

General Discussion Committee on a Just Transition

Date: 09 June 2023

▶ Draft conclusions concerning a just transition [including consideration of industrial policies and technology,] towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all

I. The imperatives of a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all

1. Urgent action to advance just transition is an imperative to achieving social justice, decent work and poverty eradication, and to tackling environmental and climate change. The future of economies, societies, jobs and livelihoods is at stake as they depend on the planet's ecosystems and natural environments.
2. Failure to address environmental and climate change will threaten human well-being and planetary health, progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and will further exacerbate gender and other forms of inequalities and exclusion.
3. [The costs of inaction will be many times greater than the investments urgently needed towards achieving resilient, inclusive and environmentally sustainable economies and societies. Policies and measures to address climate change and environmental degradation can deliver positive economic and social outcomes but can also have unintended and negative impacts on the world of work.]
4. [The prospective gains from a just transition are not automatic. Concerted efforts are required to address employment losses, decent work deficits, inequality and sectoral and educational misalignments. Policies have to be coherent and balanced and must address the nexus between climate change, decent work and sustainable development.]
5. The complexity of a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies [for all] is compounded by the implications of technological change and demographic shifts, displacement and migration, and persisting high levels of informality [, and inadequate industrial policies and financing].
6. [Governments, employers and workers are critical agents of change and must urgently take concerted and coherent action based on robust social dialogue and through reaffirming the ILO mandate and leadership on just transition in the multilateral system.]

7. [The private sector plays a pivotal role as a principal source of innovation, economic growth, and job creation in the transition towards sustainable economies. It is a catalyst for building a more sustainable and inclusive future.]

II. Guiding principles for a just transition for all

8. A just transition is key to attaining the ILO's mandate for social justice [, sustainable development] and to a human-centred approach to the future of work.
9. A just transition promotes environmentally sustainable economies in a way that is inclusive, by creating decent work opportunities, reducing inequality and by leaving no one behind.
10. Just transition involves maximising the social and economic opportunities of climate and environmental action, including an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises, while minimising and carefully managing challenges. It should be based on effective social dialogue, respect for fundamental principles and rights at work, and be in accordance with international labour standards. Stakeholder engagement is also important.
11. A just transition is central to delivering sustainable development in its economic, social, and environmental dimensions and to addressing the linkages between them. It is instrumental in taking ambitious action on environmental and climate change and pursuing the realization of the goals and commitments of the Paris Agreement [and other international environmental agreements relevant to a just transition / as appropriate].
12. Ensuring a just transition is important for all countries at all levels of development, and for all economic sectors, the formal as well as the informal economy, and should be based on national [circumstances and] development priorities.
13. Strong social [commitment / consensus] is fundamental. Social dialogue [must / should] be integral to policymaking and implementation. [Engagement / Consultations] should take place with all concerned stakeholders.
14. Human rights and fundamental principles and rights at work should be respected, promoted and realized. International labour standards should be ratified and effectively implemented. [The right to remedy and reparation to all affected workers and communities should be guaranteed.]
15. [Social inclusion and equality should be promoted, paying particular attention to groups in vulnerable situations] / [Gender equality, social inclusion and equity should be promoted, paying particular attention to indigenous and tribal peoples and groups in vulnerable situations].
16. Policy coherence at all levels and across different fields should be fostered. Adequate provisions for financing for a just transition should be put in place.
17. [The promotion of sustainable enterprises as [a / one] fundamental element of a just transition towards sustainable economies by fostering an enabling environment, such as through supportive policies, incentives, and clear regulatory frameworks should be prioritized.]

[III. Industrial policies and technology for sustainable development]

18. [Recognizing the ILO mandate as expressed in the Philadelphia declaration : Confident that the fuller and broader utilization of the world's productive resources necessary for the achievement of the objectives set forth in this Declaration can be secured by effective international and national action, including measures to expand production and consumption,

to avoid severe economic fluctuations to promote the economic and social advancement of the less developed regions of the world, to assure greater stability in world prices of primary products, and to promote a high and steady volume of international trade, the Conference pledges the full cooperation of the International Labour Organization with such international bodies as may be entrusted with a share of the responsibility for this great task and for the promotion of the health, education and well-being of all peoples.

Recognizing that there is a climate emergency and that production and consumption should take into consideration people's wellbeing and the commitments under the Paris Agreement and other environmental conventions.

Industrial policies and technology should be a key part of the just transition policies to allow governments to comply with the UNFCCC's NDCs and SDGs, to respond to worker wellbeing and the planetary boundaries, taking into consideration the energy sources and to shape a transition and pursuing the realization of the goals and commitments undertaken under the Paris agreement and other international agreements.]

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[Recognizing the ILO mandate as expressed in part 4 of the Philadelphia Declaration and that there is a climate crisis, industrial and productive development policies and access to technology should be a key part of the just transition, [in the interest of / to ensure] the well-being of all people and the planetary boundaries.]

IV. The role of governments, employers' and workers' organizations

19. [The ILO Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all (2015) provide the central reference for policy-making and a basis for action. Their implementation should be accelerated and scaled up through a reinvigorated framework for action consisting of four interrelated and mutually supportive elements namely: (i) promoting inclusive, sustainable and job-rich economies; (ii) advancing social justice; (iii) managing the process of just transition; and (iv) financing a just transition.]
20. Governments, in consultation with the most representative employers' and workers' organizations should:
 - (a) formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate gender responsive integrated and coherent just transition frameworks that are coordinated with relevant economic, social and environmental policies;
 - (b) integrate measures into environmental and climate policies such as nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement and net-zero targets, and into coherent, integrated and comprehensive employment, social protection and industrial policies to advance a just transition;
 - (c) establish mechanisms for intra-governmental collaboration and coordination of policies for a just transition;
 - (d) [establish pro-employment macroeconomic frameworks and promote appropriate use of fiscal and monetary instruments, including progressive taxation, to ensure fiscal space for a just transition and to incentivize structural transformation;]
 - (e) Promote [the development of sustainable enterprises and the] full, productive and freely chosen employment and decent work as a core objective of a just transition;

- (f) [employ active labour market policies to ease and accelerate the transition paying due attention to [women and workers / workers and vulnerable groups / workers and underserved communities] in industries most affected by the transition and protecting workers whose jobs will be lost due to the transition by providing social protection and labour guarantees;]
/
[employ active labour market policies to ease and accelerate the transition paying due attention to [providing labour guarantees to] workers and vulnerable groups in industries most affected by the transition;]
- (g) [formulate and implement sustainable industrial and sectoral [as well as productive development] policies to facilitate and manage a just transition to environmental sustainability and the circular economy];
- (h) [foster inclusive and sustainable trade and investment frameworks and supply chains that contribute to a just transition and decent work;]
- (i) foster technological development and [access to / incentives for] environmentally-sound technologies, cleaner production and resource efficiency, including in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, [to create and ensure / while ensuring] decent work benefits;
- (j) invest in sustainable infrastructure and quality public services to provide a foundation for a just transition;
- (k) provide universal access to comprehensive, adequate and sustainable social protection systems, including social protection floors, to safeguard populations against adverse impacts, reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience to facilitate a just transition;
- (l) create an enabling environment for innovation, entrepreneurship and productive sustainable enterprises, including improved access to finance and business development services particularly to allow micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to pursue environmentally sustainable business models;
- (m) design coherent and integrated strategies to facilitate the transition to the formal economy and prevent the informalization of formal economy jobs paying particular to sectors that are highly impacted by environmental and climate change;
- (n) promote skills and lifelong learning as enablers for a just transition and green jobs and as a buffer against adverse impacts of change;
- (o) anticipate skills needs and identify skills mismatches, invest in and strengthen systems to provide equitable access to portable, core, semi-technical and technical skills for all individuals, including those in the informal economy and to monitor, evaluate and enhance systems' effectiveness;
- (p) actively promote inclusive and effective social dialogue, including collective bargaining and tripartite cooperation, at all levels to forge social consensus for ambitious policies and measures for a just transition;
- (q) consult with affected communities, [including indigenous and tribal peoples,] youth and other relevant stakeholders;
- (r) respect, promote and realize the fundamental principles and rights at work and accelerate the ratification, and effectively implement international labour standards;

- (s) formulate, implement and periodically review national policies for occupational safety and health (OSH) which prioritize a preventative approach, identify and manage new and emerging risks from climate change and invest in OSH capacity development and training, also in the informal economy;
- (t) ensure that [historically marginalized, underserved or underrepresented communities including indigenous and tribal peoples and rural communities can participate in the development of and benefit from] just transition measures [and in line with C169, consult with the peoples concerned in order to promote the full realization of the social, economic and cultural rights and provide reparation as appropriate];
- (u) [In line with the Paris Agreement,] mobilize [and provide information on] sustainable, affordable, predictable and long-term finance from public and private, domestic and international sources, including by leveraging the expertise and resources of international financial institutions and multilateral [and public / and regional] development banks, and aligning public and private financial flows to the objectives of a just transition; and
- (v) promote international cooperation and global solidarity supporting developing countries most vulnerable to the effects of environmental and climate change including small island developing states and least developed countries.

21. Employers' and workers' organizations should:

- (a) [effectively engage in social dialogue [in all its forms, including collective bargaining], [to share the benefits of technological progress, green transitions and demographic changes and advance just transition and decent work at enterprise, sectoral and national levels]; / [effectively engage in social dialogue, including through collective bargaining, as a means of sharing productivity gains and driving just transition and decent work at enterprise, sectoral and national levels];
- (b) develop the capacity of their members to analyse and respond to the impacts of environmental and climate change;
- (c) design and implement their own initiatives for a just transition, including sector-specific initiatives, and to contribute to balanced policy-making;
- (d) contribute as key partners to training and reskilling activities, and cultivate a culture of lifelong learning for workers of all ages.

V. [The role of the International Labour Organization]

22. [In line with the principles and priorities set out in these conclusions, the International Labour Organization should direct its efforts to:]

- (a) [strengthen the capacities of governments, employers' and workers' organizations to design, implement and monitor comprehensive and gender-transformative policies and strategies for a just transition, including in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the ILO;]
- (b) [encourage and promote the full development and utilization of effective and inclusive social dialogue in all its forms and at all levels to seize opportunities and overcome barriers to a just transition;]
- (c) [promote the ratification and effective implementation of international labour standards and strengthen the capacity of constituents to respect, promote and realize the fundamental principles and rights at work;]

- (d) [implement an integrated ILO research agenda and collect gender-disaggregated data on a just transition and decent work, leveraging the full capacity of the ILO and its research partners;]
- (e) [document and share experiences on effective just transition policies, good practices and their impacts, including through South–South and triangular cooperation and peer learning;]
- (f) [design and implement coherent, solution-focused and result-oriented development cooperation programmes and technical assistance to ILO Members in line with national development priorities with adequate resource mobilization;]
- (g) [reinforce the leadership role of the ILO in advancing a just transition in the multilateral system aimed at promoting policy coherence for a just transition, facilitating the participation of constituents in the UN system and other key cooperation mechanisms, and proactively promoting the Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all in all relevant fora;]
- (h) [engage in global financial initiatives and strengthen collaboration with the international financial institutions, the multilateral development banks and the financial sector to enhance financing for a just transition;]
- (i) [develop new and strengthen existing partnerships with other relevant international and regional organizations, including UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes, civil society and academia, with a view to advancing a just transition; and]
- (j) [promote just transition through ILO led initiatives such as the Global Coalition for Social Justice.]