

TRADE UNIONS KEY MESSAGES¹

Global Digital Compact

Trade Unions are calling on governments and international institutions to implement a NEW SOCIAL CONTACT with 575 million new and decent jobs with just transitions and the formalisation of one billion of informal workers by 2030 to meet the promises of the SDGs.

For technological change to serve the common good, investments and regulatory frameworks must be designed and implemented in order to ensure access to technology for all, including addressing global digital divide, and reinforce fundamental ILO standards and other internationally recognised human rights in a rapidly changing world.

Governments should be supportive of collective bargaining and social dialogue, in accordance with the ILO Conventions.

Governing Technology

- We call on governments to implement policies and regulations governing technology, data and deployment of algorithms that are employment- and worker-friendly and ensure privacy and people's control over and ownership of their own data.
- We call on governments and international institutions to put in place proactive digitalisation policies and strategies including for improving access to public services.
- We call for national and international frameworks that require prior negotiations with unions concerning the introduction of new technologies in enterprises.
- Governments must not ratify trade agreements with provisions that limit the ability of governments to regulate the digital economy.
- We oppose any liberalisation of international digital trade that could prevent States from regulating the social and fiscal practices of digital operators.
- We demand that large tech monopolies be broken up to ensure fair competition and an end to monopoly power.
- We call for tax reform to ensure tech companies pay their fair share of tax in the country where profits are generated.
- Promoting social dialogue in the introduction of technology will help protect the

¹ The International Trade Union Confederation represents 200 million workers in 168 countries and territories and has 338 national affiliates.

interests of workers, achieve more efficient and effective deployment of the technology, minimize negative impacts and ensure economic gains from technology are shared.

- Interoperability must be a central objective of governance.
- Governance must be multi-stakeholder, and must be agile to anticipate and respond to technological developments in order to ensure relevance and timeliness.

Accessing Technology

- We call on governments and international institutions to bridge the global digital divide, to bring internet connectivity to all the world's people as a human right and to ensure access to technology for all. Of the estimated 2.7 billion people currently unconnected, the majority are women and girls. The digital gender gap continues expanding in many developing countries, creating a specific need to support digital gender equality.
- By achieving universal broadband coverage by 2030 could lead to a net increase in employment of 24 million new jobs worldwide, of which 6.4 million would be taken by young people.
- Access to the internet must be universal. Accessibility must also be universal, recognising the different needs of people from different age groups, backgrounds, abilities and other distinguishing characteristics.
- Governments must be held to account for attempts to restrict access for political reasons, including internet blackouts.

Investing in Technological Transitions

- We call on governments and business to maximise, in every country, the potential of new technology to create decent, sustainable jobs that contribute to a zero carbon zero-poverty world.
- Technology transfer must be ensured, and supported through provisions in loans and grants, to enable all countries to transform their economies and create decent jobs through technological advances with Just Transition.
- Governments need to address the impacts of digitally-mediated business on informality, including in global supply chains.
- Governments must adopt gender transformative measures to address women's structural barriers in accessing education and jobs in the digital economy.
- Lifelong learning requires investment in education at all levels, with decent work and proper facilities for teachers and trainers, along with academic freedom.
- We call for the implementation of the right to quality publicly funded education for all as a basis for all roles that contribute to a well-functioning society, and for free lifelong learning systems to be put in place to develop knowledge, capabilities and technical skills while preparing for and seeking work, as well as while in work.

Protecting rights in the digital economy

- We call on governments to regulate the labour market to end the false classification of

workers as independent contractors, and ensure that workers in platform and other digitally-mediated and technology-related businesses have full organising and collective bargaining rights.

- We call on governments to withdraw competition rules that stop freelance workers from collectively establishing and bargaining for fair rates for their work.
- We demand that regulatory frameworks ensure decent working conditions for remote workers, including through promotion of collective bargaining, and prohibit intrusive surveillance of workers wherever they work.
- People must have the right to own and control data about themselves. Central to this is the distinction between people's private data, official data such as that legitimately required for government records, and data which people choose to share with others.
- Robust privacy and data protections must be in place, including the right to protection from surveillance at work and in society.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

Head Office

Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 5, Bte 1 B - 1210 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 (0) 2224 0211

Fax: +32 (0) 2201 5815

E-mail: info@ituc-csi.org

Web site: <http://www.ituc-csi.org>