

Trade unions and climate change



comisiones obreras
de Aragón

Trade unions and climate change in the UNFCCC negotiations

CCOO, ETUC and ITUC: a common position



ITUC supports ambitious emissions reduction targets in the UNFCCC

- A common and ambitious position on the need for tackling climate change, with developed countries taking the lead, integrated in key union statements CRUCIAL for our LEGITIMACY IN THE PROCESS:
 - Developed countries: have to take the lead in emission reductions. The ITUC recognises the urgency of taking action and supports the IPCC recommendations for 2050 and 2020. The IPCC concludes that a reduction by developed countries of at least 25%-40% by 2020 below 1990 levels is necessary in order to attain the global 85% reduction by 2050.
 - Developing countries: trade unions agree on the need for developing countries to achieve GHG emission reduction, stabilisation or controlled increases, under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Trade union main demands

1. Ensuring that the new agreement contains a call for “**Just Transition**” as it appears in the current draft, under paragraph 4 of the Negotiating Text.
2. Ensuring that the next agreement makes specific mention of **employment and income**.
3. Including the **promotion of consultation and dialogue** with all stakeholders, including trade unions, at the international, sectoral, national and local level, as means for fostering and speeding up implementation of effective and employment-sensitive climate change policies.

Just Transition for workers and communities

- Concrete elements of this “Just Transition” framework need to be mainstreamed in the different sections aimed at protecting the most vulnerable from climate change risks and from the consequences of climate change adaptation or mitigation measures, such as:
 - Consultation and social dialogue,
 - social protection -including the role of public services-
 - accompanying measures,
 - vocational training,
 - technology development and innovation
 - green jobs creation

Where is JUST TRANSITION on the negotiating text?

- For the first time in the history of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, there is a recognition about the need for a “Just Transition” for workers. Based on a submission made by Argentina, the Chairman’s Negotiating Text states:

- Paragraph 4 of Share Vision:

“ An economic transition is needed that shifts global economic growth patterns towards a low emission economy based on more sustainable production and consumption, promoting sustainable lifestyles and climate-resilient development while ensuring a just transition of the workforce. The active participation of all stakeholders in this transition should be sought (...).”

Employment and incomes

- ❑ Social issues and employment start to be better understood in the Convention, but far from being integrated.
- ❑ The UNFCCC has a mandate regarding social and economic measures related to climate change; however, there is a need to specify the need for addressing income and employment, in particular regarding flexibility mechanisms, adaptation strategies, financial mechanisms and policies against deforestation.

Green Jobs: “Opportunities” agenda

- ❑ Trade unions will work towards the transformation of all jobs into environmentally-friendly and socially-decent jobs.
- ❑ Green jobs are a first step towards this transformation, they can make a major contribution to clean economic growth, development and poverty reduction.
- ❑ **New emerging sectors and greening the existing ones:**
 - Energy supply: renewable sources of energy
 - Energy efficiency, particularly in buildings and construction
 - Transportation: Sustainable mobility
 - Waste: Basic industries and recycling
 - Agriculture
 - Forestry Management
- ❑ **How?**
 - Promoting workers’ education and training on climate friendly and climate-resilient technologies as part of capacity building strategies.
 - Promoting social innovation strategies in order to facilitate behavioural and organisational change, along with sustainable deployment of technologies.

CCOO position

Just transition is a concept that contains the exigency of quality in the employment in the new activities and also that this change becomes in the current sectors without damage for the workers, with plans that contain formation, professional career, stability in the employment and social protection.

Power system "is the main vector of the change towards a new productive model, in which will change not only the processes of energy generation, but also to the consumption processes, with special incidence in sectors like the construction, the industry and the transport"

ISTAS

ISTAS (Union Institute of Work, Environment and Health) is a **self-managed trade union's technical foundation** supported by the Spanish Trade Union Confederation CCOO to promote the improvement of **working conditions, occupational health and safety and environmental protection in Spain.**

Research, studies, publications and actions carried out by ISTAS have a basic operative goal: the improvement of health and safety at work and environmental protection.

Studies carried out by ISTAS

estudio
Energías Renovables y
generación de empleo
en España, presente y
futuro



2007

2007

Realizado por:



Instituto Sindical de Trabajo
Ambiente y Salud

Enero de 2008



2008-2009

*Energías renovables
y empleo en
Cataluña
Situación actual 2008*

Realizado por:



Instituto Sindical de Trabajo
Ambiente y Salud



Energías renovables y empleo en
la Comunidad Autónoma de Madrid:
Situación actual



istas CCOO

Estudio
Energías Renovables y
empleo en la Comunidad
Foral de Navarra, 2008



Realizado por:



Instituto Sindical de Trabajo
Ambiente y Salud

Aims of the study

- **Estimating the number of direct jobs** required by each sub-sector or technological branch of renewable energy (wind, photovoltaic, thermal with high temperatures, thermal with low temperatures, biomass and biofuels) for its adequate development in a short (2010) and long (2020) term.
- **Assessment of professional categories** by type of technology, by professional level (specialists, engineers, architects, non-qualified workers) and when possible by type of activity (operation, installation and maintenance).

Methodology

Object of the study

This studies explores economic, business, and association activities directly involved in the operation of renewable energy sources.

Qualitative technique:

Semi-structured interview to key informants, with an informative purpose. Exploratory and of complement to the quantitative analysis.

Quantitative technique:

Telephone survey to direction positions or people in charge of human resources of the companies of the sector.

Spain 2007

Analysis of the survey

- ✓ The business structure in the renewable energy sector is basically divided into two categories of enterprises adapted to the aforementioned markets and whose strategies are clearly different.
- ✓ Big corporations who own the technology more and more oriented to the international market. That strategy offers wider versatility for the industry since it will not depend on a single market. It also offers great opportunities to diversify some technologies that would not prove profitable in developed countries.
- ✓ A great number of SMEs oriented to the internal market which is divided by regions.

Spain 2007

Analysis of the survey

Employment in 2007 in Renewable Energies

Direct jobs	Activities A	Activities B	Indirect jobs (ratio 1.12)	TOTAL direct and indirect
89.001	67.374	21.627	99.681	188.682
100%	75,70%	24,3		

- ✓ A-type activities: construction, operation and maintenance jobs.
- ✓ B-type activities: administrative, sales and project/engineering jobs

Spain 2007

Analysis of the survey

The production process has been divided into two main categories:

- ✓ Operation and maintenance: jobs required to carry out operation and management of the plant. These jobs would be permanent throughout the lifespan of the energy plant.
- ✓ Building and installation: this category includes the jobs required to start up new energy plants. Employment will remain stable as long as renewable energy facilities are being set up.

Estimates on the number of jobs for 2010 and 2020 by types of energy

Type de energy	Employment 2007	Employment forecast 2010 ISTAS	Employment 2020 Scenario A*	Employment 2020 Scenario B*
Wind	32.906	36.197	49.427	42.637
Small hydropower	6.661	7.327	27.936	24.098
Solar Thermal	8.174	8.991	8.170	7.047
Solar thermoelectric	968	1.065	13.642	6.616
Solar Photovoltaic	26.449	29.094	41.859	36.108
Biomass	4.948	5.443	101.705	87.733
Biofuel	2.419	2.661	24.807	21.400
Biogas	2.982	3.280	3.241	2.796
Other	3.494			
TOTAL	89.001	94.058	270.788	228.435

Spain 2007

Analysis of the survey

Employment in 2007 in Renewable Energies

Direct jobs	OM	CIO
89.001	8.528	80.473
100%	9,58%	90,42%

- ✓ OM: Operation and Maintenance.
- ✓ CIO: Construction, Installation and Others.

Conclusions

- ✓ The development of renewable energies has been influenced by many factors, among them institutional support by a stable legislation marc.
- ✓ Improvement in the skills and qualifications of workers is a prerequisite for the renewable energy development which is a high added value industry and demanding in technological aspects.
- ✓ Continuous training is essential to the creation of qualified and well-paid jobs.
- ✓ Identification and assessment of particular occupations must be a shared effort from enterprises, goverment and workers in order to provide training in appropriate skills and competences.

Spain 2007

Analysis of the survey

- ✓ Most of the jobs in this sector concentrate on the categories of building of new facilities, installation and maintenance followed by equipment manufacture.
- ✓ Subcontracting makes it difficult to calculate the number of newly created jobs. Subcontracted work required lower qualifications and are usually directed by the criteria of those sectors where they were initially registered.
- ✓ The sector is now becoming more stable in terms of building and installation jobs. Operation and maintenance jobs (requiring specific qualification) acquire more significance.

Energy policy proposals

- ✓ National and regional legislation provide an essential support for this sector which has the necessary resources, business agents and social recognition for its development.
- ✓ The main challenge for this sector is the creation of an equipment industry (considering limitations and goals) capable of covering the demands. Support must be given to the creation of an auxiliary supply industry to achieve more adaptation capability than the other bigger industries that represent the core of the sector.
- ✓ Operation, maintenance and all factors related to the correct operation of the systems of renewable energy generation, represent today an increasing necessity in the correct maturation of the sector.

Final conclusion

Constant development of the Renewable Energies not only constitutes a mechanism for the mitigation of the effects of the climatic change and protection of the environment, but also represents a positive social contribution in terms of employment creation.