

ITF STATEMENT
ON **PUBLIC**
TRANSPORT
FOR **COP23**
IN GERMANY



**OUR
PUBLIC
TRANSPORT**

ITF statement on public transport to the UN intergovernmental negotiations on climate change, COP23 in Bonn, Germany from 6 to 17 November, 2017.

Special Focus on Public Transport

Mobilise for public transport interventions

If we are to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and address the climate crisis, an immediate and ambitious expansion of public transport globally is necessary. The environmental benefits of mass public transport are enormous, but so too are the social and economic benefits of creating a better life for all by improving access to mobility, reducing congestion and air pollution in cities and creating millions of new decent jobs.

Public transport interventions were contained in approximately 30 of the Nationally Determined Commitments (NDC's) submitted in advance of COP21 in Paris. Given the urgency of avoiding a climate catastrophe, the level of detail behind these pledges is grossly inadequate.

Public transport is also not expanding fast enough to meet the needs of cities as a result of increasing urbanisation. The majority of public transport services in developing countries are still informal; in some cities, informal services amount to a staggering 85%. As a consequence, millions of people with women disproportionately affected, are still unable to adequately access the services and goods needed for a decent quality of life.

Organise and campaign for millions of new, decent jobs

Specifically, high quality public transport investments will create millions of direct jobs whilst reducing emissions. A Global Climate Jobs report concluded that most of these jobs will be making bigger and better public transport networks in poor and middle income countries¹.

However, it is not only these countries which will benefit. According to a climate jobs study undertaken by the Workers' Institute at Cornell University: "A recent study by the Transportation Equity Network found that if 20 U.S. metropolitan areas shifted 50 percent of their highway funds to transit, it would generate 1,123,674 new transit jobs over a five-year period. In New York City, this shift would create 155,824 new transit jobs. Plus, compared to other industries, the jobs created through transportation investments are about 40 percent more likely to be unionized, making investment in public transportation an excellent way to create good jobs and spur economic development in the state"².

Investment in public transport infrastructure and services has a direct impact on the creation of jobs in the supply chain. According to the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), every direct job in public transport in Europe creates four jobs in other sectors of the economy³.

¹ *Global Climate Jobs, Global Climate Jobs Campaign, September 2015*

² *Reversing inequality, combating climate change: A climate jobs programme for New York State, June 2017, Worker Institute, Cornell University.*

³ *Public transport: The smart green solution, UITP*

A massive expansion of public transport is a vital opportunity to promote gender equity by creating decent jobs which both attract and retain women, and challenges occupational segregation in the sector which could be worsened by automation.

Currently, there are millions of workers employed in public transport. Trade unions represent their collective interests and we will continue to campaign for decent work based on the rights to form and join trade unions, conduct collective bargaining and take strike action. In the case of informal workers, we will take the necessary action to ensure that ILO Recommendation 204 on the transition from the informal to the formal economy is implemented.

Take action for a just transition

A massive improvement and expansion of public transport is the only real alternative to private cars. Modal shift on a significant scale must occur to reduce transport emissions, prevent a climate catastrophe and meet the commitments of the Paris Agreement.

In cities, communities and workplaces around the world, the international trade union movement will mobilise and build alliances for a just transition which includes:

- Ambitious public transport commitments by national governments, including the allocation of sufficient public resources to invest in and develop high quality modern public transport systems
- Democratic public ownership to guarantee the delivery of the economic, social, environmental and employment benefits of public transport for all
- Democratic participation by trade unions and community organisations in decision making about public transport policy and planning, including decent work with employment and organisational rights for men and women in the formal and informal transport workforce.
- Integration of informal transport workers, with guaranteed access to financing, skills development and income and social security.

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