

**Oral Statement by the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in light of the Panel discussion on the future of the right to work in connection with climate change actions, responses and impacts in the context of sustainable and inclusive economies**

*27 September 2022*

Thank you, Mr. President,

We welcome the convening of this panel on the future of the right to work in connection with climate change actions, responses and impacts and thank the panelists for their valuable contributions.

The Climate Crisis has a detrimental impact on the enjoyment of ESC rights, including the right to work, of all. While adaptation and mitigation measures to address the crisis have been adopted worldwide, efforts have so far not been sufficient enough to guarantee a sustainable planet nor human rights for future or current generations. A just transition is thus direly needed.

Workers' rights must lead just transitions policy-making, including workers in the informal economy. Furthermore, while the fossil fuel-based industries are expected to become irrelevant as the energy transition advances, green industries, such as renewable energy, waste collection and recycling, as well as transport or healthcare will be even more critical to reduce emissions and foster sustainable economies.

To ensure just and sustainable outcomes of transition policies, labour rights must be protected and guaranteed through coordinated environmental, employment and gender policies. A gender-just transition must address the fact that, across the world, the majority of women are still working in the informal economy, in small enterprises or in low level income employment. If gender inequality is not addressed adequately, women and girls, specifically those living in marginalised and vulnerable situations, risk exacerbated exclusion and precarious working conditions, as they tend to perform much of the transition-critical work, such as sustainable agriculture and preservation of natural resources and ecosystems.

We call on States and stakeholders to promote a gender-just green transition that uses human rights as a guiding compass to ensure a healthy and sustainable planet for all.

Thank you.

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