

Suggested G20 Leaders' Communique language

We commit to proactively engage with all affected stakeholders and citizens in a dialogue nationally and regionally as appropriate to steer a process of a just transition towards a net-zero emissions society.

The future of work is one of the core stated priorities of the 2018 G20 under the Argentine Presidency. **Climate change poses existential risks to many sectors and communities. Developing policy responses to fully embrace the opportunities of the transition towards a zero-carbon global economy as well as ensuring no-one is left behind will require a carefully managed just transition of the workforce.** Governments have a responsibility to ensure that their societies and economies are resilient to these impacts, create the appropriate policies to ensure a transition that creates fair and equal opportunities for all and embrace the many opportunities offered through a just transition, in which all have the chance to develop their full potential and benefit from the new technological era. **Decision-makers must ensure they are fully informed and seek the best interest of their citizens, taking a long-term view, and engaging in informed dialogue with those affected.** Growth in green industries outpaces nearly all others, providing jobs and benefits to communities, yet a false narrative of “jobs-versus-environment” is employed by incumbent high-polluting industries to protect their economic self-interest. Just transition must be a bottom-up approach where communities and all sectors of society are invited to create the right policy to ensure everyone benefits from new and innovative low carbon economic opportunities.

Embracing a fair and fast transition can contribute to achieving several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which collectively represent the agenda of a just transition. SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) is the impetus for achieving a just transition. Adherence to SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) will be the catalyst in achieving SDG 10 (reduce inequality) and SDG 1 (no poverty). SDG 13 (climate action) will be essential to the achievement of all SDGs. The phasing out of fossil fuels must be predicated on phasing in new jobs and skills training opportunities within the renewable energy sector and other innovative sustainable economic activities. The Paris Agreement also calls for considering the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities.

Research shows that citizens increasingly support investments in modern, smart and clean economies, including within the 2018 G20 Presidency, for which a 2017 study by the International Trade Union Confederation showed that 84% of Argentines would like to see their government promote a just transition to a zero-carbon future.¹ **Socially inclusive dialogue, responsibly planned and carefully managed policies and strategies, in line with the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 would achieve significant and lasting impacts** including:

- Providing an opportunity for harmonious, cross-sector support, understanding and identifying with a 100% renewable energy future, while alleviating fears of work displacement and assuring families of continued stability, within the framework of the mandates of a rapid energy transition;
- Acknowledging the investments of labor equity in fulfilling past consumer energy demands while re-assuring prioritized inclusion and positioning for integral roles in the modern energy consumption future required in fulfilling the mandates of a 1.5°C trajectory;
- Availing equitable access to affordable, renewable energy to the world’s poorest populations and the one billion plus globally who subsist without this basic life necessity.

CAN calls on all G20 countries to:

- **Proactively engage with all stakeholders and citizens in national and regional dialogues**, as appropriate, to steer a process of a just transition towards a zero-carbon society to advance an accelerated, worker and community oriented, resilient energy transition in line with the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement, to ensure that commitments to just transition embrace the synergies between the opportunities of a low-carbon transition and increased climate ambition;
- **To explore fiscal policies for a just transition**, as there is a need to enhance social safety nets, the G20 along with its collaborative international organizations is well positioned to promote best fiscal practices in support of a just transition.
- **Promote national political processes where common interest prevail to individual interests**, as it is well known that the energy transition will have negatively impacted communities and firms, the political process needs to be carried out under the certainty that the cost of no action is higher and widely spread - as the Stern and the New Climate Economy reports have demonstrated - than acting decisively now with fairness.
- **Develop a space within the G20 agenda** to move discussions on just transition to practical implementation to foster trust, transparency, focused, interactive discussions and successful strategy sharing.

¹ International Trade Union Confederation, 2017 Global Poll (2017) available at https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/global_poll_en_print.pdf