



International Labour Organization

**Tripartite meeting for consultations on
“Decent Work, Climate Change and Sustainable Development”**

Monday 13 October 2014, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean – Auditorium III
Las Flores Av. 275, San Isidro, Lima, Peru

Background

In 2015 three international agreements will be signed pertaining to sustainable development. The first agreement, linked to the so-called post-2015 process, unites the future agenda for development and the follow-up to the Rio Conference + 20 of the United Nations on sustainable development in 2012. In the process of formulation of objectives and targets there is a growing recognition of the need to ensure that full employment, decent work and social inclusion are central parts of an ever more environmentally sustainable economy, the so-called green economy.

The second agreement is to define the future global agenda on climate change. This includes the achievement of a Pact by 2015 that details both the level of present and future emission reductions as well as the main objectives of climate policies. In the preparatory process increasingly recognises, both at the social and economic impacts that climate change will have on employment, as the positive impacts on job creation resulting from the shift towards a greener economy in a wide range of sectors.

The third agreement will define the new framework post 2015 on disaster risk reduction following the Hyogo Framework for Action adopted in 2005 for a 10 years period, with the purpose of reducing the loss of human lives and the economic, social and environmental damages caused by disasters, as well as increasing the resilience of nations and communities to disasters as a condition for sustainable development.

These agreements are of particular relevance for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular for the Small Island Developing States which are being, and will be particularly affected by the impacts of climate change. The transition to a green economy is especially important for these countries, since it could lead to greater opportunities for social inclusion from the exchange of technologies and innovations necessary to create decent employment. Companies, workers and communities involved in sectors such as, for example, energy production and tourism are particularly affected by climate change and the economic, social and environmental impact of disasters associated with natural hazards.

The constituents of the ILO discussed the link between sustainable development, decent work and green jobs at the International Labour Conference in 2013. This meeting established the political framework for a fair transition that would ensure opportunities for decent work and social inclusion for everyone affected by the changes.

As a response to the growing interest of constituents, the Director-General launched the green initiative towards the 100th anniversary of the ILO in 1919, with the main purpose of stimulating a

broader and deeper reflection on the role of the ILO and the expected impact of climate change in the world of work and on the challenges of the efficient use and conservation of natural resources.

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has established that its 2015 Integration Segment will focus on the theme, “Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all”. This session (30 March – 1 April 2015) will serve as an important opportunity to demonstrate how the Decent Work Agenda can be an effective tool for the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Together with the agencies of the United Nations, the ILO is reinforcing its support for the efforts of Member States to build sustainable development strategies. The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), recently launched by UNEP, ILO, UNIDO, UNDP and UNITAR, has the goal of providing a wide range of services related to the green economy that will allow countries to transform their economic structures to respond to the growing demands and challenges of the 21st century. Among the nine countries in the world to benefit from the support of PAGE is Peru, which launched its own initiative in April 2014.

Proposed Consultation

Given the current processes of preparation of international agreements and the importance of employment and social inclusion in them, the ILO proposes an international forum of consultation among Caribbean countries and Peru. This Forum will discuss the policy options focussing on the creation of quality employment while reducing the vulnerability in the world of work due to the impact of climate change, contributing to the reduction of emissions and adaptation measures.

Objective and expected outcome

Through the strategic dialogue, the exchange of experiences and South-South cooperation between different regions, the meeting will contribute to a better recognition of the social and labour dimension in promoting the green economy in response to climate change.

The result of the consultation will enrich the debates of the 18th American Regional Meeting of the ILO and help South-South cooperation strategies on this issue, with a possible focus on green job creation, vocational training and the development of new skills for a transition to a green economy, which may be extended to other interested countries.

At the same time, lessons learned and any recommendations could contribute as inputs to the preparation of the next Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention framework of the United Nations on climate change, which will be held in Lima in December 2014.

Discussion theme

The event will discuss, among other issues, the creation of new jobs within a framework of green growth, analysing the case of Peru under the PAGE initiative and the creation and strengthening of professional competences in the sectors linked to the green economy, as well as the reduction of climate-related hazards as a key element for the sustainability of enterprises and jobs. There will also be an analysis of experiences of promoting policies of a green economy, low-carbon, efficient in the use of resources and socially inclusive, especially in two important sectors in the economies of both the Caribbean and Peru, namely tourism and energy production. The summary of the event will be compiled and circulated as a conference room paper to help supplement the discussions at the 2015 ECOSOC Integration segment.

Tentative Programme

09:00 – 10:00

Opening

- *Ms. Maria Emma Mejia, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations and Vice-President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*
- *Mr. Errol McLeod, Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development, Trinidad and Tobago*
- *Ambassador Gonzalo Gutiérrez Reinel, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peru*
- *Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General, ILO*

10:00 – 11:00

Exchange of experiences

Climate change and employment: links and response options with a labour focus in the Caribbean and Peru, including national experiences of development strategies with carbon reduction, adaptation to climate change and reduction of risk of disasters as a key element for the sustainability of enterprises and jobs

Presentations from:

- *Ms. Esther Byer-Suckoo, Minister of Labour and Social Security, Barbados*
 - *Hon. Jason Akil Hamilton, Attorney General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, Labour, Justice and Legal Affairs, Saint Kitts and Nevis*
 - *Mr Wayne Chen, President of the Caribbean Employers' Confederation (CEC)*
 - *Mr David Massiah, President of Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL)*
- Moderator: Mr. Kelvin Sergeant, Enterprise Specialist, DWT and ILO Office for the Caribbean*

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee / Tea break

11:30 – 12:30

Exchange of experiences (continued)

- *Mr. Roger Alfredo Loyola Gonzales, Ministry of Environment of Peru*
 - *Mr. Peter Poschen, Director, Enterprises Department, ILO*
 - *Mr Julio Orozco Director of Sustainable Tourism, Association of Caribbean States (ACS)*
 - *Mr. Charles Ogle, Director of Labour, Ministry of Labour, Guyana*
- Moderator: Mr. Philippe Vanhuynegem, Enterprise Specialist, DWT and ILO Office for the Andean Countries*

12:15 – 12:45

Conclusions and way forward

Reflections on a global climate change agreement and the COP20 of Lima as the main stage where to manifest and recognise the links between climate, environment, reduction of risk of disasters and employment

- *Mr. Giovanni di Cola, Director, ILO Decent Work Team and Office for the Caribbean*
- *Mr. Peter Poschen, Director, Enterprises Department, ILO*

12:45 – 13:00

Closing ceremony

- *Mr. Shane Gibson, Minister of Labour and National Insurance, Bahamas*
- *Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal Otálora, Ministry of Environment, Peru*