

[OPEN] MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON JUST TRANSITION AND DECENT WORK, COP24

Date: Wednesday 12 December

Time: 16:30 – 18:00

Room number: Pomorze 7, climate action room 3

Room capacity: 150-200 seats

Format: moderated discussion with kick-off panellists and participants

Moderator: Minister Seruiratu, Fiji Climate Change Champion, COP23 Presidency

Kick-off panellists:

- *Elżbieta Rafalska* (Minister Family, Labour and Social Policy, Poland, COP24 Presidency)
- *Steven Turnbull* (Negotiator, Australia)
- *Peter Govindasami* (Negotiator, Singapore)
- *Peter Glyn* (International Chamber of Commerce)
- *Bert de Wel* (ITUC)
- *Camilla Roman* (ILO)
- *Karol Templin* (COP24, Poland)

- The Working Group on Just Transition and Decent Work is part of the **Marrakech Partnership Global Climate Action** themes, including resilience, transport, energy, human settlements, just transition & decent work, and water. The WG was created under the Fiji Presidency of COP23 Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) with the mandate to share examples and good practices on how the Paris Agreement can be implemented on the ground while promoting green jobs that are good for people, good for the environment and good for the economy.
- The WG on JT & DW is open to governments, workers, employers and other stakeholders through focal points or participation during UNFCCC meetings and climate related events. During COP23 most participants of the WG were from the Pacific Islands providing key insights of the needs and ambitions of the Pacific. The ILO provides secretariat support connecting messages and conversations from one WG meeting to the next.
- The WG will discuss how to operationalize the Silesian Declaration on Just Transition at the national and local level. *What the declaration means for action on the ground? How actions can be undertaken and by whom? What are the barriers to be considered and how to progress?*
- First, COP23 CCC (the moderator) will introduce the work of the WG during COP23. Second, Fiji CCC will ask Minister Rafalska to discuss some examples of how the COP24 Presidency plans to translate the Silesian Declaration into action. After the kick-off comments from COP24 Presidency, the moderator will ask the other panellists to comment on the JT Declaration and its implementation from the perspective of their organization.
- After the first round of comments, participants will be invited to contribute with ideas and suggestions for the work of the WG during 2019. Mr Karol Templin of COP24 Presidency will be asked to provide concluding comments as the COP24 Presidency takes over the leadership of the WG until COP25. Key messages will assist the WG participants to bring messages to constituents in the countries and to incorporate them into possible development projects or initiatives.

BACKGROUND MATERIALS

(A) WG Action Plan – COP23 CAPP meeting July 2017, Nadi, Fiji

1. Through the Pacific voice and the Fiji Presidency, COP23 should recognize into the UNFCCC process the priority of **climate change intersecting with the world of work**. This includes all economic sectors, all economic activities, and all stakeholders (governments, employers, workers, civic society).
2. This WG should contribute to the **adaptation and mitigation committees** of UNFCCC –and actively participate in the review process.
3. Actions should be designed into work places to increase climate resilience as it impacts **security, peace and stability**. The impact of climate change events can lead to unemployment and internal/external migration which affect business activities and job security which can lead to conflict.
4. Financial mechanisms and interventions (GEF, GCF, multi-funding) shall include decent **local employment generation and skills development** as a key target for all the investments generated to mitigate and adapt to climate change while reducing unemployment, particularly for youth, women and disadvantage groups.
5. **Vulnerable** sectors (e.g. agriculture, tourism, building and construction, fishing, water, health, transport) that operate under 5 metres over the sea level or in the river banks will need a **dedicated just transition planning** to assist with business relocation, employment mobility and displacement in some cases. Dedicated financial resources should be allocated to design incentives together with local stakeholders that can include locally acceptable practices (cultural aspects) for vulnerable communities and informal workers into the process.
6. The **Just transition framework** shall be applied to high emitters and high polluting industry sectors to plan for employment mobility as economic activity in these sectors decrease.
7. Dedicated planning should be devised to take advantage of the **opportunities for decent job creation and green entrepreneurship** activities in all economic sectors but particularly in the environmental goods and services sector which can both help to mitigate and to adapt to climate change.
8. The WG, as initiated in the Pacific shall be inclusive in the **spirit of talanoa** and include governments (Ministries of labour, environment, others, employers, workers, and other stakeholders with also specialized UN agencies such as ILO.

(B) WG on JT and Decent Work – Talanoa Dialogue CAPP COP23, Suva, July 2018. Key points:

The Vision: Just transition doesn't end in a steady state at a fixed point, vision is a strong resilient society that can adjust to continuous change.

- establish a long-term goal to set business and society on the right course with opportunities for green jobs;

- continuous partnerships between governments, business and employers, workers and communities, at policy level, before implementation of just transition strategies;
- integrating green skills into education systems including at primary, secondary and university. Lifelong learning. Training trainers. Opportunities in pacific for leapfrogging skills and training (as well as technology). Low hanging fruit is greening tvet;
- remember rural workers, subsistence farmers - don't keep the conversation entirely urban. Also the self-employed and micro enterprises need to be part of just transition planning;
- just transition for seasonal work schemes - beyond agriculture sector, also seasonal shipping jobs can prepare local workers for new green jobs;
- migration and displacement: need for just social transition planning.

How we get there?

- design integrated model of consultation for new strategies and initiatives (employers, government, workers, csos, youth movement, faith based organisations, communities) so green jobs are integrated into the workforce for employability;
- immediate consultation for ndcs and developing countries for ndc's (ndc's to include consultations with businesses, workers, and the education system); skills roadmap to be connected with ndcs with a mapping of green jobs that gets integrated into the education system;
- develop a system that proof-read just transition of policies and regulations so that green components are factored in every legislation or reflects environmental goals;
- creation of an observatory for just transition to analyse the ecosystems of labour markets in the pacific; including career advisors, business, and workers with government. The observatory will monitor green jobs prospects for the jobs of the future e.g. Shortage of under-water surveyors in the commercial sector;
- developing pathways for the future of work for the shipping industry in the pacific so that a just transition is realized: scale up consultations with key actors: government ministries, hotel association, diving industry, shipping agencies.
- including the voice of the youth in the pacific (through youth organizations) into established consultations by government and other international processes in coordination with the ministry of youth and education for green jobs;
- mainstreaming partnerships for drafting new legislation including employers & workers early in the process;
- job creation and just transition to be factored in all climate finance investments and decisions;

- integrating into education systems specific training of risk management of working in the ocean as a distinctive speciality of the pacific for all maritime related industries to manage the shift of skill set towards a just transition to environmentally sustainable societies;
- engage with ministries from different relevant portfolios such as ministry of employment, ministry of education, ministry of economy, ministry of environment, ministry of infrastructure.

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(C) KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM FOR JUST TRANSITION, DECENT WORK AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE PACIFIC BIG OCEAN STATES (BOS)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Participants from 11 Pacific Island countries ([Cook Islands](#), [Fiji](#), [Kiribati](#), [Palau](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [Republic of the Marshall Islands](#), [Samoa](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Tonga](#), [Tuvalu](#) and [Vanuatu](#)) attended the inaugural Knowledge Sharing Dialogue on Just Transition, Decent Work and Climate Resilience in the Pacific Islands, Apia, Samoa, 7-9 November 2018.
2. The Dialogue is an outcome of the 2017 ILO Future of Work Forum in Suva, Fiji. This Forum found there would be value in specialised discussions among Pacific Island countries, especially as countries developed and implemented new climate initiatives. Participants also noted the decision of the Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) to launch a Working Group that recognised the priority of the intersection between climate change and the world of work through an 8-point action plan (see [Annex 1](#)).
3. Participants provided expert presentations on their national best practices on green jobs and climate resilience. Participants welcomed the case study presented on Samoa's experience on tripartism and social dialogue and thanked the Government of Samoa for the opportunity to undertake a field visit, including the planting of 200 trees, which was a practical contribution to sustainability in the host country.
4. Participants agreed on the value of dialogue and sharing best practices on green jobs and climate resilience. Pacific Island countries are strongly affected by the impacts of climate change and often work in isolation from global information and policy trends, but their small size and strong local communities mean they also have the agility to implement systems and programmes quicker than larger countries, for example circular economy systems. Knowledge sharing can provide a "window" into the actions of other countries, create valuable opportunities to implement those best practices and ensure policy coherence within national context.
5. Participants raised numerous themes where climate change and the world of work intersect in the Pacific region, which are listed in [Annex II](#). These included the need for sustainable employment in agriculture and the link to food security; ensuring skills matching between young people and available jobs; and capacity building for constituents on green jobs and decent work policy, and gender equality. The lack of local, sustainable employment associated with climate change related projects, including suitable maintenance service positions, and the importance of employment schemes, was also discussed.
6. Participants discussed how knowledge-sharing could be best enhanced, noting the need to ensure any new platform complemented existing work and didn't impose on local communities. Participants stated that a knowledge-sharing platform, either as an additional component to an existing platform or as a new platform, would be valuable for Pacific Island countries looking to ensure climate policies and projects align with employment opportunities.
7. Participants also discussed the value of annual face-to-face Dialogues, which could help deepen understanding of other countries' policies and ensure participants could further develop strategies to link climate change and the world of work. Participants suggested that it would be useful for Dialogues to be rotated around Pacific Island countries and be focused on different topics, with could be led by different Pacific Island countries. The knowledge-sharing platform

could also develop outputs linked to each year's theme which countries could use to assist national policy and project development.

8. Participants noted that Pacific Island countries are taking a leading role in acting on climate change, and suggested a knowledge sharing platform could help highlight the ambition of the Big Ocean States (BOS). Participants also noted that messages from the Pacific Island countries at the International Labour Conference could be enhanced. A draft Terms of Reference for establishing the BOS Knowledge Sharing Platform was also noted.
9. Participants, the ILO and supporting experts thanked the Government of Samoa for hosting the event.

ACTIONS

1. The International Labour Organisation was invited to facilitate the process of establishing a BOS Knowledge Sharing Platform on Just Transition, Decent Work and Climate Resilience (BOS KSP). This process would investigate and determine the comparative suitability of a separate platform or an add-on to an existing platform.
2. Participants to nominate proposed themes of work their countries would contribute to from the identified regional priorities (see [Annexes](#)) for the BOS KSP.
3. Participants and the ILO were invited to work together to determine a suitable host and theme for a second Dialogue in 2019. Kiribati offered to host the 2019 Dialogue, Cook Islands the 2020 Dialogue, and Vanuatu in 2021.
4. The ILO was invited to consider developing a more specific and Pacific Island focused assessment of green jobs, sustainable employment and the connection between climate change and the future of work.
5. Participants were invited to consider what gaps may inhibit the collection of employment data associated with climate change related projects in their countries to share and discuss at next Dialogue in Kiribati in 2019.



KEY EMPLOYMENT-ENVIRONMENT PRIORITIES FROM THE PACIFIC REGION

- Sustainable agriculture and food security
- Renewable energy
- Water management and sanitation
- Waste management
- Tourism
- Circular Economy
- Ocean management and fisheries
- Capacity-building for tripartite constituents and communities
- Policy design and implementation
- Local, sustainable employment from climate change investment projects
- Appropriate regulatory and legislative frameworks
- Building entrepreneurship
- Developing of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
- Skills-matching for youth
- Training for the informal sector
- Development of business continuity plans
- Disaster risk reduction
- Data collection and management
- Women's workforce participation
- Climate change awareness in schools

Contact Persons:

Cristina Martinez, Senior Specialist, Environment and Decent Work, International Labour Organization (ROAP, Bangkok) martinezc@ilo.org

Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Coordinator, Green Jobs Programme, Enterprises Department International Labour Organization (Geneva) gueye@ilo.org

Camilla Roman, Policy Specialist, Enterprises Department International Labour Organization (Geneva), romanc@ilo.org

<https://www.ilo.org/asia/areas/green-jobs/>