacy

They have working groups which dig into specific issues of importance to these areas of work.

[Find their videos here](#) (Mostly in English but some speakers speak in their own language.)

GenderCC – women for climate justice

Global network of 44 organisations and individuals working on climate and gender, or women's issues.

[Get in touch with them here](#)



Photo: Gender CC

GenderCC focuses on influencing climate policy spaces to make them gender responsive. "Not without us" is an ongoing initiative launched in 2017 to ensure that gender justice is integrated in

international climate politics and within the global climate justice movement.

GenderCC was a key mover in getting the **Women and Gender Constituency** established at the UNFCCC. It runs education and awareness-raising events to promote gender-just national climate policy. It advocates gender aspects of climate interventions in agriculture, biodiversity, consumption, disaster, energy, forests, extractivism, health, migration, population, tourism, transport, waste, and water. ([More on that here](#))

Over the period 2015–2021 it ran the **Gender into Urban Climate Change Initiative** on integrating gender and social aspects into urban planning policies in pilot cities in Mexico, India, South Africa and Indonesia. Current activities include “**Youth, Gender and Climate Justice**” and “**LGBTQI+ and Climate Justice**”.

[Find GenderCC videos here](#). The videos are in English, except these:

- Spanish subtitles: [GenderCC's project Gender Into Urban Climate Change Initiative](#)
- German: [Interview with GenderCC's Kate Cahoon](#) on gender equality and climate change (2015)
- German: [Interview with GenderCC's Lara Eckstein](#)
- Spanish: [Women's voices on climate change – Columbia](#) (2008)

CASE STUDY OF A LOCAL MOVEMENT

Youth vs Apocalypse

Youth vs Apocalypse^[1] is an organisation of school-going climate activists in Oakland, California, USA.

How did they start?

In 2016 Oakland City Council banned the handling of coal in the city. However since then coal developers have been fighting to overturn this ban.^[2] Youth vs Coal came into existence in 2017, for a specific campaign against a coal terminal in Oakland.

Youth vs Apocalypse (YvA) was born to continue to resist coal being stored and exported out of Oakland and tackle a bigger picture than one campaign. Their first initiative was a push for Californian Senator Feinstein to support the Green New Deal, a nation-wide political programme for just transition. This was triggered by the [video](#) of a



2019 meeting of a group of children with the senator which went viral.

Youth vs Apocalypse organised press conferences, interviews and wrote opinion pieces for the newspaper, and eventually they developed a website to gain a youth following. By 2019 they were strong enough to organise a strike of 30 000 people.

Youth vs Apocalypse rallying in front of the headquarters of BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, in the lead-up to COP26, with the message "Stop setting our world on fire".
Photo: Peg Hunter, Flickr

Perspectives

“Youth vs Apocalypse, alongside other youth organisations around the world, has noticed that we are at a turning point – people can no longer depend on governments, world leaders, and nation-states to make the right choices and policies that will create the best possible future for the Earth and all that lives upon it.” Their vision is to:

- **Engage with and respect young people as community leaders and activists.**
They say they want to change the narrative of who has power and who can lead the climate movement. They aim to empower and inspire youth to rise to the occasion, to become leaders and environmentalists, even if they had not previously seen themselves as such.
- **Create a sense of urgency in the support for climate justice movements.**
They aim to shift the narrative from one of incremental changes to a complete boycott of the fossil fuel industry.
- **Adopt policies that support the youth and marginalised communities’ rights to exist on a liveable planet in just circumstances.**

- **Stand for people having innate value rather than money being the measure of value.**
- **Prioritise the voices of those who have been oppressed and silenced by the system that propagates climate change.**

The members are youth from marginalised communities who look to address the climate crisis and the humanitarian crisis. They are particularly focused on youth of colour and working-class communities. A concept that is addressed by this organisation is “**environmental racism**”.

The organisation sees coal as representing extractivism, disregard for local communities, social injustice, and environmental destruction. They view colonialism, patriarchy and capitalism as the fuel and the propagators of the climate crisis. So as much as they are fighting against fossil fuels, and carbon emissions, they are also challenging the entire system.

When questioned about who they are marching for – their answer is, future generations.

How do they organise?

Schools are an asset to the youth because it is an already organised space to mobilise from. Youth vs Apocalypse started recruiting members through school presentations – which are now occurring online – social media campaigns, events and collaborations in the network. The presentations explain the science and history of the climate crisis, and aim to enlighten youth in how to amplify their voice in the private and public spheres. The organisation instituted activism workshops for the youth, and also organises using online creative writing. To expand their reach and voice, they extended to supporting and collaborating with other initiatives and campaigns aligned with their vision.

Their team consists of 3 committees: education, campaigns, and “Hip Hop for Climate Justice”. They use a combination of social media, online meetings and in person meetings, and host community meetings to plan their actions. For their campaigns, they host weekly meetings to share ideas, discuss plans, and grow the movement

together. They aim to take a peer-to-peer approach to mobilising people, by meeting them where they are and speaking to them with respect and validation for who they are and the power they hold.

Initiatives and campaigns

They use non-violent direct action and lobbying to fight their cause.

Putting pressure on polluting companies

One tactic is public protests or direct pressure on targeted corporate polluters. An example of this is their participation in the “No Coal in Oakland” campaign, which also involved other organisations. They took it up as being an issue at the intersection of environment and social justice issues. Coal is both a climate issue and a health hazard for the communities living in the area. Youth vs Apocalypse took to the streets in September 2022 with the slogan “No to coal – Yes to life”. Their march was part of an organised Fridays for Future global climate strike.

Other protest actions Youth vs Apocalypse has been involved in, supporting other organisations that stand for climate justice include · the annual Anti-Chevron Day 2022 (against a multinational oil company) held with United Steel workers in Richmond · 2022 Earth Day march · Rally against Radiation against radioactive waste · a Choose Action Now event targeting emissions from the US military. Find out more about these actions [here](#), where there is a video about each event. (In English)

Divestment campaigns

A protest was organised **against BlackRock**, the biggest asset management company in the world. BlackRock investments were driving new coal development in Oakland. The protestors painted their hands red to symbolise the investment company's destruction of their futures.

A sustained campaign is their **California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTR) divestment campaign**. As at 2022, S\$6 billion of CalSTR pension money is invested in the fossil fuel industry. Youth vs Apocalypse is asking teachers to invest in students and in systems that keep their

communities safe, and not in fossil fuels and environmental racism. The youth gained the support of three teachers on the board which decides where to invest the pensions of California public school teachers. These teachers agree that divesting the money from fossil fuels and investing it elsewhere is the way forward. However, the majority of the board is still pushing back because of the high returns from fossil fuel investments.

Photo: Youth vs Apocalypse's Facebook page



Lobbying politicians

Their campaign called **#CA Youth vs Big Oil** is putting pressure on the governor of California to stop approving any new oil and gas drilling permits, reduce existing reliance on fossil fuels, and make a swift and just transition to renewable energy.

Mobilising through music and media

Youth vs Apocalypse mobilises creatively through an ongoing initiative called “Hip Hop for Climate Justice”. They create hip hop songs and music videos together to carry messages to encourage youth to imagine a sustainable future. Spread through social events and social media this is one of their successful ways of organising and mobilising youth. [See their videos here.](#)

The organisation uses social media to disseminate information, expand awareness and organise people towards action. They make use of emotive social media campaigns.

They write monthly newsletters that discuss their latest campaigns, actions, and successes, and other aspects of the climate struggle to raise awareness about what is happening in the world.



Photo: Youth vs Apocalypse's Facebook page

Impacts and successes

- Through Youth vs Apocalypse and other organisations' efforts, **coal is still banned in Oakland** even though there have been a lot of attempts from developers to overturn the ban.
- **Youth in Oakland are being empowered** to take charge of issues central to their future. The youth have found their voice, learnt to run an organisation and protest actions, secured funding, and managed to sustain the organisation to the extent of having multiple monthly or even weekly initiatives. Participation in Youth vs Apocalypse has bred youth leaders. They have successfully organised tens of thousands of youth to “strike” on climate change issues.
- In their schools they gained the support of some teachers which means **they are given some time in the school day to contribute to the movement** for social justice. They aim to make Youth vs Apocalypse a part of the school day.
- Expanding out from Oakland, starting in 2023 they are introducing a **summer school programme for youth** in the San Francisco area. They have also produced [a step-by-step guide](#) (in English) on how to replicate their movement and start your own in your community.
- In 2021, Youth vs Apocalypse received an **American Climate Leadership Award** by the organisation ecoAmerica, which recognises and shares best practices on climate change advocacy and action in the US.

CASE STUDY OF A CONTINENTAL MOVEMENT

The Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance

[The Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance](#) (PACJA) is a coalition of over 1 000 organisations including women's, youth, faith-based and community-based organisations, farmers and pastoralist groups, indigenous communities, with NGOs, trusts and foundations. These organisations span 48 African countries.



Photo: Climate Justice Network

How did they start?

In 2008, 20 organisations from various African countries met in a workshop in South Africa in the run-up to the UNFCCC COP14 in Poland. They saw a need for African civil society voices to be heard in such global forums. There was a call to spread information across the continent and amplify African voices, locally and nationally. The goal was then to engage with African governments and other leaders, to encourage them to take civil society concerns on justice and fairness into international forums. Out of this PACJA was started, spearheaded by a few people.

Perspectives

It is commonplace that most of Africa is the least responsible for climate change, the continent will warm more than the global average, and its poor have few resources to cope with climate change impacts. Yet in the early 2000s climate justice was not commonly seen as a mainstream issue in Africa. PACJA sought to shift this by connecting climate change to ordinary people's daily lives and concerns. Their vision is to create a people-centred, rights-based and inclusive movement which acts to address

the causes and effects of climate change.

The Alliance seeks to elevate the voices of women and the youth of the continent. A limiting factor in PACJA's development and outreach has been the role of women and their constraints in society, with women still facing challenges in being treated as equals in society.

The livelihoods of many people in Africa depend directly on natural resources. Thus, PACJA's values emphasise securing natural resources and using them sustainably. "Most of our work involves protecting natural resources against misuse by powerful people and corporations. This can be dangerous and physically and emotionally draining. We however have the courage and determination to succeed."^[1]

PACJA is aware of the threat that climate change impacts pose to peace. Between 2018 and 2020 PACJA participated in a Horn of Africa Climate Security Working Group. Here is a 2020 [interview with Dr Mithika Mwenda](#), PACJA Executive Director, on the climate-related security risks in the water-stressed Horn of Africa. (In English)

How do they organise?

As the membership grew, there was a need to create national and sub-national platforms. Now there are national platforms in 18 African countries, being Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia. The idea is that the Alliance is built bottom-up and must be responsive to local and national contexts.

Members direct the strategy and programme of PACJA in annual Congresses. There is a Continental Executive Board, with various governing committees, and a Secretariat based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Initiatives and campaigns

Mass mobilisations

In 2011, PACJA organised the Trans African Caravan of Hope from Burundi to South Africa, to end at

COP17 in Durban. A convoy of buses travelled 7 000 km, collecting and carrying 229 people from pastoral groups, women's organisations, youth and community groups from 10 different African countries. The aim was to learn about climate change in countries along the route, raise awareness and gather perspectives. Along the way they stopped and held dialogues, with music, art and tree-planting activities. They gathered signatures for an Africa People's Petition – continuing at the COP they ultimately reached 2 million signatures! Their demands for the COP included that developed nations and South Africa be held accountable to their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol. Here is a [report of one of the stopovers](#), in Nairobi. (In English)^[2]



In 2015 PACJA organised a series of Climate Justice Concerts in countries where they have a base. Celebrities and artists reinforced the message for global agreement to be reached at COP21 in Paris. [Read about the concert in Nairobi here](#) (In English).^[4]

Trans African Caravan of Hope raising awareness about the climate struggle on its way to the climate conference in Durban. Photos: James Akena/PACJA/ ActionAid



In the lead up to COP27 in Egypt in 2022, the Climate Justice Torch Campaign sent a symbolic torch around African countries. It moved from local to national levels, to eventually culminate in a continent-wide dialogue on the climate crisis. The demands for COP27 were related to finance for African countries, and for that to get to the grassroots.^[5]

Supporting youth

In 2021 PACJA worked with tertiary institutions to hold a two-week **Nairobi Summer School for Climate Justice**, for youth activists from Africa, Asia Pacific and the Caribbean. This led to youth who attended the Summer School setting up a **South-by-South Youth Platform on Climate Justice** to stay in touch and support each other in advancing climate movements back in their own countries.

During the period of Covid lockdowns the **Young Climate Justice Digital Activists** platform was started and supported by PACJA. This was a way for youth to use their digital fluency and access to remain involved in the push towards climate awareness and justice despite the lockdowns. Since youth from anywhere in the world can engage, they are sharing a diversity of contexts and experiences which can help them find solutions to their own challenges.

Advancing the energy transition

Formed in 2016, the **Africa Coalition on Sustainable Energy** is hosted by PACJA's secretariat. It is an alliance of civil society organisations, business entities, academia and research institutions



The Climate Justice Torch at an event on its way to the climate conference in Egypt 2022



advocating renewable energy and energy access in sub-Saharan Africa. A seat on the Coalition's leadership team is reserved for the African Parliamentarian Network on Climate Change, providing a political channel of advocacy. PACJA reflects that strides have been made towards clean energy initiatives, and national policies and strategies that will prioritise African well-being and a just transition, but their efforts have been somewhat thwarted by a lack of research and a lack of political will.

PACJA also initiated the **Africa Women Entrepreneurs in Energy Framework**.

Under the African Union, the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative seeks to accelerate and scale up the harnessing of the continent's huge renewable energy potential. France and the EU are “international partners participating as standing observers”.¹ In 2017, PACJA perceived them to be exercising too much influence over the Initiative and created a petition to reject this. The petition was signed by close to 200 organisations in 34 African countries.

[A video of PACJA calling for “Clean energy access now” during Africa Day at COP22](#) (In English)

Equipping media

PACJA aims to achieve two things in working with the media:

- 1) Influence and equip African journalists to report on climate change issues so as to raise these within Africa
- 2) Elevate African perspectives on climate change internationally through better representation of African journalists in media globally.

To this end, in 2013 PACJA created the **Pan African Media Alliance for Climate Change** of journalists. The alliance particularly looks to give a voice to indigenous communities, women and youth. PACJA started the **African Climate Change and Environment Reporting Awards**. This rewards African journalists and filmmakers reporting on climate justice in Africa. Since the launch of the Awards, they have trained over 600 journalists.

Impacts and successes

- PACJA has gained **recognition for African civil society voices on the global stage**, and been able to present some **united common demands**.
- In Africa, **climate change is now more a part of everyday discussions, media coverage and government thinking**, and PACJA's efforts have contributed to that.
- PACJA has been successful in using political education, creative arts and communication in many forms to **bring together and capacitate thousands of Africans** – while supporting them to voice their perspectives, and their ideas in decision-making spaces. An annual “Week of Action” two weeks before each COP brings PACJA members together in their local communities or cities to organise awareness and action initiatives. A part of the programme is preparing for the upcoming COP, and making sure the experiences and views of those bearing the brunt of climate impacts play a role in the negotiations to come.
- The Alliance has **found ways to connect grassroots issues with national governments with international forums**.

CASE STUDY OF A NATIONAL NETWORK

TierrActiva Peru

TierrActiva Peru is a national network of activists from social justice organisations who coordinate and support each other in working on climate justice and confronting the environmental crisis. Members of women's organisations, indigenous community members and land right activists are involved.

How did they start?

The trigger was a workshop called “Global Power Shift” convened by the global platform 350.org in June 2013. It lasted two weeks and was attended by 500 activists from 130 countries. One of these activists from Peru then spearheaded a national meeting in Lima in 2014, under the umbrella of Power Shift initiatives funded by 350.org. The aim in the initial meeting was to create a space for activists in the country who wanted to find sustainable climate solutions. In Peru and Bolivia,

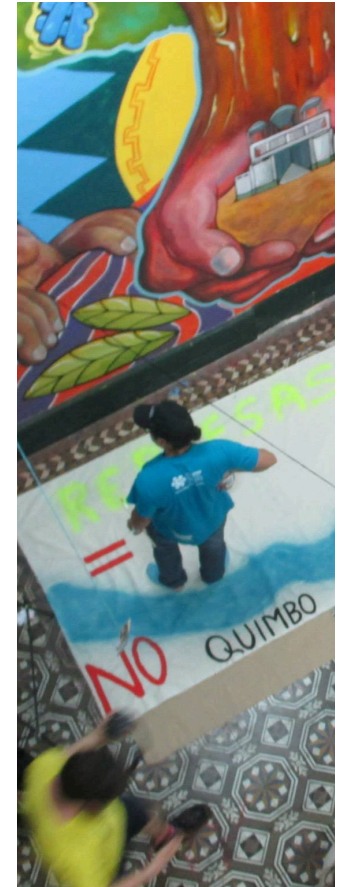
these meetings were called TierrActiva and this is where the network was founded.^[1]

Perspectives

TierrActiva sees the climate crisis as an economic, political and social crisis, which requires systemic change for there to be climate justice for all. They are up against an economic model pursued by the government and business that is extractivist and harms vulnerable populations and indigenous communities. Climate justice is tackled as the intersection between curbing environmental destruction as well as addressing the inequalities that are further deepened by the climate crisis. The movement believes that more “developed” nations have a higher historical debt to pay towards climate adaptation funds. This climate finance should fund adaptation projects in developing countries to assist in their just transition and build resilient local communities.

The movement fights for:

- Food security and sovereignty
- Entire agrarian reform
- Reclamation of indigenous territories



Activities at CasActiva, the space for activism and creativity that TierrActiva set up during the international climate conference in Lima in 2014.

- Systemic alternatives to extractive and industrial development

– and to find new ways of existing and relating to each other through collective and empowering activism, reclaiming power from the bottom up. This includes support for local trade and art forms.

They amplify the voice of women, youth and marginalised communities. Many members identify as eco-feminists.^[2]

They do not limit themselves to climate issues but make statements about politics, repression, corruption and racism.

One of the co-founders speaks about the political legacy: “In Peru from the eighties to 2000 we had an internal armed conflict where a group called the Shining Path declared war on the Peruvian state, and in the resulting war between these groups and armed forces, over 69 000 people died. And we’re still living through the sequels and consequences of that. Groups perceived to be left-wing and progressive in Peru are to this day associated with Marxism and with terrorism, as a single package, due to government and media narratives, and the trauma we still live in as a society.”

How do they organise?

The activists in TierrActiva Peru are involved in their own social justice initiatives. TierrActiva allows them to pool their diverse experiences and knowledge base, and link the different struggles. This creates debate across organisations and builds solidarity. They hold workshops, dialogues and host national meetings. Besides raising funds from 350.org and others, they have used crowdfunding: see this video (in Spanish and English) which speaks about their approach and plans.^[3]

Initiatives and campaigns

Empowering youth

TierrActiva Peru looks to strengthen the youth climate movement in the country. In 2014 they brought together about 100 young people from all over the country for 4 days of workshops, exchanges, dialogue and joint work.^[4] Here is [a video about it](#). (In Spanish) (6 min 49 sec)



Photo: Pavel Martiarena, TierraActiva Peru

Supporting grassroots voices

Latin American governments held a series of consultations with civil society in the run up to COP20 in Lima in 2014. TierraActiva participated, supporting the views of marginalised communities who are worst impacted by climate change.

TierraActiva and others created CasActiva in a house in Lima as a hub for activists outside the COP. Besides workshops, exchanges, strategising and making plans, much artistic creation happened from the house.^[5]

The network faces challenges in reaching outside Lima: “When we try to have meetings with people in regions outside of Lima, oftentimes the Skype call drops, the electricity gets cut off, or it’s raining

and the phone signal doesn’t work. All these logistical issues take on a bigger meaning when you look at it in the context of [rural/urban] inequality and centralisation.”^[6]

Recently, TierraActiva released a statement calling for the lack of female and indigenous representation in the Peruvian Cabinet to be fixed.



Activists participating in the march during COP20 in Lima.
Photo: TierraActiva's Facebook page.

Ecofeminism workshops

The workshops position the climate crisis within the context of women’s history of oppression and agency. Many women work directly with the land, and so are at the forefront of experiencing climate impacts. They have indigenous knowledge which can contribute

Activists gathered for three days to share experiences of environmental injustice and collaborate on finding solutions. There was talk of local struggles in their areas, for example monocropping sugar cane and fracking. These issues were then framed as broader systemic issues including disregard for women, commodification and consumerism.^[8]

Each national TierrActiva focuses on local issues and struggles, and the regional network allows for them to discuss broader regional and global issues when they come together. In this way they connect unique local experiences and impacts with systemic issues in the region, to mutual benefit. Their local and national struggles benefit from solidarity across borders.

In 2019, there was a State-Indigenous Peoples dialogue in the process of developing Peru's Framework Law on Climate Change. The TierrActiva portal was used to disseminate and rally support for the proposals by indigenous community organisations. TierrActiva was one of 70 organisations which signed [a declaration](#). Among other things, the Peruvian state agreed to create an Indigenous Climate Platform. Here's [an article in Spanish](#) about this.^[9]



Module 2

Assignment

Select one of the following topics and write 2 pages on it.

1. BUILDING A JUST TRANSITION MOVEMENT

- a. **Motivate why trade unions and civil society organisations need to work together on a just transition.** How would you explain the vision? What would each gain from working together? Why is it urgent?
- b. **Describe the trade unions and civil society organisations in your country.** What is their situation? How active are they on climate issues?
- c. **List what could be common campaigns** across unions and civil society organisations, relating to a just transition.
- d. **List the steps your organisation can take** to get this movement going in your context.

2. REACHING A NATIONAL JUST TRANSITION AGREEMENT

Referring here to an agreement between the 'social partners' – which, depending on the context, may be business and trade unions only or those two plus government and civil society. This is formally called a social compact.

- a. **Motivate why this is a useful way forward in your country** (if it isn't, don't pick this topic).
- b. **Make arguments that could persuade each of civil society, trade unions, business and government to follow this route in your country.** How would you explain the vision? What can each of them gain from it? Why is it urgent?
- c. **Set out steps that need to be followed** to get a broad social agreement on just transition going in your context.
- d. **Describe what the role of your organisation could be.**



This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Olof Palme International Center and SOLIDAR and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.