

Green growth for jobs and social inclusion: making the case for a just transition in Asia

25-27 September, Manila, Philippines

Background

A renewed global commitment to sustainable development

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in 2015, the international community has at its disposal a global framework to combat climate change, pave the way to a low-carbon and climate-resilient future and set the course for human well-being to 2030 and beyond.

A number of shared principles underpin this global framework, including the need of decoupling economic growth from energy and resource consumption and environmental degradation, the promotion of decent jobs as a means to achieve sustainable development and a just transition for all, meaning that no one is left behind. These principles essentially embody the notion that economies and societies can develop whilst reducing their adverse impact on the living environment and on the long term availability of natural resources.

Many countries have begun to integrate commitments and goals into their national development plans and strategies, by adopting approaches like green growth, greening of economies, low-carbon development and decarbonizing development. If well managed, these transitions to environmentally and socially sustainable economies can become a driver of job creation, job upgrading, social justice and poverty eradication.

The ILO engagement in support of a just transition

The importance of decent work in achieving sustainable development is clearly highlighted by SDG 8, which aims to “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. In addition, the recognition in the Paris Agreement of “the imperative of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities”, places another important call on countries to undertake climate change actions that equally advance job creation and social justice.

The ILO has been increasingly active in promoting environmental sustainability through the lens of the world of work. The concept of “green jobs” summarizes the particular angle the ILO takes to preserve and restore a sustainable environment through transformative growth both in traditional economic sectors (e.g. manufacturing and construction), or in new, emerging green sectors (e.g. renewable energy and energy efficiency). The term also carries the qualitative notion that green jobs require to be fairly remunerated and productive, need to provide sufficient levels of social protection, ensure social dialogue, and guarantee rights

at work, while contributing to reduce inequalities between women and men.

The 102nd International Labour Conference (ILC) of June 2013 adopted Conclusions concerning sustainable development, decent work and green jobs providing a framework and guidance in a wide range of policy areas where ILO constituents – governments, workers and employers’ organizations – could take action to protect jobs and promote decent work creation in low-carbon and climate-resilient sectors.

Following the ILC 2013 Conclusions, the ILO adopted in November 2015 a set of **Guidelines for a just transition to environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all**. These Guidelines offer the ILO and its constituents a framework and a practical tool to ensure that national and global efforts to tackle climate change and other environmental challenges, advance employment creation goals, social justice and fair transitions for workers, enterprises and communities on an equal footing.

The Guidelines are both a policy framework and a practical tool to help countries at all levels of development manage the transition to low-carbon economies and can also help them achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the SDGs. The Guidelines are designed to create decent work on a large scale and ensure that social protection exists where needed. They also include mechanisms for social dialogue among governments, workers and employers’ organizations throughout policymaking processes at all levels.

The Green Jobs Programme is the main support vehicle for the ILO’s work to address the implication on employment and social inclusion of the transition towards low-carbon, climate resilient and resource-efficient economies. It promotes the development of sustainable enterprises and economies that are efficient, socially just and environmentally sound and sustain a fair globalization. Through and in collaboration with concerned ILO country offices in the Philippines, Uruguay and Ghana, it is piloting the application of the Guidelines for a Just Transition.

Pilot Application of Policy Guidelines on a Just Transition in the Philippines

The ILO has increased support to member states on just transition issues, including in the Philippines, Ghana and Uruguay as first pilot targeted countries for the application of the policy guidelines on “Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All”.

In the Philippines, the initiative aims to enable constituents - Government, workers and employers’ organizations – in leveraging the process of structural change towards a sustainable, low carbon, climate-resilient economy to create decent jobs on a significant scale and in a sustained and inclusive manner.

The project, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, is in support of the recently passed Philippine’s Green Jobs Act and in the framework of the national goals as well as international commitments, such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Philippines’ Nationally Determined Contributions to addressing climate change.

Objectives

In view of the foregoing, a regional dialogue on ***Green growth for jobs and social inclusion: making the case for a just transition in Asia*** will take place in **Manila, Philippines, from 25 to 27 September 2017**.

Building on the projects results and the existing body of work brought in by both national and international stakeholders, the event will facilitate exchange of knowledge and experiences through sharing of successful policies and initiatives in the Philippines and other Asian countries.

It aims to achieve the following results:

- Improved understanding among constituents regarding the facts and trends on climate change and green growth;
- Enhanced knowledge among constituents of approaches towards policy development, programme and project development, financing green development, as well as engaging the social partners in support of a just transition and climate change adaptation; and
- Strengthened collaboration and networking among constituents within and across the countries and region.

Participants

Senior level officials and lead managers from ILO Constituents and other key ILO partners from the Philippines and other Asian countries representing the various sub-regions and selected based on documented initiatives and upcoming opportunities for the promotion of green jobs and just transition.

Structure and Content

The ILO's Green Jobs Programme and ILO Country Office in Manila organize this dialogue with the support of the International Training Center of the ILO and counting on leading experts and resource persons from the ILO and its constituency.

It will consist of a three-day face-to-face event allowing the ILO constituents in the Philippines to lead the discussions and display the work carried out in view of the application of the Guidelines and in support of the recently passed Philippines Green Jobs Act.

Presentations and background materials will include:

- Examples of existing national / local / sectoral policies and programmes
- Success cases at enterprise / organizational level

In view of the above, participants will be asked to bring along case studies and relevant knowledge products.

Tentative programme

Day 1: Perspective Setting: Levelling off Understanding of Key Concepts and Approaches

Day 2: Sharing of Cases and Country Experiences

- Pilot Application of Policy Guidelines on Just Transition in the Philippines
- Green jobs and inclusive green economy related initiatives in other Asian participating countries
- ILO-led learning sessions on experiences from other regions

Day 3: The way forward:

- High-level Forum for ILO constituents and legislative officials to discuss the way forward for the Just Transition initiative in the Philippines and other participating countries
- Action Planning and Conclusions

Event details, registration and further information

Venue: Manila, Philippines

Dates: 25-27 September 2017

Registration and further information: greenjobs@itcilo.org

Registration deadline: 8 September 2017

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