

AGREEMENT TO RESPOND TO CLIMATE CRISIS ADVANCES, BUT DETERMINATIONS STILL INSUFFICIENT



Demonstrators protest during COP 26. Photo: CUT BRAZIL

The Central Única dos Trabalhadores (CUT) was present at COP 26, which took place in November, in Glasgow, Scotland. In this bulletin we expose our performance and select analyses and content considered relevant by our Central to follow the discussion from the perspective of the working class.

Due to the urgency of a global action to contain the advance of the climate crisis and face its impacts the COPs become key spaces of discussion but we follow them critically due to the limitations of presenting real solutions.

The pre-COP 26 statements of the Trade Union Confederation of Workers of the Americas (CSA) and the Belem Charter Group point out what the key discussions were this year as well as the main criticisms. We also share the trade union agenda for COP 26 of the International Trade Union Confederation - ITUC.

Enjoy your reading!

Camila Moreno of the Belem Charter Group says Glasgow set the whole world on course for a global green pact and relaunched the climate-sustainable development agenda. "A complex scenario, especially when spurious concepts such as "net zero emissions" (Net Zero), used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) itself, put the false solutions in the structural package of how all actions will be implemented. In these terms, with a common framework and a coordinated and synchronized approach, here in Glasgow it seems to have been finalized the adjustments to put once and for all all the countries, North and South on the same track regarding the future designed by the Paris Agreement. But what kind of future is this?"

The outcome document of the People's Summit For Climate Justice, meanwhile, states that people are tired of waiting for governments to prioritise people and planet over profits while so many lives are impacted and lost.

READ THE ANALYSES HERE

SUMMIT OF THE PEOPLES -

<https://bitly.com/lbwjpn>

• CSI <https://bit.ly/3yf9IEI>

Belem Charter Group:

• <https://bit.ly/3pEAx0Y>

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REAL SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE LEFT OUT OF COP-26

*OPINION

Daniel Gaio - National Secretary of Environment of CUT

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26), held in Glasgow, Scotland, last November, brought together almost 200 countries in search of solutions to the climate crisis. The meeting ended with modest agreements and, although it was possible to advance on some issues related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the results of the Conference are very far from the urgent needs that this crisis points out, especially for those countries and populations that already suffer the consequences of climate change.

Key issues such as financing by rich countries to enable developing countries to face and adapt to the climate crisis were postponed once again. On the other hand, even acknowledging the latest data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which in August this year brought alarming data on the urgency for countries to increase their climate ambition, the final resolutions do not bring enough elements for countries to commit in this sense.

The winners from the deals are those who succeed in preventing the necessary change from being made. In this case, it is the corporations and groups that benefit from postponing climate action. At this COP 26, the largest representation, if compared to a country, was that of the fossil industry (oil and coal, for example) which brought more than 500 lobbyists to participate in the official space of the Conference. This means that these groups lobbied so that the agendas of the sector, which is mainly responsible for the emissions that generate the climate crisis, would be the least harmed possible during the negotiations. Although the inclusion of the mention of fossil fuels in the scope of the climate negotiations was historic, in the last moments to close the final document, we saw the text change from "phase out" to "phase in". An important difference, as it does not make an effective change.

In this context, the biggest losers are the countries of the Global South, traditional peoples and communities, the working class (particularly women and the black population), who suffer from the inaction of world leaders and the pressure of corporations faced with the imminence of a climate tragedy.

The energy transition is fundamental for the immediate confrontation with climate change, but it needs to happen in a fair and popular way. It is not enough to transform the energy model into a model with lower carbon emissions. For the CUT union movement, the transition will only be fair with the participation of workers and the guarantee of the rights of traditional peoples and communities, labour rights and contemplating energy, water, forests and other common goods as fundamental human rights, putting life and work at the centre.



Photo: CUT

Otherwise, it will be a way of perpetuating inequalities and injustices that are the result of the neoliberal model that has led us to the climate, social, economic and health crisis we are currently experiencing.

Finally, it is necessary to evaluate the participation of the Brazilian government in this COP. Even with the absence of the President of the Republic at the conference, once again the participation was based on lies. Brazil tried to sell an image different from the one that was already consolidated internationally of the Bolsonaro government as a destroyer of the environment.

Minister Joaquim Leite denied that the Amazon was being devastated by deforestation and fires, and adhered to the Methane Agreements and the zero deforestation by 2030 to try to show commitment. However, the data on deforestation released on 18 November and intentionally hidden for the COP, confirmed once again the true face of this government.

The Brazilian government has lost international credibility. Once again, Brazil received the "Fossil of the Day" award, created by civil society organisations that follow the negotiations as a way of highlighting the countries that most undermine the fight against the climate crisis.

Despite being considered one of the most unequal COPs and with restricted participation, the presence of Brazilian civil society brought a strong message of resistance and provided an important counterpoint to that presented by the Brazilian government.

The trade union movement and social organizations do not see enough progress and commitments from governments. It has become increasingly evident that real solutions to climate change are being left out of the dialogues and negotiations. We need, therefore, structural changes in the economic model that reject production, consumerism and the blatant and growing social inequalities inherent to neoliberalism. To build this overcoming, in addition to urgently incorporating agroecology, solidarity economy, deglobalization, we have to point our utopias to feminist economy and ecosocialism.

Read here: <https://bit.ly/3oQDdcP>

FOLLOW THE DEBATE ON THE NETWORKS

1. Le Monde Diplomatique highlights Alliances and paths towards climate justice in Latin America
Read here:
<https://bit.ly/3qMT51j>

2. COP 26 and the actions of the trade union movement against climate change (A Fondo con la CUT). Luz González, advisor of the National Secretariat of Environment of CUT Brazil, participates in the debate promoted by CUT Colombia.
Watch here:
<https://bit.ly/30x4N5x>

3. Program If It's Public It's For Everyone (Sindicato dos Bancários de São Paulo)
Watch now:
<https://bit.ly/30Cv8Pu>

The subject is about the vexation of the Bolsonaro government at COP 26 and the destruction in relation to the Amazon, negotiating with loggers and the destruction of the preserved area and indigenous life.

4. Follow the CSA News on the COP-26
Watch now:

<https://bityli.com/hEPIUQ>

REALIZATION:

CUT BRASIL

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NO FAIR ENERGY TRANSITION WITHOUT STRUCTURAL CHANGES

The energy transition to a low carbon economy needs structural changes in society, to advance in a development model that is fair, feminist, anti-racist and especially against neoliberalism. This was the conclusion of the meeting held in the last meeting of the People's Summit (COP 26 Coalition People's Summit), which brought together representatives of the CUT and partner organizations, to discuss the challenges for a fair transition to the transformations in the energy system in Latin America.

It is not just a question of political positions, stressed Barbara Figueroa of the Confederation of Workers' Unions of the Americas (CSA), who explained: "Our challenge is to build alliances in the social and trade union movements, but above all to build strong alliances against neoliberalism".



"It is essential to democratize energy. It continues to be seen as a commodity", said Danilo Urrea, from Friends of the Earth Latin America and the Caribbean (ATALC). According to him, the energy transition project in the region is in the hands of transnational companies whose policy is the criminalisation of popular movements and communities and violence, especially against women.

Sarah Luiza Moreira, from the World March of Women, presented a study conducted in Brazil, a partnership between SOF and CSA, on the obstacles to energy democracy. The researchers analysed documents and Brazilian legislation related to the subject and concluded that there is a predominance of a hegemonic energy transition, directed by corporate interests, combined with an accelerated process of privatisation and destatisation of the Brazilian energy system.

STRUCTURAL CHANGE

The CSA states in its documents that the just transition debate must include the defence of decent work, popular participation, trade union freedom, the inclusion of feminism, thinking about productive and reproductive work, and have a popular character, said Barbara Figueroa.

For Sarah Luiza Moreira, the energy transition needs to be thought beyond the energy matrix. "It is necessary to think from the change of structures, change the logic of the development model, think about the place of women in the question of work, in production and reproduction, seeking a process of fair division of domestic work".

For Urrea, from ATALC, the energy transition needs to have the protagonism of workers, strengthening energy sovereignty, food sovereignty, the defence of territories and the struggle for ecological sovereignty. "Fundamental for the guarantee of rights," he explained.

Read the story here: <https://bit.ly/2YWE819>

EXPEDIENT

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