



ITUC
CSI
CSI
IGB

International Trade Union Confederation
Confédération syndicale internationale
Confederación Sindical Internacional
Internationaler Gewerkschaftsbund

UN Climate Change Conference – COP27

TUNGO statement Resumed High Level Segment

Thursday 16 November 2022

Chair,

My name is Hind Benammar, deputy General Secretary of Arab Trade Union Confederation. I'm proud to speak on behalf of the global trade union movement representing hundreds of millions of workers worldwide. As I'm representing the workers from the MENA region, this is an important opportunity for us here in Sharm El-Sheikh, but also next year at COP28.

Workers in Africa and in the rest of the world are paying a high price for the lack of decisive leadership on climate action. Workers are losing their lives and their livelihoods, particularly women workers in precarious roles. More and more workers and their families are being forced to migrate. They are dealing with irreversible degradation to their working conditions, their physical and mental health, their safety, their community life. This is exacerbated by the lack of social protection – for many, there is no healthcare, no unemployment protection, no safety net when they are hit by the harms of climate change.

That's why we urgently need a worker-centred Just Transition that can enable ambitious climate policy implementation in mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and climate finance. Just Transition is about social dialogue with workers and their unions, about the respect of fundamental labour rights and human rights. About decent jobs for youth. It's about gender equity, about decent work and quality jobs, as is mentioned in the Paris Agreement. These fundamental elements are missing here in Sharm El-Sheikh.

We are at a make-or-break moment to save our future. The world cannot exceed the limit of 1.5 degrees of warming, that means governments must deliver greater ambition, and they must do it now. There is no alternative. We need climate finance now, we need a loss and damage mechanism now and crucially, we need just transition for the workforce embedded into all forms of climate finance. The survival of many on this planet is at stake. Trade unions around the world are delivering the solutions, governments must follow here and now!

We are not yet defeated!