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 from the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 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 of the Global Accelerator aim to increase the level and coordination of the multilateral system’s efforts to help countries create 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.

What is a partner country?

Member States are invited to support the Global Accelerator as partners and work together towards accelerated implementation of the related Sustainable Development Goals. All UN Member States have committed to the SDG Agenda, so being a partner country of the Global Accelerator is open to any country, regardless of the level of development. Indeed, a diverse group of partner countries will enhance knowledge sharing and accelerate change.
How can a country become a partner country?

Countries can become partner country of the Global Accelerator by committing 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.
- Formulating or having 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.
- Having increased domestic resources for social protection and jobs over the past 10–20 years or having a record in extending social protection coverage and having a contemporary political commitment to further increase domestic resources.
- Allocating significant Official Development Assistance 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 a 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).

Partner countries can also decide to go further by subscribing to the theory of change and monitoring framework of the Global Accelerator, thus showing the path for others to facilitate just transitions and expand social protection and job creation.

- Partner countries can develop, and finance new projects based on the Global Accelerator’s theory of change to support the design and implementation of national roadmaps and financing strategies, and to strengthen the existing support capacity at regional and pathfinder country levels, and/or the hub of experts or the coordination team within the Global Accelerator’s Technical Support Facility. Funding can be channelled through the Joint SDG Fund Window on Decent Work and Universal Social Protection as well as other global or regional funds. Funding can also be negotiated directly with UN Resident Coordinators at the country level or implementing agencies.
- Partner countries can also review existing projects for conformity with the Global Accelerator’s theory of change and global results framework, adapting approaches where needed. This would require incorporating indicators from the common results framework, contributing to results reporting and knowledge development, and sharing efforts.

How many partner countries will there be?

There is no limit to the number of partner countries in the Global Accelerator.

What is a pathfinder country?

The Global Accelerator will host a Technical Support Facility. The Technical Support Facility brings together national and international expertise, including from the UN system as well as development and financial partners, building on or complementing the interagency work supported under the Joint SDG Fund to provide technical assistance to pathfinder countries and facilitate their access to additional financial support, where appropriate. The Technical Support Facility will build on pre-existing structures (global, regional, and national teams of participating UN agencies and partner countries) and expand them with new and required expertise. It will include a hub of experts and a coordination team.

Pathfinder countries are therefore those countries that will receive technical and financial support from the Technical Support Facility and UN Country Teams, with priority given to least developed countries and countries in fragile situations, compounded by the ongoing food, energy, and financial crisis. Technical assistance will be tailored to the specific circumstances in each pathfinder country, in close
consultation with national stakeholders, and will be made available in accordance with available resources.

The Technical Support Facility aims to provide technical support to pathfinder countries in:

- Developing nationally defined integrated policies and strategies to create 400 million jobs, and progress towards the achievement of universal social protection, while ensuring a just transition for all.
- Establishing the financing architecture necessary to achieve this ambition, through domestic public resources, domestic private resources, and additional complementary financial assistance through international development cooperation, while building national capacities to mobilize domestic resources to reduce dependence on external financing in the medium term; and
- Enhancing coherence among technical and financial partners through improved alignment of their objectives and strategies related to jobs, social protection, and just transitions.

Each pathfinder country will develop its own integrated roadmap and strategy to address its specific social and economic challenges. National results frameworks will be aligned with UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and national development plans.

**How can a country become a pathfinder country?**

The coordination team of the Technical Support Facility will coordinate the identification of pathfinder countries and the design of the Global Accelerator’s operations within them, organizing national consultations by mobilizing social partners, among other means.

**How many pathfinder countries will there be?**

The Technical Support Facility has a budget of US$ 600 million, to support at least 30 pathfinder countries over a period of four years.

**What is the difference between a pathfinder country and a partner country?**

Whereas partner countries are any and all UN Member States that subscribe to the commitments of the Global Accelerator, pathfinder countries are those countries that will receive technical and financial support from the Global Accelerator’s Technical Support Facility and UN Country Teams.