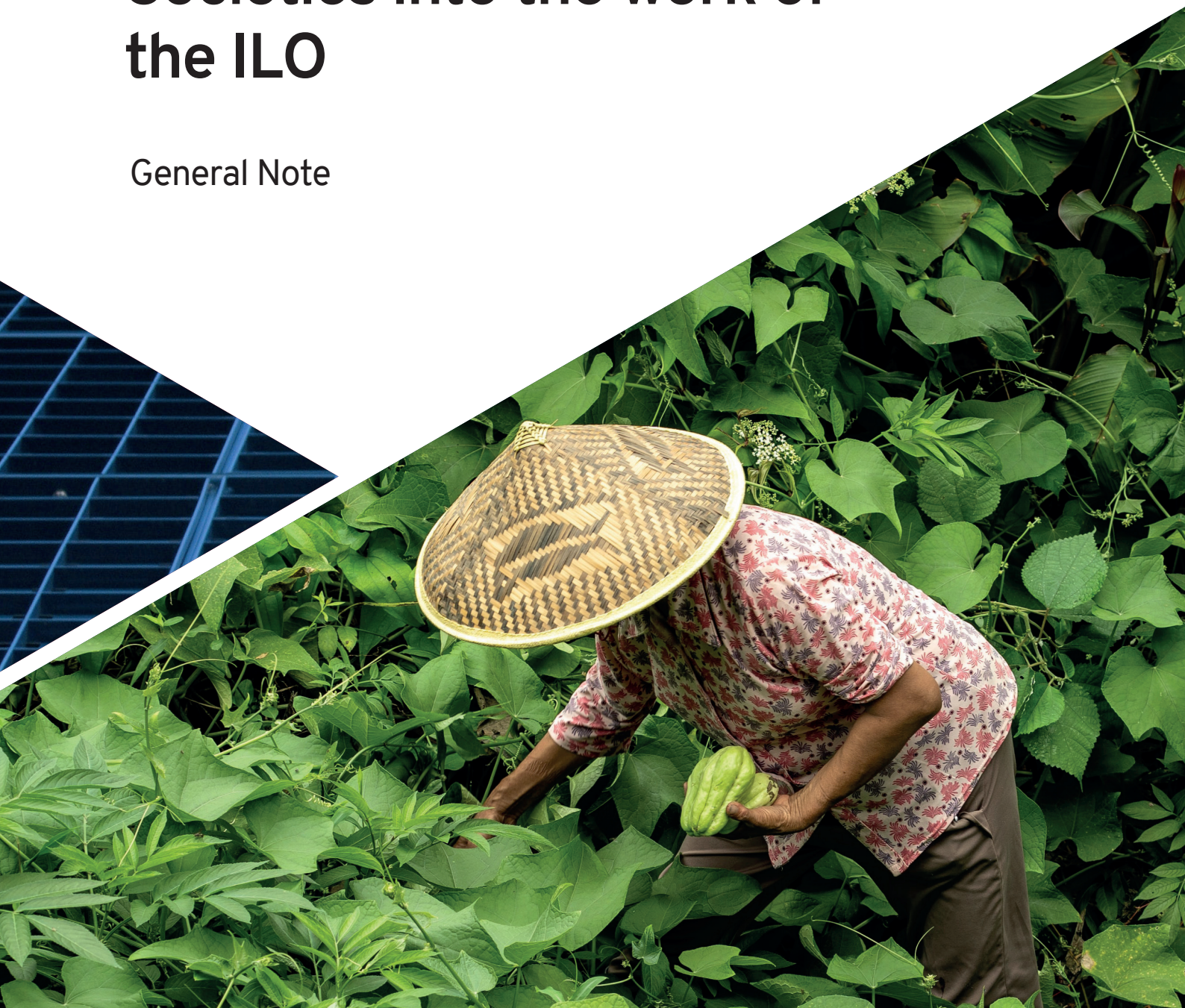




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► Integrating a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies into the work of the ILO

General Note



This General Note seeks to provide an overview of ways of integrating environmental sustainability into the work of the ILO, indicating entry points in Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs), Country Programme Outcomes (CPOs) and Development Cooperation (DC) projects, as well as highlighting existing guidance tools and forthcoming instruments. This note should be read in conjunction with the [Programme and Budget 2020-21](#) and [Implementation Planning for 2020-21](#), and is complemented by the following guidance and information documents:

- *Integrating a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies into Decent Work Country Programme Development: A Short Guidance Note*
- *Integrating a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies into Development Cooperation Projects (presentation)*

Integrating a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies into the work of the ILO: what does it mean?

Integrating a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies (JTES) into the work of the ILO means that the ILO will contribute to advancing a just transition by:

1. maximizing opportunities in terms of positive social and economic outcomes for both Decent Work and environmental outcomes, and/or
2. addressing risks for the world of work associated with environmental challenges and response measures.

In the Programme and Budget 2020-21, a focus on just transition is reflected in a dedicated output, namely Output 3.3 Increased capacity of member States to formulate and implement policies for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies. However, there are several other outputs with evident linkages to JTES, including 4.2.

Strengthened capacity of enterprises to adopt new business models, technology and techniques to enhance productivity and sustainability, and 5.1. Increased capacity of the ILO constituents to identify current skills mismatches and anticipate future skills needs.

Ultimately, any outcome, output or result may integrate environmental sustainability, albeit to different degrees. In this context, it is important to recall that the ILO Strategic Plan for 2018-21 introduced environmental sustainability as a cross-cutting issue, and that the ILO's Environmental Sustainability Policy states that the Office will progressively mainstream it in its results-based management frameworks, policies and programmes, Decent Work Country Programmes and projects (IGDS no 461, version 1).

The integration of environmental sustainability into CPOs, DWCPs, and DC projects may occur in varying degrees, depending on a particular intervention's level of contribution to the promotion of JTES. Promoting JTES may be the main objective of an ILO intervention. An example of this might be providing support for the development of comprehensive sectoral strategies for decent job creation and skills development in environment-related sectors/subsectors such as renewable energy, waste management or forestry.

Alternatively, an ILO intervention may make a significant contribution to promoting JTES. In this case, ILO action contributes substantively to JTES, although this is not its principal objective. An example of this might be providing support for the formulation of a national employment policy that includes the promotion of green jobs.

Finally, an ILO intervention may make a limited contribution to promoting JTES. This is the case when the primary focus is on other topics, but there are a few components with the potential to advance JTES. An example of this might be providing support for more effective extension of social protection to workers in the rural economy, including in environmentally sensitive sectors such as agriculture, but without articulated considerations for protection against risks related to climate change.

Integrating a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies into DWCP

The Green Jobs Unit at HQ and green jobs field specialists should be consulted as part of the standard process of DWCP development. Additionally, Regional Programming Units are encouraged to submit draft DWCP documents to the Green Jobs Unit at HQ for review as part of the quality assurance mechanism.

It is important to highlight that inputs provided for quality assurance purposes can have only a limited impact, given that a DWCP is, by this time, drafted and almost finalized. For meaningful integration, just transition issues should be taken into account at the beginning of DWCP development. The engagement of green jobs specialists would be most beneficial in the early phases of the DWCP process – in preliminary discussions, including ones with tripartite constituents, and in the country diagnostics and design stages – especially in view of the fact that JTES is a relatively new topic when compared with other ILO work areas. This being the case, when preparations for a DWCP begin, informal exchanges between the director and programming staff of a Country Office (CO) and green jobs specialists would be helpful in ensuring that JTES is more strategically integrated with the priorities of the DWCP.

Information and guidance are available to assist those involved in DWCP development or review, particularly through the document *Integrating a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies into Decent Work Country Programme Development: A Short Guidance Note*. This document provides succinct guidance on key considerations for integrating JTES into DWCPs, in terms of both content and processes, including constituents' engagement. Relevant field specialists and the Green Jobs Unit are available for further assistance.

Integrating a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies into CPOs

An analysis carried out in the 2018-19 biennium indicated a positive trend in the integration of JTES into CPOs by region and by Programme and Budget (P&B) Outcome, although there was significant variation in the uptake across countries, regions and P&B outcomes linkages. Under the 2020-21 Programme and Budget, it is important that CPOs making a considerable contribution to JTES are linked to Output 3.3, as well as to other relevant outputs, if applicable.

Integrating a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies into DC projects

The ILO has begun work on an environmental and social sustainability framework. Such frameworks, which typically include safeguards, aim to enhance the quality of interventions by maximizing benefits and avoiding inadvertent harm to people and the environment. They are now a common practice in most UN agencies and an increasingly frequent requirement on the part of funding partners. The framework will represent an important step towards mainstreaming JTES in DC projects and will leverage, as reference, the Model Approach on Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming, produced by an inter-agency task team under the UN Environmental Management Group ¹.

As a part of its DC Learning Journeys, PARDEV, in collaboration with the Green Jobs Unit, has developed a learning track integrating JTES into DC projects. The presentation *Integrating a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies into Development Cooperation Projects* is available for reference.

1. <https://unemg.org/modelapproach/>

Integrating a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies across the board

In addition to specific tools and information relating to DC projects and DWCP development, practical resources are now available for supporting the integration of JTES in all contexts.

These include:

- Green Place Share Point. This is an internal online platform where information, tools and other resources can be easily searched and accessed. Please contact Carolina Ferreira at ILO Green Jobs Unit HQ to be registered for access, at ferreirac@ilo.org.
- Rapid Situational Analysis for a Just Transition – Framework and Toolbox. This resource makes it possible to develop a quick but systematic snapshot of “just transition hotspots” and identify areas of high potential for interventions. It can help inform ILO’s support for a particular country by contributing to DWCP development or to potential DC projects. It can also be a source of information for engagement with constituents, with a view to building awareness and mobilizing support around just transition issues. For further information, please contact Camilla Roman at ILO Green Jobs Unit HQ, romanc@ilo.org, or the green jobs specialist in your region.
- ILO Environmental Sustainability Action Plan. This is a plan endorsed and monitored by the ILO Environmental Sustainability Committee. It captures outputs and activities that contribute to environmental sustainability from across the offices, including HQ, field and ITCILO. For further information, please contact Carolina Ferreira at ILO Green Jobs Unit HQ: ferreirac@ilo.org.