



14 – 19 JUIN/JUNE/JUNIO/GIUGNO/ИЮНЯ 2021

FORUMSYNDECO.ORG

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION FORUM ON ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL TRANSITION JUNE 14 – 19 2021

The social and environmental emergency, as well as the dramatic deterioration of the working and living conditions of a majority of the population since the beginning of the pandemic, has led a growing number of organizations - from company unions to professional federations to local, regional and international organizations - and other social movements to develop various strategies to respond.

This Forum was co-organized for several months with organizations from all continents. It will be an opportunity to share experiences, proposals and struggles of unions and their allies. The themes discussed will mainly revolve around: the transformation of the energy system, sectoral transitions and strategies for building power relations. Each thematic workshop is the result of preparatory work that we wish to bring up for debate. Texts summarizing our collective reflections will be made available to participants before the Forum.

The Forum will be organized around daily sessions from June 14 to 19. The sessions will combine presentation and discussion time.

It will conclude on Saturday, June 19 from 2pm to 5pm with a plenary assembly where a united appeal will be presented in view of the Cop26 in Glasgow and addressed to all social forces engaged in the construction of an ecological and social transformation.

Coordinated by:

ALTER  
SUMMIT





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## PROGRAM

All times shown are in the CEST time zone.

**Monday  
June  
14**

**12:15pm–  
1pm**  
(CET)

### Opening session

Interventions by:

Bazie Bassolme, CGT-B (Burkina Faso)  
 Denis Bolduc, FTQ (Canada)  
 David Boys, PSI (Worldwide)  
 Alana Dave, ITF (Worldwide)  
 Philippe Martinez, CGT (France)  
 Mariano Sanz, CC.OO (Spain)  
 Ludovic Voet, CES (Europe)  
 Dong-Gyu Yang, KCTU (South Korea)

**1pm–  
3pm**  
(CET)

### Health

The degradation of the environment has led to a multiplication of pandemics (known as Zoonosis) and diseases linked to environmental degradation. The Covid-19 epidemic and its human and social damage testify to the urgency of (re)building a health and pharmaceutical system that is equal to the challenges. What are the proposals and strategies of health workers' organizations, on the front line of these human disasters, to respond?

With:  
 CC.OO (Spain)  
 CDT-C (Congo)  
 CDT-M (Morocco)  
 CGT Santé (France)  
 CSA (Senegal)  
 FESACI-CG (Ivory Coast)  
 FeSP UGT (Spain)  
 FMST (Worldwide)  
 KCTU-KPTU (South Korea)  
 KTR (Russia)  
 PSI (Worldwide)  
 Sud Santé Sociaux (France)  
 Unifor (Canada)

### Multinational Companies

Today, initiatives to tackle the climate crisis, reduce pollution, fight inequalities at work, guarantee workers' rights and stimulate fair economic activity are multiplying. But they are coming up against the giant energy interest's commerce, the automobile industry, and urban services. Multinational companies are behind the multiplication of production activities that harm both the environment, workers and communities. What trade union action can be taken to counter this?

With:  
 CDT-C (Congo)  
 CSA (Senegal)  
 CSP Conlutas (Brazil)  
 KTR (Russia)  
 NTUI (India)  
 ReAct (France)  
 SEIU (USA)  
 SHERPA (Worldwide)  
 Solidaires (France)  
 Sud Amazon (France)

**3:30pm–  
5:30pm**  
(CET)

### Territories in transition

The communities and the workers that give them vitality through their knowledge of local needs and their interrelation with a series of essential activities, have a key role to play in the ecological transition. Starting from the example of the postal sector, this working group will open reflections on the strategies within the trade union movement to contribute to it.

With:  
 CC.OO (Spain)  
 CDT-C (Congo)  
 CGT FAPT (France)  
 CGT-SP Territoriaux (France)  
 CIG (Galicia-Spain)  
 CSA (Senegal)  
 CUP-W (Canada)  
 FTQ (Quebec)  
 PSI (Worldwide)  
 SUD-PTT (France)  
 UGT (Spain)  
 UMT (Morocco)

### Construction and urbanism

Carrying out thermal renovation work on housing, which has the advantage of mobilizing jobs and skills that cannot be relocated, strengthening collective control of urbanization, and fighting against precariousness through the right to housing: How are these struggles being carried out by the trade union movement and the communities of committed inhabitants and what are the stakes in view of the COP 26?

With:  
 Alliance Citoyenne (France)  
 AMCU (South Africa)  
 CC.OO (Spain)  
 CGIL (Italy)  
 CGT-B (Burkina Faso)  
 CGT Construction (France)  
 CSC-ASV (Belgium)  
 FETBB (Europe)  
 FICA-UGT (Spain)  
 FTQ Construction (Quebec)  
 UIL (Italy)  
 UNIA Geneva (Switzerland)  
 UNTM (Mali)



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**Tuesday  
June  
15**

**1pm–  
3pm**  
(CET)

## Reorientation and industrial diversification

The industrial capacities, in certain branches, are for a non-negligible part of them turned towards a production which does not correspond to the needs of an ecological and socially just transition. A crucial question then becomes how to organize an industrial reorientation, not only in adequacy with democratically defined needs, but also by relying on the expertise and the know-how of the employees from these industries. Based on the experience of the Thales group's trade unions, working on the reorientation of the infrastructure dedicated to its military branch towards its medical branch, this group will look at trade union strategies aimed at public control of industrial conversions under the control of employees and citizens.

With:  
AIMTA (Canada)  
CC.OO (Spain)  
CGT Thalès (France)  
Ex Lucas (UK)  
FGTB Métallos (Belgium)  
FICA-UGT (Spain)  
KMWU-KCTU (South Korea)  
PCS (UK)  
Taller Ecologista (Argentina)

## The environment in daily trade union activities

While many campaigns and plans developed by organizations all point to the potential for job creation and improvements in living conditions of a fair and inclusive transition, the response to these slogans in companies is more mixed. How can daily union activity be reconciled with environmental issues? What levers outside the company can be mobilized? Are these questions condemned to be limited to an «additional action», beyond the trade union work itself, or can they be directly integrated into this work?

With:  
CC.OO (Spain)  
CEPAG (Belgium)  
CGIL (Italy)  
CSA (Senegal)  
CUPE (Canada)  
ECTUN (Europe)  
FederConsumatori (Italy)  
INDECOSA-CGT (France)  
LO (Sweden)  
Solidaires (France)  
UGICT-CGT (France)  
UGT CEC (Spain)  
UIL (Italy)

**3:30pm–  
5:30pm**  
(CET)

## Water

Between the disruption of “hydrological cycle” due to climate change, the privatisation led by multinationals in the «small water cycle» (drinking water and wastewater treatment), pollution problems in aquatic environments and the overuse of water resources for industrial or agricultural purposes, nearly 40% of the world's population is under «water stress». It is vital for our societies to ensure the sustainability and the right to access water. Based on the struggles of unions and groups of inhabitants, the first victims of the situation, this working group proposes to take stock of current struggles and the need to build answers adapted to improving the quality and different uses of water.

With:  
CC.OO (Spain)  
CGT-SP (France)  
Council of Canadians (Canada)  
CSA (Senegal)  
EPSU (Europe)  
EYDAP (Greece)  
EYATH Union (Greece)  
INDECOSA-CGT (France)  
Plataformas de acuerdos públicos de las Americas (South America)  
Pravo Na Vodu (Serbia)  
SFCP (Canada)  
STAL (Portugal)  
UGT-CEC (Spain)  
Ver.di (Germany)

## Industry

The managers of large groups locate production in the most profitable places, i.e. those where they can best exploit the workers. This decomposition of the production process on the planet leads not only to serious social consequences but also to environmental damage and an increase in GHG emissions since the products must then be repatriated to the places where they are needed. To rebuild a sustainable development model, it is necessary to define industrial sectors to be controlled at the level of countries or continents, with a more circular economy and a production of sustainable, repairable objects. This transformation of the productive system must be beneficial for all peoples and all, with a development that is not at the expense of each other, but through cooperation. The demand to put the patents of vaccines in the public domain is a good example of cooperation.

With:  
AIMTA (Canada)  
CC.OO (Spain)  
CGT (France)  
CUT Brasil (Brazil)  
DISK (Turkey)  
FICA-UGT (Spain)  
FTQ (Quebec)  
KMWU-KCTU (South Korea)



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**Wednesd.  
June  
16**

**1pm–  
3:30pm**  
(CET)

## **Towards a Public Energy Future**

This session will share findings of the Interim Report developed by the Trade Union Task Force for a Public Energy Future. The final report of the Task Force will be completed before COP26 in Glasgow. Unions participating in the Task Force will present the main findings of the Interim Report, which consists of an analysis of the neoliberal approach to energy transition; the reasons – technical, social, ecological, and financial – of why a comprehensive public ownership is critical in terms of the broader decarbonization effort, and it will draw attention to some of the critical questions and debates that need to take place with regard to energy transition planning, technologies, social and ecological issues, and how public ownership would allow for a new approach to energy options.

The neoliberal approach to tackling climate change and its energy policy framework pushed by the European Commission, the World Bank, and the IMF is failing. This corporate-led approach to decarbonization is based on the commodification of energy; the privatization of public energy systems, infrastructure, and resources; and corporate subsidies. This approach is fueling even more inequality, exclusion of workers and consumers and leaving millions living in fuel poverty or without any access to energy.

As trade unions we see the need to develop an alternative based on energy as a public good, provided as a public service, with democratic control of the sector. This alternative stops the decarbonization agenda from being driven by profit and instead, opens the opportunity to prioritize workers, communities, and ecological needs while delivering a socially just and economy-wide decarbonization within the limited timeframe we have left.

With:  
CC.OO (Spain)  
CGSP-ACOD (Belgium)  
CIG (Spain)  
CUPE (Canada)  
CUT Brasil (Brazil)  
EPSU (Belgium)  
ETF (Europe)  
FNME-CGT (France)  
FNV (Netherlands)  
FTQ (Canada)  
General Federation of PPC (Greece)  
ITF (Worldwide)  
KCTU-KPTU (South Korea)  
PCS (UK)  
PSI (Worldwide)  
PSI Africa (South Africa)  
PSI Asia Pacific (Asia)  
RLS Brussels (Europe)  
STUC (UK)  
TUED-NY (USA)  
UGT-T (Tunisia)  
Unison (UK)  
Unite the Union (UK)  
University Of Glasgow (Scotland)  
VTHC (Australia)

**3:45pm–  
5:45pm**  
(CET)

## **Extractivism and natural resources**

Natural resources and raw materials, which are essential to the functioning of industries and the energy sector, are very often extracted under undignified working conditions and with disastrous environmental consequences. At the last COP, [or “recent COPs”] many actors from the South underlined the importance of considering the unequal exchange within the trade of raw materials to propose credible answers to the objectives of reducing GHG emissions. Which trade union strategies should mining organizations use to combine local development, social justice, and environmental preservation? How can we build a global response with workers’ organizations involved upstream and downstream of these supply chains?

With:  
CC.OO (Spain)  
CGT-B (Burkina Faso)  
CDT-C (Congo)  
CDT-M (Morocco)  
CIG (Spain-Galicia)  
CRAAD-OI (Madagascar)  
CSA (Senegal)  
FMTS (Worldwide)  
KPVU (Ukraine)  
Métallos FTQ (Quebec)  
Plataforma Latinoamericana y Caribeña por la Justicia Climática – Accion Ecologica (Ecuador)  
SYNTRAMIN-USTN (Niger)  
Union for Ecology (Turkey)





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**Thursday  
June  
17**

**1pm–  
4pm**  
(CET)

## Transport

The transport sector now accounts for nearly 40% of total GHG emissions in the world. To achieve climate neutrality, the transformation of transport modes is fundamental (urban and non-urban). What are the trade unions' proposals to move towards an ecologically sustainable transport system (rail, aerial, road, and marine) without pitting workers in the different transport sectors against each other?

With:  
AIMTA (Quebec)  
ATGWU (Uganda)  
CC.OO (Spain)  
CGT Cheminots (France)  
CGT Marins (France)  
CGT Transport (France)  
CSA (Senegal)  
CTA-T (Argentina)  
FESACI-CG (Ivory Coast)  
FESMC-UGT (Spain)  
ITF (Worldwide)  
IWGB (UK)  
KCTU-KPTU (South Korea)  
KPVU (Ukraine)  
RMTU (New Zealand)  
SCFP (Canada)  
SEPB (Quebec)  
TUTD (Greece)  
UNTM (Mali)

**1pm–  
3pm**  
(CET)

## Agriculture

Faced with a liberalized and increasingly industrial agriculture, which consumes energy and water resources, destroys jobs and contributes to the erosion of biodiversity, the quality of water and the health of agricultural workers and consumers, it is necessary to rethink the global agricultural policy around 4 fundamental dimensions: food sovereignty, control of the distribution of value, right to income and respect for the environment. While the promotion of technologies and the commodification of carbon continue to benefit agribusiness, what transition should the agricultural model make to reduce its effects on the climate?

With:  
CC.OO (Spain)  
CDT-M (Morocco)  
Confédération Paysanne (France)  
CTA-T (Argentina)  
Justicitiz (Liberia)  
SNETAP-FSU (France)  
SYNAPARCAM (Cameroon)  
UGT (Spain)

**3:30pm–  
5:30pm**  
(CET)

## Women and climate

Women have a specific relationship with the environment. The gendered division of labor, both domestic and paid, assigns them mainly to the work of care. They care to others and to maintaining the quality of their environment. Women represent 80% of the climate refugees and 70% of the poorest people on the planet. Each natural disaster results in an increase in domestic violence. Mobilized against the salary inequalities between women and men, the violence of the patriarchal system, they are the first actors of the movements for the defense of natural resources and against predatory capitalism. Sometimes at the risk of their lives, like Berta Caceres, an environmental activist assassinated in Honduras, for opposing the construction of a dam and the draining of the living space of indigenous populations. And yet, they remain a minority in the governmental or associative bodies supposed to fight against climate change. Our role as trade unionists is to propose an ecological transition that considers the role of women in the management of resources and that is a lever to obtain equality between women and men.

With:  
Women's Assembly  
– Union for Ecology (Turkey)  
Women's Committee ITUC  
(Worldwide)  
Collectif Femmes Mixités CGT  
(France)  
Intersindical Mujeres (Spain)



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**Friday  
June  
18**

**1pm–  
3pm**  
(CET)

## Transnational mobilization

These last years have seen the development of different transnational dynamics. From high school and student strikes for the climate to mobilizations for the creation of climate jobs, women's transnational mobilizations and sectoral strikes in several countries, so many experiences that try to associate concrete mobilization on an international scale. What conclusions can be drawn from these past or current experiences? What lessons can be learned in the perspective of COP 26 and more generally how to carry an internationalism in action?

With:  
ATTAC (France)  
CC.OO (Spain)  
CNL-CGT (France)  
CSA (Senegal)  
FPU (Ukraine)  
Friday For Future (Worldwide)  
FTQ (Quebec)  
ITF (Worldwide)  
IWGB (UK)  
KTR (Russia)  
Solidaires (France)  
UGT (Spain)  
UNIA (Switzerland)

## Job and training guarantee

If the necessity of the fight against global warming is today defended by most workers, the fear of unemployment and job loss exerts a very strong pressure and constitutes a lever on which employers do not hesitate to rely to impose their conditions. How do the unions of workers involved in lay-off plans deal with this double pressure and what broader union responses are needed to support these struggles? It is a vast field of jobs that can and must be opened on the condition that the political will is up to the task. Many jobs, which will not be relocated, will be sustainable and will revitalize the territories by developing short circuits. How then can we make the necessary ecological transition a lever for job creation?

With:  
CES (Europe)  
CGIL (Italy)  
CGT (France)  
DISK (Turkey)  
Just Transition Centre – CSI (Worldwide)  
KCTU (South Korea)  
LO (Sweden)  
NZCTU (New Zealand)  
UGT (Spain)  
UE Union (USA)

**3:30pm–  
5:30pm**  
(CET)

## Coalitions, alliances

Alliances with civil society are finding a resonance in a growing number of trade union organizations. Opening a space for debate for organizations involved in this type of dynamics seems to be an essential need to be able to better work with environmental and social movements.

With:  
Alter Summit (Europe)  
CC.OO (Spain)  
CDT-M (Morocco)  
CGIL (Italy)  
CGT-B (Burkina Faso)  
CRFTQMM (Quebec)  
CSA (Senegal)  
CTA (Argentina)  
Faire front (Belgium)  
FTQ (Quebec)  
KTR (Russia)  
NTUI (India)  
«Plus jamais ça» (France)  
Solidar (Europe)  
SSP-VPOD (Switzerland)  
UGT CEC (Spain)

**Saturday  
June  
19**

**1pm–  
2:30pm**  
(CET)

## Roundtable of solidarities: Democracy and ecological transition

Many trade unions are today involved in struggles against authoritarian powers that constantly challenge democratic gains and social rights. In these conditions, the need to build a model of alternative developments (socially just and ecologically sustainable) is subordinated to the democratic requirement of the ongoing struggles. What is the link between these democratic struggles and the need to build an alternative?

With:  
BKDP (Belarus)  
CTUM (Myanmar)  
CUT Brasil (Brazil)  
HKCTU (Hong-Kong)  
KTR (Russia)  
SENTRO (Philippines)  
UGTT (Tunisia)

**2:45pm–  
5:30pm**  
(CET)

## Closing plenary session

- Summary of the different groups' work
- Presentation of the unitary appeal
- Preparation of the Cop26 in Glasgow and what follow up should be given by the trade union movement and associative mobilizations?