



45th congress of ASÍ ASÍ priorities 2022 – 2024

The future of the labour market

ASÍ priorities

- A just transition should be a guiding light in all policy formation and decision making in ongoing societal changes.
- The labour movement should be a party to decisions and policies on actions relating to climate change, with workers and the public involved.
- Economic democracy should be increased, and the legal framework of co-ops improved.
- Macroeconomic analysis of the effects of climate- and technological change on various societal groups, regions and sectors should be the basis of public policymaking.
- An employment- and investment policy should be formed on how to construct an economy with diverse, good, green jobs which sustain good living conditions.
- Investment and innovation should be greatly strengthened and incentives set up to increase the number of jobs where wealth is created via tech, creative work and knowledge, and should be based on reuse, recycling and total utilization of raw materials.
- New technologies and changes in methods of work should be implemented on workers' terms, and opportunities inherent in them should be used to improve living conditions, shorten working hours and to better harmonize work and private life.
- Investment in public infrastructure should be greatly increased and the infrastructure of social work, transport, communication and energy should be first-rate all around the country. The strengthening of infrastructure should encourage the green economy, welfare and quality of life.
- Energy transitions, the expansion of public transport and infrastructure for active transportation should be sped up. Public transport should be greatly improved so that they become a realistic and economical option for the public.

ASÍ tasks

- Act to encourage purposeful policymaking and focussed action to make sure that the opportunities inherent in the ongoing changes to the economy, industry and labour market be utilized, for the good of all of society.
- Ensure that the labour movement participate in policymaking, planning and decision-making relating to the ongoing changes in society, and that the public be involved.
- Work on ensuring a macroeconomic analysis of the effects of climate- and technological change to the labour market, considering different regions, sectors, jobs and groups, and using that analysis to guide policy and decision making.
- Making sure that opportunities and burdens relating to the ongoing changes to the economy and development of the economy and the labour market be shared equally and fairly.
- Push for investment and governmental levers to be used in favour of a just transition and the creation of diverse and good, green jobs.

- Analyse and map in what way changes to the organization of work and rights in the labour market support better wages, working and living conditions, and sustainability, and make proposals in collaboration with ASÍ member associations on how to intertwine these factors.
- Act to ensure that the building of infrastructure be strengthened and that it lead to better wages, working and living conditions and sustainability.
- Push for improvements to public transport so that they become a realistic and economical option for the public.
- Make the public and society aware of a just transition and its importance.
- Work to improve the legal framework for co-ops so that they enjoy a level field vis-à-vis other structures.

Report

Human-caused climate change is one of today's biggest challenges and it has already had widespread effects on economies, industries, living conditions and the financial standing of people all over the globe. Iceland has committed to reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases to reduce the warming of the globe. Iceland needs to fulfil its international obligations, which will inevitably affect the labour market. The commitments won't be kept without sacrifice, but the cost of inaction is greater by far. Changes of this sort also involve the chance to change society for the better, but the effects of inaction will be negative. A strong labour movement is the precondition for a just transition.

Iceland is rich in natural resources. Their economical and sustainable use and protection is the cornerstone of a powerful and diverse economy. For Iceland to keep its climate commitments, sustainability has to become more of a priority, with the country's resources up front. We have a duty to make society sustainable, so that today's welfare doesn't rob coming generations – or other countries – of theirs. Today's economic, social and environmental challenges must be faced simultaneously, changing our stance from defence to offence. A sustainable society with quality of life, equality and welfare as priorities will be economically advantageous.

Other challenges faced by economies all over the world are changes in the organization of work due to new technologies. These changes add to the pressure on societies to use technology to improve the wealth and welfare of society and to adapt to rapid changes. It is imperative that new technologies and changed methods of work are for the benefit of all workers. Societal change, climate change, technological development and automation will change the setup of jobs in the labour market, where some sectors will see fewer jobs and others more. Countries that react rapidly to these changes will be better positioned to make these changes improve the public's standard of living and its competitiveness.

Consequently there will be a chance to create green and sustainable jobs that sustain good living conditions all over the country:

- Jobs that offer secure, healthy and dignified working conditions.
- Jobs that contribute to protecting the environment.
- Jobs that strengthen welfare and equality.
- Jobs that encourage innovation where the creativity will be the country's competitive edge.
- Jobs that are based on the knowledge already in place and the country's strong infrastructure.

Such opportunities will only be available if a clear policy is in place and if the government, in collaboration with labour, acts decisively.