

**3rd ITUC Asia Pacific Conference
Resolution No.13**

CLIMATE ACTION AND GREEN ECONOMY

The Conference reaffirms that global climate change is not about the future but it is severely damaging lives of the working class in the world today, especially vulnerable people. In particular, the Asian and Pacific region, regarded as the most affected area by climate change, has been experiencing more intensifying, frequent and stronger natural disasters; most recently heavy storm in Australia and typhoon in Vanuatu, typhoons in Philippines, floods in South Asia, and so on. Also the Conference is aware that Pacific Islands are at grave risks of climate degradation as rising sea level has accelerated the rate of coastal erosion and land loss, which puts working families in danger and poverty due to severe loss of income from main industries such as fishery and tourism.

The Conference is appalled that South Asia is estimated to lose nearly 2% of its GDP by 2050, rising to 9% by 2100 even under optimistic climate projections and also the Pacific will lose 12.7% of annual GDP equivalent by 2100 without any action being taken. Also it is noted with serious concerns that increasing food insecurity and natural disasters can almost double the number of population in poverty in Asia and the Pacific. Climate change clearly makes people's vulnerability to poverty increasing and economic development hampered.

The Conference is concerned about no meaningful implementation or progress of policies for emission reductions and any related environmental issues since the expiry of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol commitments. Thus, the Conference emphasises the importance of international solidarity among affiliates to pressurise their governments into adoption of a new legally binding instrument to replace the Kyoto Protocol at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in 2015.

Considering serious adverse impacts of nuclear energy on human lives and communities as shown by a series of nuclear power plant accidents, the Conference recognises the need of a transition period to phase out the use of such energy in longer term that would be done by more investment on greener energy towards sustainable economic and social development.

Climate change is a workers' issue not only since industrial transformation towards green economy will lead to necessary employment adjustment but also because consequences of the change have been harming livelihoods of workers and their families. Thus, the Conference stresses again no delay in producing a binding agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol for tackling CO₂ emissions and realizing 'Just Transition' for workers towards green economy.

Therefore, the Conference commits the ITUC-AP, working with affiliates and GUFs to:

- Participate in the ITUC's climate action in the COP process;
- Conduct campaign for a just transition to environmentally sustainable development and adaptation to global warming, with special focus to the distributional impact on workers in the region;
- Demand and engage in social dialogue to ensure investment in industrial transformation, universal access to breakthrough technologies and just transition measures, including eventual phasing out of nuclear energy in longer term;

- Lobby and try for more engagement with governments, regional/inter-regional governmental bodies and IFIs to promote green jobs and a just transition; and
- Strengthen international solidarity among affiliates for the rehabilitation of victims of the adverse effects of climate change.