

UN Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogue

Greening with Jobs: A Just Transition to Sustainability

23 October 2018

Venue: International Labour Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

Ten Key Messages

This document summarizes in ten points a set of policy messages of relevance to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. It is the result of an EMG Nexus Dialogue that brought together UN agencies and representatives of governments, civil society and academia. Countries are encouraged to consider using the points below in policy debates and implementation and for reporting purposes.ⁱ

1. The transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies has profound social and economic repercussions on different groups of people and over time in all countries and at all levels of development.
2. A just transition to sustainability is about ensuring that the economic, environmental and social consequences of the transformation of economies and societies towards greater sustainability are managed in ways that maximize opportunities of decent work for all, reduce inequalities, promote social justice, and support industries, workers and communities negatively impacted.
3. The transition to sustainability takes place in local, regional and national contexts that are different and that require adapted and country-tailored responses.
4. A just transition for all will not happen by default. Technologies and markets will inevitably act as important drivers of change. However, deliberate strategies, public policies and consciously-made social and behavioural changes are essential for well-planned, economically-viable and socially-acceptable transitions.
5. Governments have a primary responsibility to define policies and governance systems coherently, at national, regional and international levels, drawing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides a transformative vision for people- and planet-centred, human-rights-based and gender-sensitive sustainable development policy for more sustainable and resilient societies.
6. Democratic systems that allow participation and social dialogue, involving the private sector, employers' and workers' organizations and civil society organizations, can ensure strong consensus-building, allowing societies and economies to transform themselves.
7. Young people are the future. They are stakeholders and must be recognized as important actors in consultations and policy processes and be educated and prepared in such a way that they can fully play their role as actors of change.
8. Innovative approaches to financing by governments, international financial institutions, institutional investors, insurance companies and regulators are required to enable transitions in economic, financial and social systems with sustainable development as an ultimate objective.
9. There is a wealth of experience of the successful transformation of economic and social systems in different countries around the world. Platforms to share experiences and South–South and international cooperation could contribute to learning lessons, leapfrogging and a mutualization of initiatives.

10. In the context of reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, governments and other stakeholders are strongly encouraged to report on just transition in order to ensure the effective implementation of commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

ⁱ For the concept note, agenda and speakers' list, and registered participants for the Nexus Dialogue, *Greening With Jobs: A Just Transition to Sustainability*, please follow the following link: <https://unemg.org/upcoming-nexus-dialogue-greening-with-jobs-a-just-transition-to-sustainability/>