



International  
Labour  
Organization

Office for the  
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**Statement by the International Labour Organization to the  
Second Committee of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly  
Item 19(a)-(i): Sustainable Development**

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The COVID-19 pandemic has displayed that a healthy life, labour markets and productive economies depend on a healthy environment. As economies restart, there is an opportunity to develop public and private policies to overcome socio-economic challenges and foster the transition to a green economy. ILO research finds that a shift to a greener economy holds the potential of creating some 24 million new jobs globally by 2030.

A green recovery will require economic policies and incentives to support business continuity and to encourage enterprises' use of renewable energies and adoption of low-carbon production processes and clean technologies. During the High-level Roundtable on Climate Ambition on 24 September 2020, the Secretary-General<sup>1</sup> highlighted the need to “invest in green and decent jobs” and the importance of just transition policies. The Climate Action for Jobs Initiative will support governments with this goal. The initiative is a result of the [Climate Action Summit](#) convened by the Secretary-General in September 2019. At the Summit, 46 countries made a commitment to formulate national plans for a just transition, placing decent work and a just transition for all at the centre of action to address climate change.

In December 2019, the UN Secretary-General, the ILO Director-General, government leaders, and the International Organization of Employers and the International Trade Union Confederation [launched the Climate Action for Jobs Initiative](#) at the UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid (COP25). The Climate Action for Jobs Initiative provides countries with tools for assessing investment and policy options for a recovery that focuses on jobs and a transition to a sustainable economy. It supports planning, policy-making, market development, knowledge and innovation for a sustainable future, guided by the [ILO Just Transition Guidelines](#) and [ILO Recommendation No. 205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience](#), and in accordance with the United Nations Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Key to the Initiative is a new Just Transition Innovation Facility. This provides a space to source innovative ideas and turn them into effective and scalable solutions to climate change. The Facility is designed to identify high potential solutions for addressing specific challenges, strengthening country intervention models, supporting pilot projects, and sharing lessons learned internationally. An International Advisory Board has been set up including ministers of environment, labour and development planning from Argentina, Costa Rica, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Samoa, Senegal and Spain; leaders of employers' and workers' organizations and senior officials of the United Nations and development finance institutions.

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Decent work can serve as a catalyst to rebalance the development paradigm for a more resilient future. The ILO stands ready to support constituents in developing just transition frameworks and encourages partners support the Climate Action for Jobs Initiative.

I thank you.