Advancing a Just Transition and the Creation of Green Jobs for All for Ambitious Climate Action

The action needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change will necessarily have a transformative impact on all societies and communities in several ways, notably by important implications for employment creation and income opportunities. This process will have to be managed with careful attention, ensuring a fair and socially acceptable ecological transition for all in the spirit of inclusiveness and solidarity as guiding principles.

Just transition matters for all countries, at all levels of development. A just transition to sustainable development is about ensuring that the economic, environmental and social consequences of the ecological transformation of economies and societies are managed in ways that maximize opportunities of decent work for all, reduce inequalities, promote social justice, and support industries, workers and communities negatively impacted.

The commitment: Proposed Outcome for the UN Climate Action Summit

Commit to support a just ecological transition by formulating national plans for a just transition, creating decent work as well as green jobs, and take the following actions, as appropriate:

✓ Creating mechanisms of inclusive social dialogue to forge strong social consensus to enable transformative change without major adverse social and economic disruption.

✓ Assessing employment, social and economic impacts of ecological transition and green jobs potential.

✓ Implementing skills development and upgrading measures to enable transitions in labour markets, and low-carbon and more resource-efficient enterprise development and green job creation for women and men.

✓ Designing innovative social protection policies to protect workers and vulnerable groups in the context of more ambitious climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

✓ Increasing the transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries, as well as innovation and responsible investment by both public and private entities that can stimulate economic transformation, sustainable and inclusive growth, and green job creation, including rallying the private sector and actors in the investment and finance community.
How to make a commitment

In order to commit, a high-level representative from your government or organization will have to communicate that they sign on to this commitment in writing and send it to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations through the following email address: spdcast@un.org. An optional template is attached.

About the UN Climate Action Summit – Track on Social and Political Drivers

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres is convening the 2019 Climate Action Summit on 23 September to raise the global level of ambition to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and to galvanize action that can limit climate change to 2°C and even 1.5°C as science now asks.

The Secretary-General is calling on all leaders to come to New York in September with concrete, realistic plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade, and to net zero emissions by 2050.

The track on Social and Political Drivers will focus on cross-cutting issues, including health and just transition, and will consider gender, climate and security, among other topics.

The social transition aims to ensure that all climate plans include concrete steps to ensure that transition fair and just and that people have access to the tangible benefits of climate action, including in health and in decent jobs.

It is led by Peru and Spain with the support of the United Nations Department Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).