



L20 Summit 2025 Communiqué: A Worker-Centred Agenda for Global Equity and Justice

Trade union leaders from G20 countries and across the global labour movement convened in George, South Africa, on 28 and 29 July 2025 for the Labour 20 (L20) Summit. The Summit offered a platform to consolidate labour's policy priorities and deliver a unified message ahead of the G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting. Delegates gathered at a time of multiple, intersecting global crises with the clear purpose of affirming the centrality of decent work, social justice, and democratic multilateralism in global governance.

Deliberations covered a broad and interconnected range of topics including industrial policy and the Just Transition, trade conflicts and economic sovereignty, labour rights, informality and precarious work, tax justice and debt sustainability, geopolitical challenges, digitalisation and artificial intelligence, and growing inequality alongside the need to increase real wages and the labour share of GDP.

Participants raised significant concern over the rise of unilateral trade measures, particularly by the United States, warning that these disrupt global supply chains, destabilise employment, and undermine democratic norms. Delegates reaffirmed the need for a multilateral trade system that protects labour rights, respects national development strategies, and allows countries the policy space to implement industrial policies that create decent work and advance the Just Transition.

A firm call was made for global tax justice. Delegates demanded the adoption of a wealth tax on billionaires and a financial transaction tax as critical mechanisms to reverse deepening inequality and mobilise resources for public good. High levels of sovereign debt were condemned where they erode public investment, reduce public services, reduce public employment and result in austerity measures that disproportionately impact workers and vulnerable communities. The Summit called for an urgent rebalancing of the global financial architecture to support inclusive and sustainable development.

In the face of escalating geopolitical fragmentation, the L20 urged G20 leaders to renew their commitment to multilateralism and a transparent, rules-based global order. Delegates highlighted that working people around the world are increasingly paying the price for the erosion of global cooperation and the prioritisation of narrow geopolitical interests. The G20 was called upon to prioritise social cohesion, equitable global governance, and coordinated action to confront planetary challenges.

L20 members vehemently condemned the mass killings that the Israeli government is conducting in Gaza and the occupation of Palestine. The Summit condemned the continued loss of civilian life, starvation of the population and destruction of infrastructure, calling for an

immediate cessation of violence and the full application of international humanitarian law, and meaningful steps toward ending the occupation and restoring dignity and rights to all affected communities. This call reflects the global labour movement's longstanding commitment to peace, justice, and human rights.

The Summit reaffirmed the urgency of addressing labour market informality and precarity. Delegates emphasised the importance of formalising the informal sector, strengthening labour protections, expanding collective bargaining coverage, establishing universal social protection systems, and adopting inclusive wage-setting mechanisms. These are vital to building resilient labour markets and advancing decent work for all.

On digitalisation and AI, the L20 emphasised the need for proactive regulation, inclusive access to digital infrastructure, lifelong learning, and safeguards against displacement. The future of work must be shaped by policies that embed fairness, equity, and participation.

Finally, the Summit reflected on the imperative of addressing structural inequality. L20 members called for real wage growth and for a greater share of income going to labour. Collective bargaining must be supported as a cornerstone of inclusive and sustainable economies.

As the outcomes of this Summit are amplified in the G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial and beyond, our message is clear: the L20 stands ready to work with all stakeholders in shaping a global order that is just, democratic, and centred on the dignity of work. There can be no sustainable future without workers at the core of economic and social transformation.