



Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions?

The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions was launched in September 2021 by the UN Secretary-General and promotes a job-rich recovery, as well as just ecological, technological and societal transitions to more sustainable and inclusive economies and societies. Three complementary and mutually supportive areas of work are envisaged under the Global Accelerator:

- 1) the in-country development of **integrated and coordinated employment and social protection policies and strategies** that facilitate just transitions;
- 2) the **establishment of integrated national financing frameworks** and the mobilization of public and private domestic and international resources to invest in universal social protection and inclusive, environment- and gender-responsive employment interventions with a view to creating quality jobs; and
- 3) the **improvement of multilateral cooperation** on jobs and social protection for just transitions, including with international financial institutions.

What is the purpose of the Global Accelerator?

The three interlinked pillars aim to increase the level and coordination of the multilateral system's efforts to help countries create at least 400 million decent jobs, including in the green, digital and care economies, and to extend social protection coverage to the 4 billion people currently excluded. A joined-up effort of this scale and nature is critically needed to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities, and thus pave the way for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

How is the Global Accelerator different from other initiatives?

It leverages a global joint commitment and a shared vision from the UN system, the World Bank, DFIs, Development partners, the private sector, employers and workers organisations, to support Pathfinder countries accelerate their reforms towards the creation of decent jobs and universal social protection for just transitions, in line with national priorities and development plans. This commitment and partnership approach is translated and articulated at country level through a national roadmap, developed on the basis of a co-construction approach. It aims at addressing fragmentation through a more streamlined and coordinated approach among development partners, under a common results framework which is owned by the Government.

What is Required to Become a Global Accelerator Pathfinder Country?

Rapid expansion of social protection and jobs requires cross sectoral commitment and the highest level of political commitment. Accordingly, to become a pathfinder country requires commitment at a level of government that can ensure this leadership, for example at presidential or prime ministerial level.

Making this commitment requires *pathfinder countries*¹ to commit to:

- Developing national policies and integrated strategies for just transitions, leading to the creation of green jobs including policies for employment creation, reskilling, social protection and through social dialogue;
- If not in place, formulating and adopted integrated strategies and policies on social protection and employment, and/or having started their implementation through tripartite social dialogue;
- Creating a dedicated and inter-ministerial initiative or board involving social partners, which has leverage for change;
- A political commitment to increase domestic resources available to social protection and jobs, or having already increased domestic resources in the past 10–20 years with a record of extending social protection coverage;
- As relevant, allocating significant ODA to the objectives of the Global Accelerator, either through the thematic window of the Joint SDG Fund or other funding mechanisms;
- Promoting South–South cooperation on decent jobs, social protection and just transitions; and
- Advocating for stronger multilateral cooperation, notably with international financial institutions, to implement the ambitions of the Global Accelerator (i.e. in the UN, international financial institutions, G20 and other forums).

Through these initiatives, *pathfinder countries* are committed to expanding social protection, decent jobs and promoting pathways for just transitions in partnership with UN Agencies, guided by the theory of change and monitoring framework of the Global Accelerator. This can include development and financing of new projects that support the implementation of national roadmaps on jobs and social protection, as well as inclusion of existing projects and adapting approaches where needed.

What are the advantages of becoming a Global Accelerator Pathfinder country?

- 1. On demand access to dedicated specialised expertise:** Pathfinder countries who want to benefit from the support of the Technical Support Facility (TSF) will have access to a dedicated global, regional and national hub of experts, specialised in the field of social protection, decent job creation, financing and just transitions. The TSF will provide on demand technical advisory services, harnessing existing expert hubs and building partnerships with other technical agencies to facilitate the mobilisation of multi-disciplinary expertise and responses. The TSF will provide support to the design of programmes and resource mobilisation and overall technical and management support to the portfolio of projects which will in turn support the implementation of the Accelerator at country level.
- 2. Access to new funding opportunities:** The Accelerator will be supported by new funding streams which will provide development cooperation support to implement the national roadmaps and play a catalytic role in the effectiveness of the relevant national financing strategies. This includes

¹ See Annex I of the Implementation Strategy: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---soc_sec/documents/genericdocument/wcms_854430.pdf

a new Joint SDG Fund Window on Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection which will be launched early 2023, as well as additional resources provided by other development partners through existing or new funding instruments. It also includes the alignment of ongoing bilateral projects with the Accelerator roadmap and their potential replenishment.

- 3. Guidance, tools and capacity development support for integrated strategies:** The mutually reinforcing effects and virtuous cycle of integrated job creation and social protection strategies is at the heart of the Accelerator's approach. Often there is a lack of awareness and practical knowledge among policymakers, social partners, development and financial partners, UN agencies and the public of the potential impacts and multiplier effects of well-designed, integrated and adequately financed social protection and employment policies and strategies in line with relevant international standards. The Accelerator proposes to support policy action from several ministries, social partners, private sector enterprises, with support from UN and other development agencies. New tools will comprise for instance integrated diagnostics, expenditure budget reviews, fiscal space analysis, as well as capacity development.
- 4. Development of integrated financing strategies:** By harnessing Integrated National Financing Frameworks or supporting the development of financing strategies, the Accelerator will promote public resources by expanding the tax base, actively shaping new fiscal space, as well as mobilizing further Official Development Assistance (ODA) and international support, alongside engagement with providers of private capital, including different types of investors and funds for employment generation. The Accelerator will support the development of a coordinated streams of funding and financing (ODA; public resources; loans from MDBs, PDBs; investments from private sector).
- 5. Participating in high level global dialogue at head of state level:** The Global High-Level Coalition which is part of the Governance structure of the Accelerator will facilitate the review of progress and the reporting as part of high-level UN mechanisms, ensuring the continued required political buy-in and leadership needed to meet the ambitious goals of the Global Accelerator.
- 6. Knowledge sharing** will play a key part in showcasing different country experiences and results; we have much to learn about policies that can integrate employment and social protection, facilitate just transitions and increase domestic resources.

What is the Process for Becoming a Global Accelerator Pathfinder?

Some key elements need to be put in place, in order for a country to become a pathfinder country. The process could be initiated by the Resident Coordinator, members of UNCTs, or directly by the government. In all cases, the process will be led by governments at the national level in close collaboration with the UN. A general **Terms of Reference** has been developed to help facilitate consultations on becoming Global Accelerator Pathfinders, in summary:

- **Engagement with the TSF:** In countries where there is interest in exploring becoming a Pathfinder, a discussion should first be initiated with representatives of the TSF at global and country level and the Resident Coordinator.
- **Pathfinder Criteria:** A general set of criteria for becoming a Pathfinder country has been agreed through an extensive inter-agency process overseen by the Executive Office of the UN Secretary General. These criteria, as outlined above, should be reviewed and discussed with the TSF.
- **Initial country review** should be undertaken by the TSF to identify priorities through which a country may most effectively achieve results and serve as a reference point for further consultations.
- **Cross-ministerial and national consultations:** A number of consultations will be organized, with support of the UN. The process would vary by context, but with an outcome of developing

a national roadmap for the accelerator. This plan would include plans in the following areas with clear leadership:

- Development of a national cross ministerial coordinating body with high level leadership if not in place;
- Assessment of existing national integrating policies on jobs and social protection, and development of an integrated policy framework;
- Identification of existing policy and programme gaps to expand social protection and jobs including financing gaps;
- Plans for appropriate policy and programme expansion;
- Development of an integrated financing strategy or other mechanisms to raise domestic and international resources.
- Development of M&E framework and process to track progress.

Where to find more information on the Global Accelerator?

All the information concerning the Global Accelerator is currently available at this site:

[Building a better future and keeping the promises of the 2030 Agenda: Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions \(ilo.org\)](https://ilo.org/globalaccelerator)

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