

# Glossary of Terms relating to the Unite Environment Charter:

## Introduction section:

### Climate Emergency:

'Serious and urgent problems that are being caused or likely to be caused by changes in the world's weather. In particular, the world is getting warmer as a result of human activity increasing the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere'.

[CLIMATE EMERGENCY | meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary](#)

### Point 1:

#### Decarbonisation:

'The process of replacing fossil fuels with fuel that is less harmful to the environment'.

[decarbonization noun - Definition, pictures, pronunciation and usage notes | Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com](#)

#### Devolved Administration:

'Twenty years ago, devolution transformed the governance of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Wide-ranging powers to make law, manage public services, and set public spending priorities were transferred to new institutions in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. Devolution is now a permanent part of the UK constitution, but the devolution settlements have been anything but settled. Since 1999, devolution has evolved continuously. Extensive further powers have been transferred from Westminster, and the UK Parliament and Government have had to adapt in various ways. Since 2016, Brexit has created new tensions in the relationship between the UK and devolved governments.

[Overview | The Institute for Government](#)

### Point 2:

#### Green Society / Green Economy:

'A green economy is one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcity'.

[1.3 Definitions for Green Economy.pdf \(unitar.org\)](#)

### Point 3:

#### Decent Work:

'Decent work sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men'.

[Decent work \(ilo.org\)](#)

## Decent Pay:

"Fair wage, decent wage, living wage... it doesn't matter what you call it, it's about paying workers enough so that they can cover the basic costs required for a dignified, healthy life," says Sabita Banerji, Ethical Trading Initiative.

Some countries have a legal minimum wage, but this does not always reflect either a living or a fair wage, and there is a difference between the two, explains IndustriALL Global Union's Monika Kemperle. "A living wage is a wage on which a worker and his or her family can live off. A fair wage does not always include the living costs for the dependents."

['Fair wage, decent wage, living wage...' Six things you need to know | Guardian sustainable business | The Guardian](#)

## Point 4:

### Just Transition:

'A Just Transition secures the future and livelihoods of workers and their communities in the transition to a low-carbon economy. It is based on social dialogue between workers and their unions, employers, and government, and consultation with communities and civil society. A plan for Just Transition provides and guarantees better and decent jobs, social protection, more training opportunities, and greater job security for all workers affected by global warming and climate change policies.'

<https://www.ituc-csi.org/just-transition-centre>

## Point 5:

### International Supply Chains:

'Global supply chains are networks that can span across multiple continents and countries for the purpose of sourcing and supplying goods and services. Global supply chains involve the flow of information, processes and resources across the globe'.

[Global Supply Chains | CIPS](#)

### Global Trade Union Federations:

'A Global Union Federation (GUF) or global union is an international confederation of national and regional trade unions organized in specific industry sectors or for particular occupational groups.'

There are 11 GUFs in total, including the International Federation of Journalists, the International Transport Workers' Federation, Public Service International, and the Union Network International. Previously GUFs were known as international trade secretariats. Most major unions in the UK and other countries are members of one or more GUFs, the pattern of affiliation reflecting the industry and occupational distribution of their members.

GUFs have become more prominent in recent years, reflecting the forces of globalization and the pressure on unions to cooperate more effectively across national borders. They engage in a broad range of activities including supporting their member organizations, particularly in developing economies, lobbying international agencies to promote workers' interests and human rights, encouraging union organizing and international solidarity action, and in some cases engaging in global collective bargaining with large multinationals and employers' organizations.

The latter most frequently leads to the negotiation of framework agreements: statements of principle that commit management to accepting trade unionism and following good employment practice across the subsidiaries of a multinational corporation'.

[Global Union Federation - Oxford Reference](#)