

UN Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogue

Greening with Jobs: A Just Transition to Sustainability

23 October 2018, 9.30 – 17.00

Venue, International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

Room IX

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a transformative vision for people and planet-centred, human rights-based, and gender-sensitive sustainable development policy for more sustainable and resilient societies. Production and consumption activities and decent jobs depend on the use of natural resources and the services provided by natural ecosystems as well as human workforce. The greening of economies will enhance our ability to manage natural resources sustainably, increase energy efficiency and reduce waste, while addressing inequalities and enhancing resilience. The Sustainable Development Goals can only be achieved if the transition to green economies is inclusive, providing opportunities for decent work for all, reducing inequalities and effectively eliminating poverty. A just transition to green jobs requires that we leave no one behind.

The global efforts to transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies have profound social and economic repercussions on different groups of people and over time in all countries and at all levels of development. For this reason, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change adopted in 2015 calls for *“Taking into account the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities”*.

In the same vein, ILO constituents representing governments, workers and employers’ organizations adopted in November 2015 a set of Guidelines for a just transition to environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all¹. These Guidelines offer a policy framework and a practical tool to ensure that responses to climate change advance employment creation, social justice and fair transitions for workers, enterprises and communities. Therefore, the concept of sustainability is a call for social justice within and between national borders and generations. Social justice realized through inclusive and sustainable development can guarantee that human societies are resilient and can generate a lasting and shared improvement in living conditions.

¹ Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all, ILO (2015)



Objectives

This Nexus Dialogue aims to contribute to a common understanding of the concept of just transition, establish a global platform to share national and international experiences in the practical application of greening with jobs and just transition in national contexts; and foster support by both public and private stakeholders for social justice in the fight for environmental sustainability. It will explore the potential of innovative financial solutions and mechanisms to create scalable and effective ways of channelling both private money and public resources towards just transition. It will also consider the interlinkages of just transition with gender equality, human rights, indigenous people's rights, migration, innovation, technology, education and poverty. The outcome of the dialogue will be captured in 10 key messages to guide policy advice, future research, partnerships, and advocacy.

Structure and Content

The Nexus Dialogue will be a one-day public event consisting of a high-level segment and a technical component. It would start with a high-level opening by UN senior officials and Geneva-based Ambassadors, followed by technical sessions among UN agencies and representatives of governments and social partners, research and civil society organizations with sessions on 1) Country experiences; 2) policy dialogue on promoting jobs and protecting people; and 3) dialogue on innovative financing for just transition.



Draft Agenda

23 October, 2018, 9.30 – 17.00

Location: International Labour Organization Office in Geneva, Switzerland, Room IX (R2 South)

9.30 – 10.00 Registration & welcome coffee (Delegates Lounge R3)

10.00 – 10.15 Welcome and introduction

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Mr. Moustapha Kamal Gueye, *Coordinator, Green Jobs Programme, ILO*
Mr. Hossein Fadaei, *Head of the Environmental Management Group*

10.15 – 10.45 Opening of the Dialogue

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Ms. Alice Ouedraogo, *Director International Services and Administration, ILO*
Mr. Jamil Ahmad, *Director a.i., New York Office, UN Environment*
Mr. Nikhil Seth, *Executive Director, UNITAR*

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee Break (Delegates Lounge R3)

11.00 – 12.30 SESSION 1: High-level Panel on Country Experiences: Just Transition in Practice

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Country representatives will discuss ongoing experiences in the implementation of their social and environmental commitments in the context of the Just Transition.

Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan, *Ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Fiji*
Ms. Laurence Monnoyer-Smith, *General Commissioner for Sustainable Development, France*
Mr. German Proffen, *Minister, Permanent Mission of Argentina*

Moderator: **Mr. Steven Stone**, *Chief of Economy and Trade Branch, UN Environment*

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch Break (Cafeteria and Restaurant R2)

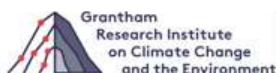
14.00 – 15.15 SESSION 2: Policy Dialogue: promoting jobs, protecting people, building consensus

Room IX

This policy dialogue will focus on enhancing social dialogue for environmental and social action, policy and planning for a just transition, and international cooperation and south-south learning.

Ms. Stefania Tripodi, *Human Rights Officer, OHCHR*
Ms. Dunja Krause, *Research Officer, UNRISD*
Ms. Alicja Kacprzak, *Forestry Officer, FAO UNECE*
Mr. Vicente Paolo Yu, *Coordinator Global Governance for Development, South Centre*

Moderator: **Ms. Kusum Lata Jain**, *Team Lead, Response Measures Unit, UNFCCC*



15.15 – 15.30 Coffee Break (Delegates Lounge R3)

15.30 – 16.45 **SESSION 3: Innovative financing for just transition**

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Representatives of leading public and private financial institutions are invited to take stock of innovative financing for a just transition, explore approaches, mechanisms and partnerships.

Mr. Gianfranco Saladino, *Senior Vice-President Infrastructure, BlueOrchard, Switzerland*

Ms. Lucy Chege, *Head Energy, Environment & ICT, Development Bank of Southern Africa*

Mr. Jose Miguel Solana, *Senior Technical Officer, Social Finance Unit, ILO, Switzerland*

Mr. William Irwin, *Investing in a just transition – Global Project, LSE Grantham Research Institute, UK*

Moderator: **Ms. Alison Tate**, *Director of Economic and Social Policy, ITUC*

16.45 – 17.00 **Summary of the Dialogue and next steps forward**

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Mr. Hossein Fadaei, *Head of the Environmental Management Group*

Mr. Moustapha Kamal Gueye, *Coordinator Green Jobs Programme, ILO*

