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Just Transition Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Sessions

Fostering a Just Transition in Jamaica: Collaborative Approaches for Sustainable Development

Kingston, Jamaica
14-15 October 2024

Organizers: UNDP Jamaica, International Labour Organization (ILO), Government of Jamaica

Concept note

1. Background

The transition to environmentally sustainable economies and societies is necessary, urgent, and possible. The preamble of the Paris Agreement on climate change, adopted in 2015, underscores close links between climate action, sustainable development, and a just transition, with Parties to the Agreement “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”. The transition to a fossil-free society implies changes on several levels and needs to be accompanied with adequate policies to ensure sustainable and socially inclusive growth. Enabling a just transition for workers and communities needs to be at the core of transition policies. The global shift towards a green

economy presents both opportunities and challenges for countries striving to achieve sustainable development. As Jamaica works to advance its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, there is a growing need to ensure that this transition to a greener economy is just, inclusive, and equitable. Recognizing this, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has partnered with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to support the Government of Jamaica in creating a pathway for a Just Transition under the Climate Promise Initiative.

A key component of the project is the ILO-led Green Job Assessment Modelling, the first of its kind in Jamaica. The **ILO has the mandate** to promote decent work, social justice, and sustainable economic growth. Its role in **green job creation** fits squarely within its mission to ensure that the transition to a green economy is inclusive, equitable, and creates decent work opportunities. Moreover, the [Conclusions on a just transition to environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all](#), adopted at the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organization in June 2023, clearly update ILO's mandate on the subject when it states that "Urgent action is imperative to promote a just transition to achieve social justice, decent work and poverty eradication, and to address environmental and climate change. What is at stake is the future of economies, societies, jobs and livelihoods, all of which depend on the planet's ecosystems and natural environments".

This exercise is designed to provide data-driven insights into the potential for green job creation across various sectors, informing policy decisions that will help Jamaica navigate the economic and social impacts of this transition. The UNDP's Climate Promise project, which supports countries in delivering on their NDCs, is a driving force behind these efforts, ensuring that climate action is aligned with sustainable development goals.

Evidence suggests that a just transition to sustainability can lead to greater job creation and advance social justice. The Green Job Assessment Model is ILO's.

2. Objectives

The Just Transition Symposium and Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Session aim to:

1. **Promote understanding of the Just Transition concept** by clearly explaining the Just Transition framework, its principles, and why it is necessary to address social and economic challenges arising from environmental and climate change policies.
2. **Facilitate knowledge exchange and cross-collaboration:** Create a platform for sharing best practices, experiences, and innovative solutions related to just transition from across the Caribbean and sectors.

3. **Governance structure for just transition:** Suggest through dialogue a comprehensive governance framework that ensures inclusive and participatory decision-making processes.
4. **Build capacity for future implementation:** Strengthen the capacity of local stakeholders to implement just transition initiatives effectively. Highlight the importance of skills development to prepare the workforce for jobs in the green economy, with a focus on reskilling those displaced from traditional industries and upskilling workers to meet future demands. Explore partnerships between education providers, employers, and training institutions to create sustainable capacity-building programs.

3. Importance of the dialogue process

The dialogue process is central to the success of a Just Transition. By engaging all relevant stakeholders—government, employers, and workers and other key stakeholders—in dialogue and decision-making, we can ensure that the voices of those most affected by the transition are heard and that green transition policies are tailored to the unique contexts of each industry providing more effective and relevant solutions. This collaborative approach fosters mutual understanding, builds trust, and helps to develop policies that are effective, equitable, fair and sustainable. In the context of Jamaica, the tripartite process is particularly important as it provides a platform for discussing the specific challenges faced by different sectors and communities. It also ensures that the policies and strategies developed are not only technically sound but also socially acceptable and economically viable.

4. Partnership with UNDP and ILO

The UNDP and ILO have a long history of collaboration in promoting sustainable development and decent work. In Jamaica, this partnership has been instrumental in supporting the Government's efforts to advance its NDCs through the Climate Promise project. The ILO's expertise in labour market analysis and social dialogue, combined with UNDP's experience in climate action and sustainable development, provides a strong foundation for guiding Jamaica through its Just Transition.

The Green Job Assessment Modelling Exercise, led by the ILO, is a cornerstone of this partnership. By providing detailed insights into the potential for green job creation, this exercise will help to inform the development of policies that support economic diversification, workforce development, and social protection, all of which are essential for a successful Just Transition.

5. Expected outcomes

The Just Transition Symposium and Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue are expected to:

1. Produce a set of actionable recommendations and strategies for ensuring a Just Transition in Jamaica.
2. Enhance understanding among stakeholders of the opportunities and challenges associated with the transition to a green economy.
3. Strengthen partnerships between government, employers, workers, and civil society in support of Jamaica's sustainable development goals.
4. Contribute to the development of policies that promote green job creation, social protection, and economic diversification in line with Jamaica's NDCs.
5. Facilitate the development of actionable roadmaps and policy recommendations for Government, businesses, and all stakeholders to implement just transition policies at the national level.
6. Set specific timelines, goals, and commitments to ensure accountability and progress.

7. Conclusion

The Just Transition Symposium and Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue represent a crucial step in Jamaica's journey towards a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future. By bringing together key stakeholders to engage in open and constructive dialogue, we can ensure that the transition to a green economy is not only environmentally sound but also socially just and economically viable. The UNDP, in partnership with the ILO, is committed to supporting Jamaica in this endeavour and looks forward to the outcomes of this important event.