

Thank you very much chair,

Laura Martin from the workers and trade unions major group

Now as I am addressing this plenary, The number of people suffering from a lack of adequate nutrition, housing, water is daunting. 1.4 billion people are living in extreme poverty on less than US\$1.25 a day. Many cannot make a decent living even while they work. 60% of workers are without a secure employment contract and 75% without social protection. Inequality is rising in most of developed and developing countries.

Many could still wonder why would trade unions care about an environmental governance discussion. This is not our case. The labour movement confirmed in its Second Assembly in Rio at Rio + 20 that it was not going to be possible to achieve decent work for all and social justice if we were not able to live within our planetary boundaries. There will be no jobs in a dead planet.

This is why our ambition in this agenda is high. But we are concerned. Investments aimed at transforming our societies are not happening. Green and decent jobs remain the exception rather than the rule, and we need them for our unemployed youth, for women, for all. The social and development agendas remain disconnected and are weakened by lack of regulation and commitments by governments. And workers and their families are still dying or losing their health in trying to earn a living.

This must change.

Build a strong international environmental governance might not be the only necessary element, but is a precondition for succeeding in the paradigm shift we need. Discussions opening tomorrow here are very important to deliver a better world for the people and the planet. We will be calling for strong options in terms of regulations, the capacity of UNEP to address critical gaps when it comes to environmental protection and our ability as representatives of workers to intervene and shape the decisions being made together with you. We want to join you, all governments from the world in this task, all stakeholders, 9 major groups we have agreed to a set of principles to ensure our full involvement in this process that we will present to you.

The window of opportunity for planning a transition which leads to social justice and environmental protection is closing. It is our responsibility as unions, but also as citizens to make this clear to governments. A transition, to be just for workers and communities, must start now.

Thank you very much for your attention

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