L20 Contributions to the G20 Sherpa’s meeting

The L20 welcomes the three priorities of the Brazilian G20 Presidency and the leadership role that the Brazilian government is undertaking to promote social justice. Trade unions believe that building a just world and a sustainable planet requires a New Social Contract based on jobs, rights, living wages, social protection, equality and inclusion. A strong focus is needed on the following issues to bring forward these priorities:

- Promoting decent jobs with rights and living wages, and addressing informality
- Advancing towards universal social protection
- Ensuring a Just Transition, negotiated with the social partners

Guaranteeing coherence across G20 tracks for the implementation of these priorities will be fundamental to ensure successful outcomes. The L20 would like to make some more inputs for the G20 Leaders’ Declaration to ensure progress towards the Brazilian Presidency’s three priority areas:

Social inclusion and the fight against hunger and poverty

The L20 considers that social inclusion and the fight against hunger and poverty require strong policies that will aim at the creation of decent jobs, the respect of labour rights, the formalisation of the informal economy, the promotion of wage increases and minimum living wages, and the extension of social protection.

Sustainable development and energy transitions

A Just Transition is paramount to ensure sustainable development and energy transitions. The G20 should promote the inclusion of Just Transition targets in countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions to contribute to the fight against climate change in an inclusive manner and hamper the social impacts of climate policies on workers and communities.

Just Transition strategies should be negotiated with the social partners to anticipate and manage structural transformations in the labour market and promote environmentally and climate-friendly industrial policies with employment guarantees. These will require jobs plans, skilling and re-skilling and adapting social protection systems to guarantee adequate income support in case of involuntary unemployment linked to transitions and during training and reskilling. Workers need to be part of all negotiations related to climate policy and human and labour rights must be upheld.

Reform of global governance institutions.

The reform of global governance institutions and of the international financial architecture is crucial to ensuring the necessary political and financial support for the above mentioned priorities. A reinvigorated multilateralism with the UN at the centre and with a stronger role for developing countries will contribute to a just world.

Unions consider that the first priority of this reform needs to be international taxation. A more equitable and progressive taxation system and a strong and fair multilateral corporate tax architecture need to be adopted. The G20 should strongly support for the UN framework tax treaty and promote greater collaboration between the UN and the OECD on tax matters.

The G20 should promote taxation frameworks that include taxes on outstanding profits and wealth, and support the implementation of a financial transaction tax. Further efforts need to be mobilised to fight tax evasion, tax avoidance and profit shifting and to stop illicit financial flows.