

Joint statement of women and gender NGOs and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) on behalf of TUNGOs

Thank you chair.

The women and gender NGOs and the trade unions share the hope that all of you will soon find a shared vision to save the planet and its people.

Chair, we are in the middle of multiple crises: jobs, the environment, markets, food... all our society is in crisis. In order to recover, there cannot be any return to business as usual. The Copenhagen agreement needs to be a step in a new direction.

Already, women and workers, especially in developing countries, are feeling the negative effects of climate change. Our lives and jobs will also be transformed if an ambitious deal comes out of Copenhagen.

Women and trade unions share a vision. We need an international agreement that guarantees a socially just transition towards a low carbon and sustainable society. This transition should address the needs of the most vulnerable groups: the global poor, workers, women, indigenous groups among others. And this convention has to give a strong signal to the world: it needs to recognize internationally the need for social justice.

Funding for adaptation has to be sufficient and target women, and gender perspectives have to be also taken into account when dealing with mitigation goals and their implementation, decent job creation and livelihoods have to be included in climate change policies and social dialogue has to be promoted in all stages of the transition.

Women and workers are fundamental drivers for changing our societies and you need us nationally to build consensus for the great transition that has to take place. Including a call for a just transition in the shared vision will help societies and our organisations to engage and support climate policies. We will work up to, during and beyond Copenhagen to make this happen. We hope we can count on your support.