Job Creation and Just Transition towards a Green and Blue Economy

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Climate change: Why is a Just Transition to a low carbon and resilient economy so urgent?

QUESTION:
We all know about climate change and have heard it’s caused by us, humanity. But how serious is the problem?
Answer- We only have 7 years to act!

Fact:
Human activities have caused a 1.0°C of global warming already

Challenge to the WoW:
- How to keep creating jobs without increasing global emissions.
- Companies and workers to adapt to increasing climate change impacts
- Social protection systems key to avoid negative impacts of low carbon strategies and to increase country resilience
Circular economy as an opportunity to increase competitiveness and go greener

QUESTION:
Our current economies are based on linear thinking: extract-use-waste. Within this framework, what’s the percentage of materials the world re-uses?
Answer- A circular economy to increase competitiveness and create employment

Facts:
- Total material inputs = 90 billion tons/yr, of which only 9 % recycled back into economy.
- Current model leaves too many behind and exposes future generations to risks and costs of growing environmental and social externalities from over-production and over-consumption
- Economic benefit estimated in one trillion dollar value

Challenge to the WoW:
- Create new business models along global value chains with a circular economy approach
- Social dialogue and collaboration along material flows (beyond paper, card, glass).
- Training and capacity development for workers and employers
QUESTION:
Let’s talk now about our oceans. Let’s see how healthy they are.

What is the level of fish stock that is already fully exploited, overexploited or depleted?
Answer - 90% of fish stock depleted and increasing pollution of oceans

Facts:
- Nearly 90% of the world’s marine fish stocks are now fully exploited, overexploited or depleted.
- About 8 million metric tons of plastic are thrown into the ocean annually.
- By 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than there are fish.

Challenge for WoW:
- Impacts on economy, on jobs, on poverty, on food security.
The ILO Future of Work Commission on Environmental Sustainability

FoW Commission said:

- The greening of our economies will create millions of jobs as we adopt sustainable practices and clean technologies but other jobs will disappear as countries scale back their carbon- and resource-intensive industries.

- We need to seize the opportunities presented by these transformative changes to create a brighter future and deliver economic security, equal opportunity and social justice – and ultimately reinforce the fabric of our societies.

FoW Commission recommendations:

- Increase transformative investments in decent and sustainable work, in line with UN 2030 Agenda, that will advance gender equality and can create millions of jobs and new opportunities for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises.

- Prioritize the rural economy

- Reshaping business incentive structures for longer-term investment and new measures of country progress to incorporate environmental degradation
Crosscutting commitments:

• **Generating decent jobs, and strengthening climate adaptation strategies and protect workers and vulnerable groups** as part or the social and Political Drivers to advance commitments in areas that affect people’s well-being. **Just transition policies** to be developed together with climate strategies.

• **Mitigation Strategy**: to generate momentum for ambitious long-term strategies to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

• **Youth Engagement and Public Mobilization**
Green and Blue Economy: Decent Work Impacts and Solutions

• **New Jobs**: decarbonizing the economy can create at least 24 million new jobs, according to the ILO

• **New skills** are needed (new ILO report 6th June)
  - New skills provision, on-the-job training and apprenticeship programmes

• **Value chain approach**: waste management and recycling, clean energies, energy efficiency, sustainable construction, organic food production, sustainable tourism.

• **Climate change labour impact assessments** and **social protection**

• **Dialogue and tripartism** for discussion and agreement on the way forward.

• Empowerment and support of workers and employers active in the green economy