



Vicente Unay Jr, trade union activist in the Philippines.

**“It’s very simple. Just transition is a measure. A protective measure. It protects decent jobs while decarbonising the economy.”**

Vicente Unay Jr lives and works in the Philippines, a country affected by climate change impacts and also by natural disasters, such as volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. He has been a trade unionist and a climate justice activist for decades, convinced that “all workers must be united to address climate change”.

Vicente is the secretary general of the National Union of Workers in the Power Industry, a national trade union federation organising workers across the public and private sectors in the Philippines. The union advocates for climate justice and has taken the initiative for a social movement and coalition on climate justice with other non-governmental organisations and actors in the Philippines.

# JUST TRANSITION

IN THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION CONTEXT

## This is *Union to Union*

*Union to Union* is the Swedish trade union movement’s organisation for international development cooperation, supporting and coordinating the international trade union development cooperation of LO (the Swedish Trade Union Confederation), TCO (the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees), Saco (the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations), and their member unions.

*Union to Union*’s work focuses on decent work, democracy, equality, fair distribution of resources, reduced poverty, and sustainable development. *Union to Union* is a secular and non-partisan non-profit organisation.

**UNION  
TO UNION**

LO, TCO & SACO SWEDEN

Union to Union  
Upplandsgatan 3  
S-111 23 Stockholm,  
Sweden  
[www.uniontounion.org](http://www.uniontounion.org)



## Just Transition

There are no jobs on a dead planet – all workers and all workplaces are affected by climate change. Just transition gives us the opportunity to address decent work deficits and the climate change crisis at the same time. Just transition plans cover both measures for workers who may lose their jobs or livelihoods as a consequence of climate change adaptation and mitigation plans, and measures to ensure that new green jobs are good jobs. In the past, discussions involved claims that the world needs to choose one over the other: either job creation and growth, or respect for the climate, the environment and Earth's limitations. Today it is clear that these choices do not have to stand against each other.

The necessary transition is not just about phasing out high emitting sectors but also about new jobs, new industries, new skills, new investments and an opportunity for a more equal and sustainable economy where no one is left behind. That is why a just transition is so important. A Just Transition Framework encompasses a range of interventions needed to secure workers' rights, livelihoods and decent work, while enabling economies to become more sustainable and less harmful to the environment.

Such interventions, built and discussed through social dialogue, include social protection, organisational health and safety policies, sectorial and active labour market policies, and skills development policies.



## Just Transition and international development cooperation

To be able to reduce emissions while also addressing development issues, such as providing citizens with access to energy, adequate transport, sanitation and housing, some countries will need financial support. Other countries have agreed to contribute via development cooperation funds. The Just Transition Framework can be used to tackle developmental challenges that integrate all three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – at once. A just transition is not only possible, but also necessary to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, leaving no one behind.

## Just Transition and international trade union development cooperation

Strong, free and democratic trade unions with the capacity to educate, negotiate and influence towards a just transition are crucial. Trade union rights are human rights and are necessary to get people out of poverty. Therefore, a just transition is an important element in international trade union development cooperation.

*Union to Union* co-ordinates the international trade union development cooperation work carried out by LO, TCO, Saco, and their Swedish affiliated unions. *Union to Union* works with just transition through:

- Research and policy: We conduct and commission research on just transition and provide input to reports and strategies that benefit from a just transition analysis.
- Development cooperation projects: We support international development cooperation projects related to just transition.
- Information projects: Sharing information and knowledge by organising seminars, trainings and other events on topics related to a transition to a lower carbon society.
- Strengthening trade unions' capacity: We provide training for trade unions, so that they are ready to engage in negotiations and dialogue on climate change, biodiversity, and decent work.