



## **Green Jobs Kick-Off Workshop in the Arab States: The Lebanon Case Study** *Going green and promoting new jobs and skills for Arab youth*

**Beirut (ILO News)** – Representatives from international organizations, ministries, business, labour and environmental groups will gather at the UN House, Beirut, on July 28-29 for a two-day workshop organized by the ILO, UNDP and ESCWA. The workshop, which is the first of its kind to be held in Lebanon, will showcase the employment potential of the green economy, highlight the nexus between climate change and decent work, and kick-off policy discussions to stimulate youth employment in green sectors of the Lebanese economy.

Workshop discussions will be based on assessments jointly undertaken by the ILO and UNDP in four key sectors of the Lebanese economy: energy, construction, agriculture and waste management. The studies examine the potential for greening these sectors, and provide preliminary estimates of the number of additional jobs that could be created if sustainable and effective green policies were to be implemented. Furthermore, the assessments identify the related occupational skills needed for such changes, and highlight possible policy gaps. Findings indicate that there is considerable job creation potential in green activities such as solar water heating and photovoltaics, organic farming and marketing, energy-efficient building construction as well as recycling.

Analytical work to be presented during the workshop will address issues of “just transition” for those affected by the transition to a green economy and for those who must also adapt to climate change through access to alternative economic and employment opportunities for enterprises and workers. The ILO’s work in this area further emphasizes that green jobs need to be decent jobs – pairing environmental interests with more traditional labour concerns such as wages, job security, social protection, occupational health and safety, and workers’ rights.

Participants of the workshop will examine Green Jobs initiatives launched in other regions and identify policy options aimed at promoting green jobs in Lebanon. These discussions could prove timely for the institutional and socio-economic reforms recently launched in response to the Arab Spring; such reforms need to create a new development model that is more inclusive, equal, fair and environmentally sustainable.

In addition to UN agencies, representatives of Lebanese Ministries will attend the workshop, including inter alia the Ministries of Labour, Environment, Energy and Water, and Agriculture. The General Confederation of Lebanese Workers and the Association of Lebanese Industrialists will provide the perspective of workers’ and employers’ organizations and contribute to the policy dialogue being launched during this initiative. Other contributions will be made by representatives of donor countries, national and local institutions such as vocational training centres, NGOs and private

sector enterprises specializing in green construction, renewable energies, recycling and waste management.

The “Green Jobs Kick-Off Workshop in the Arab States: The Lebanon Case Study” is part of the ILO’s Green Jobs Programme and aims to contribute to employment creation, environmental sustainability, and poverty reduction.

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Or visit the workshop web page at:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/arpro/beirut/what/events/greenjobs2011/index.htm>