

Thank you chair, -

What should the green economy entail in order to work for workers, to work for the people? Trade unions believe that a green economy recognise the fact that natural resources are limited and therefore should ambitiously advance towards their equitable sharing between countries and inside countries.

Chair, trade unions believe that a green economy should reduce the gap between the developed and the developing world and respect the different paths for development. For advancing this goal, key policies, such as ensuring the necessary financing contributions and fairer rules for trade have to be put in place.

But a green economy should also improve equity inside countries. In the last 50 years, companies and governments put all their efforts on reducing labour costs in order to gain on competitiveness. In the last 50 years in Europe, for example, labour productivity increased by 300%. Meanwhile, material productivity only improved by 50%, and energy productivity even less. Since Rio, and following ILO reports almost everywhere in the planet, the share of wages in total income declined. Economic policies must stop squeezing workers, women and men, and rather move towards a much more efficient use of natural resources.

Chair, the Green Economy will not automatically deliver on environmental protection and social progress unless a certain number of policies are put in place, including the provision of a “just transition” for workers and communities. Unions believe though, contributing to the debates on jobs, that the transformation to a greener economy is an opportunity for creating jobs, green and decent, as numerous researchs demonstrate it.

To conclude, Chair, our production and consumption models have to change dramatically, in order to make opportunities real for the most vulnerable of the planet and to deliver resolutely on sustainable development.