Open Letter to All States Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Deliver Just Transition now: Establish the BAM!

Excellencies,

The Paris Agreement carried a promise: that climate action would protect people's rights and livelihoods - placing the effort of transition on those most responsible for the crisis.

Ten years later, after tireless organising, mobilising and advocacy by an unprecedented coalition of trade unions, Indigenous Peoples, feminists, youth, frontlines communities, grassroots social movements and civil society, we secured a huge victory in the struggle for just transition.

COP30 in Belem represented a real breakthrough - a commitment was made to implement a Just Transition centering workers, communities, and Indigenous Peoples - to build a future rooted in rights, fairness, equity and solidarity. It was also a call for unprecedented international cooperation, so that every country could find new pathways to social and economic justice within planetary boundaries, in line with the principle of equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).[1]

2026 has been plagued by devastation stemming from unprecedented global temperatures, growth in billionaire power, and relentless fossil fuel expansion that has failed to end the energy crisis and energy unaffordability, and further spiraling inequality. Those who have done the least to cause the climate crisis are affected the most. And without action, all the important messages agreed last year will remain empty promises.

In Belem, you agreed to develop a Just Transition mechanism by COP31 - a direct response to our demand for the BAM.

Our organisations - representing workers in formal and informal settings, Indigenous Peoples, People of African Descent, peasant movements, gender diversities, feminists, youth, environmental and social movements, and communities on the frontlines - call on all Parties to take a decision in Antalya that will tangibly improve the lives and livelihoods of millions of people, setting a new direction for climate cooperation: one that puts people and their rights at the centre.

So here we are. On the eve of COP31, we re-state the urgent need for countries to follow-through on the commitments made at COP30 and establish the Belem-Antalya Mechanism for Just Transition immediately.

More concretely, this means:

1. Agreeing on the functions, modalities, governance and ways of working of the mechanism in a way that supports the delivery of **the rights, principles and policies agreed at COP30.** This means a BAM that advances human and labour rights, decent work and quality jobs, gender equality, intergenerational equity, and the rights to health, to development, and to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, while fully respecting the inherent, distinct individual

[1] See the COP30 decision 2/CMA7

and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples, including Free Prior and Informed Consent, self-determination, and the protection of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact.

2. Ensuring the BAM has an institutional set up that is fit for purpose. The BAM must have a mandate and dedicated institutional arrangements to provide **technical and financial support to Just Transition strategies, coordinate relevant bodies within and outside the UN, and foster** inclusive, regionally balanced knowledge-exchange that respects scientific integrity and methodological diversity.

3. Translating one of the big learnings of Just Transition approaches into the UNFCCC: Nothing about us without us. The **BAM must be inclusive, democratic, and ensure that rights-holders and vulnerabilised groups have seats at the table**. We must place workers and communities in charge of decisions that affect their lives and livelihoods.

Climate action must work for people, not against them.

Done right, a Just Transition leads us to decent jobs, secure livelihoods, respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights and their knowledge systems, food and energy sovereignty, social protection, safer and healthier communities, and a liveable future and environment for all. Ignored, it becomes the next excuse for delay, exclusion, extraction and corporate capture that perpetuates harm.

We stand united - unions, Indigenous Peoples, feminists, youth, environmentalists, and working-class movements - in a common demand for justice and transformation, for action that matches the scale of the crisis and the dignity of those living through it.

Let COP31 in Antalya be remembered as the moment the world finally delivered on the promise of a Just Transition and chose fairness over failure, when governments proved that multilateralism can still deliver for people and the planet.

Sincerely,

You can access here the individual demands of the rights-based constituencies, which further detail our visions for the BAM.