



L20 STATEMENT TO THE G20 LEADERS' SUMMIT

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Worker demands on delivering prosperity for people and protecting the planet

“We acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a major impact on the global economy as well as our societies and has exacerbated inequalities worldwide. We recognise the need for a coherent and human-centred policy approach that leads to greater social justice and decent work for all.”

G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration, 2021

In 2020, G20 leaders committed to “spare no effort to protect lives”. Covid-19 continues to claim lives while jobs and livelihoods are lost, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable, and while climate ambitions remain unfulfilled.

Despite early success in the development of Covid-19 vaccines, less than two per cent of the population in many developing countries are vaccinated. The IMF has identified persisting vaccine inequality as the biggest threat to a global recovery.

The G20 must urgently take action towards guaranteeing universal access to Covid-19 vaccines, treatments, and testing and commit to a recovery plan shaped by social dialogue and a new social contract, and aimed at a just development model that invests in quality climate-friendly jobs with a Just Transition, a floor of rights for all workers, including on occupational health and safety, quality public services, and fiscal space for structural and resilient universal social protection systems, making use of a global Social Protection Fund to support this goal, equality of treatment and opportunity, and inclusive economies with full and decent employment.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the fault lines of the global economy, the fragility of global supply chains, and the lasting damage caused by decades of policies that have pushed for deregulation and privatisation. These policies have eroded government capacity to support people, promote full and decent employment, and protect the environment. Austerity measures have cut public investment, eroded public services, and reduced safety nets. A model of globalisation fueled by a race to the bottom on rights, dehumanising conditions in supply chains, and increasing inequality has damaged trust in governments.

Since the start of the pandemic, rescue packages, concentrated in advanced economies, have provided a necessary lifeline. However, only a small share of those packages was directed towards workers, and many countries have started to roll back support. For many countries, hard fiscal constraints meant that despite the crisis, they had to roll back their expenditures. A global financial safety net not fit for purpose, along with mounting debt burdens and inadequate measures to address debt vulnerabilities, is worsening the crisis. UNCTAD has estimated developing countries will be \$12 trillion poorer through 2025, with a continued failure to roll out vaccines, wiping out an additional \$1.5 trillion in income.

The ILO expects employment numbers to remain below their pre-pandemic levels into 2022. Frontline workers have risked their lives, despite facing challenging conditions, lacking proper health and safety protections, precarious employment and low pay. Women, migrants, racial and ethnic minorities, and young people are over-represented in low-wage and informal occupations, often lacking adequate social protection, while being hit the hardest by the slowdown in economic activities.

The slow and uneven jobs recovery risks long-lasting scarring, growing poverty, and a world that is moving further away from meeting its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. An uneven and fragile recovery risks exacerbating inequalities within and between countries and leaving the world unable tackle the pressing challenges of the climate crisis and digital transformations, and fuelling the rise of far-right populism that threatens democracies.

Social dialogue must lay the foundations for a human-centred recovery that can regain trust, reduce inequalities, and deliver a Just Transition to a net-zero carbon and digital economy, realising the ambitions set by the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

We call on G20 leaders to urgently take action and deliver on promises to contain and mitigate the pandemic, and pledge to financing commitments for a Global Covid-19 vaccine plan. We ask G20 leaders to:

- immediately support the request for a TRIPS waiver to temporarily suspend intellectual property rights for Covid-19 vaccines, treatments, and tests, as proposed by India and South Africa at the WTO, so production can be ramped up and costs lowered;
- Ensure universal access and equitable distribution of vaccines, treatments, and tests, through increased financial support for COVAX;
- recognise SARS-COV-2 as an occupational hazard and COVID-19 as an occupational disease and provide vaccination and mass testing, starting with frontline workers.

G20 leaders must take the following steps to build on the foundation of the labour and employment ministers' commitment to a human-centred approach for a recovery that can deliver decent work for all:

- Put forth employment recovery plans, in dialogue with social partners, to create quality climate-friendly jobs underpinned by minimum living wages and collective bargaining, with a labour protection floor based on ILO Fundamental Rights at Work and occupational health and safety for all workers, in order to create a level playing field for workers.
- Achieve full employment through investment in active labour market policies to stimulate job creation and end the failed approach of labour rights erosion and fragmentation of the employment relationship; and promote the democratisation of the workplace through collective bargaining and social dialogue and the right to organise workers in any form of employment relationship.
- Give workers a voice at all key stages in strategic decisions about the digitalisation of the workplace, use of algorithms and artificial intelligence at work, strengthening transparency, protection and ownership of employee data, privacy, as well as ensuring the governance of surveillance and monitoring.
- Encourage countries to adopt an industrial policy framework to foster innovation, anticipate sectoral transformation and enable a transition to a net-zero carbon and digital economy, in accordance with the ILO just transition guidelines.
- Support creating new skills and learning opportunities by investing in quality public education and vocational and life-long training, with a focus on apprenticeships and youth, and work with social partners to ensure life-long learning.
- Fulfil the pledge in the 2019 ILO Centenary Declaration to elevate occupational safety health to the status of a fundamental right.

G20 leaders must support equality and tackle discrimination through:

- realising the commitment to create better and equally paid jobs for women, bringing 100 million women into the labour market by 2025 and working on a transition from informal to formal employment;
- ratifying and effectively implementing ILO Convention 190 on ending violence and harassment at work and enforcing the ILO principle of “equal pay for equal work”;
- increasing investment to ensure quality jobs in the health and care sector and supporting formalisation of care jobs;
- achieving the Brisbane 25-25 Goals and the Antalya G20 Youth Goals and broadening the scope of qualitative and quantitative indicators to measure progress towards these goals;
- delivering on previous commitments to ensure migrants enjoy equal treatment, and fight racism in the workplace and society;
- providing support for quality traineeships and apprenticeships with minimum living wages and collective bargaining rights, paying attention to the inclusion of youth, women, and other groups that might face discrimination;
- Extending social protection coverage to those not in the formal economy; and
- ensuring workers in platform businesses or internet-mediated work are correctly classified, covered by labour laws and agreements and enjoy the same rights and protections as all other workers.

For an inclusive, resilient, and climate-proof recovery, G20 leaders must shift away from an austerity framework and make commitments on public investments. Towards these goals, G20 leaders must:

- support domestic revenue mobilisation to create the needed fiscal space for national governments to make necessary investments in people and infrastructure;
- end international tax avoidance practices and set a minimum global corporate tax of at least 25%;
- introduce progressive taxation measures, such as a minimum rate of corporate taxation, financial transaction taxes, effective taxation of the digital economy, and wealth taxes to curb the rise of excessive wealth in the midst of rising poverty;
- tackle market concentration and the monopoly power of e-commerce and technology companies, and curb their uncompetitive practices that put downwards pressure on workers and suppliers;
- invest in quality public services and support free and universal health, education and care services, including mental health, elderly care, childcare, and other social care services;
- expand the social protection system to achieve universal coverage and strengthen contributory systems;
- provide leadership towards implementing the Paris Agreement, by setting ambitious decarbonisation targets in NDCs, investing in areas that support efforts to decarbonise, and ensuring all investments are aligned with human rights, ESG standards and UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- apply the ILO Just Transition framework to design climate transition policies with democratic participation and social dialogue;
- direct public investments towards infrastructure projects, including in areas of transportation, sanitation, and digital infrastructure, and mobilise national and regional public development banks to provide financial support.

To support a global recovery aligned with the Paris Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals, G20 leaders must take the following steps towards a reformed multilateralism:

- Deliver on the existing commitment to \$100 billion in climate finance to help the most vulnerable countries adapt to climate change and reduce their emissions. This finance should come in the form of grants, not loans, to avoid creating a new debt burden.
- establish a Global Social Protection Fund to support the establishment of universal social protection in the world's least developed countries as recommended by the development ministers;
- uphold international commitments to reach 0.7% of their GDP in development cooperation budgets;
- expand initiatives for debt relief, restructuring, or cancellation, expand participation in the DSSI and G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments to private creditors, include both low- and middle-income countries, and encourage debt write-offs to restore debt sustainability;
- create channels for advanced economies to reallocate their recent IMF SDR allocation through debt-free support for countries in need;
- support efforts to address climate change in developing countries through finance and technology sharing;
- respect domestic policy space in trade and investment agreements and end

provisions that limit the ability to pursue policies towards achieving full employment, a just transition to a net-zero economy, regulation of the digital economy, and the space to develop;

- include clauses to effectively enforce ILO standards through bilateral and regional trade agreements;
- end investor-state dispute tribunals that favour corporations over the public good, and establish a fair and transparent mechanism to handle such disputes;
- establish a Committee on Labour as a formal space for social dialogue at the WTO and adopt an enforceable labour clause, based on the ILO fundamental rights, to set a floor on rights globally;
- commit to adopting and implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and mandate due diligence for corporate supply chains and the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy; and
- ensure coherence of policies promoted by the IMF, the World Bank, and other regional development banks with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, ILO Labour Standards, and the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Actively engage in and support the process at the UN Human Rights Council to elaborate an international legally binding instrument on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises.