

ILO Global Forum on a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All

“Boosting Skills for a Just Transition and the Future of Work”

6 June 2019

Room:	Salle II, R3 South, ILO.
Venue	ILO Headquarters, 4 Route des Morillons, 1211, Geneva, Switzerland.
Organiser	The Forum is organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and supported by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and the Swedish Government.
No of participants	100-150 (TBC)
Participants' profile	Ministries of labour, environment, education, trade unions and employers organisations, skills and labour market experts, international organisations academic and a broader public.
Working languages	English (simultaneous translation will be provided in French and Spanish).

Background

Addressing climate change and setting the world more firmly onto a path towards a sustainable, low-carbon future is one of the defining challenges of our time. Such shift will entail far-reaching transformations of our economies, changing the ways we consume and produce, shifting energy sources, and leveraging new technologies. Such transformation will have extensive implications for the world of work, and requires a forward-looking and coherent action and leadership by governments, workers' and employers' organisations. The challenges are vast but so are the opportunities to turn this shift into an inclusive model of growth and development that generates and sustains decent jobs for current and future generations. The notion of a Just Transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all (ILC, 2013) seeks to maximise such opportunities and address challenges, leaving no one behind.

Technological change, globalisation, demographic trends and climate change will significantly shape skill needs for new and current jobs alike. The growing importance of sustainable development and the shift to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy will require new skills and qualifications, offering great potential for the creation of green jobs but also implying structural changes and a transformation of existing jobs. The transition to a low-carbon and greener economy will generate millions of new jobs, negatively affect some high-emitting sectors, and alter most existing occupations in terms of task compositions and skills requirements.

Ensuring the right skills for green jobs is a prerequisite to make the transition to a greener economy happen. Today, skills gaps are already recognised as a major bottleneck in a number of sectors, such as renewable energy, energy and resource efficiency, green building or environmental services. The adoption and dissemination of clean technologies require skills in technology application, adaptation

and maintenance. Skills are also crucial for economies and businesses, workers and entrepreneurs to rapidly adapt to changes deriving from climate change and environmental policies.

The goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement is to keep the increase in global average temperature to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Under the agreement, countries strive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to strengthen societies' capacities to address the wide-ranging impacts of climate change. Recent ILO employment estimates (ILO, 2018) suggest that the net effect on job numbers of climate action will be positive. Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures will inevitably cause job losses in certain sectors as carbon- and resource-intensive industries are scaled down, but they will be more than offset by new job opportunities.

Skills development measures are instrumental in reaping the benefits of potential job creation in new green economic activities and in addressing the social challenges in shifting to more sustainable models of energy generation, production and consumption across sectors. Massive deployment of skills development and active labour market policy measures will be needed to enable countries to implement the climate change targets, maximise job gains and address negative impacts while transitioning to low-carbon economies.

It is in this context that the ILO joined forces with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and conducted national studies in 32 countries.¹ The key findings of the synthesis report will be launched on the occasion of the event. The Forum will bring together governments, social partners, experts and practitioners to discuss the results of this comparative research, and to identify key policy challenges, solutions and good practices.

Objectives:

This global Forum is organized in the context of the celebration of the **ILO Centenary**. It also takes place as part of the **ILO Green Week** and the **2019 World Environment Day**. The objectives of the Forum are to:

- Recognise occupational needs and skills gaps in the context of the Future of Work, green technological changes and climate action;
- Highlight environmental challenges, effective skills response strategies, and good practices for a just transition for all;
- Discuss potential international collaboration on advancing green human capital to support Decent Work, and strengthen climate action.

¹ The countries are: Australia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Barbados, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, India, Ghana, Guyana, Kyrgyz Republic, Mali, Mauritius, Montenegro, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Tajikistan, Thailand, the UAE, Uganda, the United States, Zimbabwe (based on the preliminary findings from the ILO Green enterPRIZE Innovation and Development Project, funded by the Government of Sweden); Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa funded by AFD; and 6 EU Member States covered by Cedefop: Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Spain and the UK.

DRAFT Agenda

6 June 2019, Thursday			
08:30-09:00	<i>Registration of participants</i>		
09:00-10:00	High-level Opening		
10:00-10:30	Making skills work for climate action and environmental sustainability in the future of work: Presentation of key findings of the ILO global report on Skills for Green jobs.		
10:30-10:40	<i>Group Photo</i>		
10:40-11:00	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>		
11:00-12:30	Session 1. High-level panel-discussion: Policy coherence and social dialogue for skills development in just transition. <i>Supporting social dialogue and policy coherence in environmental and skills policies for a Just Transition for all. Good practices and lessons learned from country experiences in policy coherence, social dialogue and public-private partnerships for anticipating skills demand and adjusting training provision. Relevance of labour standards in the context of skills development for a just transition.</i>		
12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14.00-15.30	Session 2 Group discussion in parallel sessions Presentations followed by discussion: Greening TVET and skills development <i>TVET response in boosting skills for green jobs. Approaches to green competency standards, qualifications and curricula; financing solutions and incentives for skills development and lifelong learning to achieve a Just Transition and climate action.</i>	Session 3 Presentations followed by discussion: Linking skills development to the three pillars of sustainable development: reflections on the environmental, social and economic dimensions of skills for a just transition Skills development and green productivity enhancement; related Active Labour Market Policy measures, ensuring inclusion for a just transition.	Session 4: Presentations followed by discussion: Green structural change: Sectoral approaches to skills development in selected sectors (energy transition, and green building) <i>Sectoral plans and initiatives in skills development for green jobs are “enablers” in transition and policy coordination.</i>
15.30-16.00	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>		
16.00-16.30	Session 5. Panel-discussion: Policy mix - national and sectoral perspectives.		
16.30-17.45	Session 6. Skills development and Lifelong learning for the Future of Work in a Greener Economy <i>The session will reflect on key conclusions of the Global Commission on the Future of Work and discuss how all forms of skills development and lifelong learning can contribute to a just transition for all.</i>		
17.45-18.00	Closing remarks: A way forward		
18:00	<i>Reception</i>		