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ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

**A JUST TRANSITION TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTALLY
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES FOR ALL**

Simulation: International Labor Organization

Welcome to WIMUN Singapore 2025,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the United Nations in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the Organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

A just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all

To achieve a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies, it is essential to ensure that the shift towards sustainability includes and supports vulnerable populations, while also promoting environmental sustainability and social equity. This concept aligns with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), focusing on education and employment in the context of a green economy.

Transitioning to climate-neutral and circular economies has the potential to create millions of jobs—an estimated 100 million by 2030—especially in growing sectors like renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and green technologies. However, this shift also risks job losses, with around 80 million positions potentially being displaced in carbon-intensive industries, such as coal, oil, and gas. The economic restructuring required for this transition is significant and involves phasing out polluting industries while scaling up renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and hydroelectric power. Effective retraining programs are crucial to help workers transition into new, sustainable roles, highlighting the importance of education and skills development (SDG 4) to ensure workers can successfully adapt to the new economy.

Moreover, the transition must be socially just, addressing the needs of workers and communities dependent on traditional industries. Policies must include not only retraining and reskilling but also strong social safety nets and investments in the green job sectors of the future. This includes ensuring that the communities and workers most affected by the decline of fossil fuel industries are not left behind, but are instead provided with the tools and resources to thrive in the green economy.

The transition to green economies also raises important issues of global inequality. Developed countries have greater financial and technological capacity to shift to renewable energy sources, but many developing nations face challenges such as limited access to funding and technology. For these nations, a just transition will require international support in the form of financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity-building to ensure they can make the transition without increasing existing inequalities. Without such support, the global shift to sustainability could leave developing countries at a disadvantage, undermining efforts to achieve global equity. (cont.)

A just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all (cont.)

Another key component of a just transition is the establishment of policy frameworks that incentivize sustainable practices. Policies like carbon pricing, subsidies for renewable energy technologies, and regulations to reduce pollution can help drive the shift towards more sustainable economies.

Raising awareness about the importance of environmental sustainability and making sure that marginalized groups have a voice in shaping the policies that affect them is also critical in ensuring that the transition process is inclusive and equitable. Public education campaigns that aim to build broad-based support for climate policies alongside efforts to engage local communities can help address concerns and ensure that everyone benefits from the transition.

Key Points and Main Issues

In the most general terms the main issues associated with “A just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all” are the following:

- **Economic Shifts:** How can economies transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy while maintaining economic stability.
- **Social Inclusion:** How can societies ensure that vulnerable populations are not left behind in the green transition.
- **Job Creation:** How can new industries and jobs be developed in green technology sectors while retraining workers from traditional industries.
- **Global Cooperation:** How can the needs of developed and developing nations be balanced in the transition.

In the context of a simulation of an International Labour Conference which is based on a tripartite system where decisions are made jointly by delegates representing workers, employers and governments, understanding the unique challenges faced by workers, employers, and governments is essential for achieving a fair and inclusive transition to a green economy. Each stakeholder group brings distinct concerns and priorities that need to be addressed for effective decision-making.

Workers' Concerns

1. Economic Shifts:

- **Job Losses:** Workers worry about losing jobs in carbon-intensive industries like coal, oil, and gas as these sectors decline.
- **Wage Stability:** Many fear that green jobs may pay less than traditional jobs, particularly if they require new skills.

2. Regional Disparities:

- **Geographical Mismatch:** Green jobs, such as those in renewable energy, may not emerge in the same regions where traditional jobs are being lost, leaving some workers without local opportunities.

3. Social Inclusion:

- **Workers from marginalized groups** fear exclusion from green job opportunities due to barriers in training or access.
- **Health and Safety:** Concerns exist about workplace safety in emerging industries, where standards may not yet be established.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

Workers' Concerns (cont.)

4. Skills and Training:

- Retraining Needs: Workers emphasize the importance of accessible and affordable training programs to acquire skills for new industries.
- Decent Work Standards: There is a demand for fair wages, job security, and safe working conditions in green sectors.

5. Global Cooperation:

- Workers in developing countries fear being left behind in the global green transition, calling for international support to ensure equity.

Employers' Concerns

1. Economic Adaptation:

- Profitability and Costs: Employers face challenges in adapting to new environmental standards while remaining competitive.
- Investment in Innovation: Transitioning to sustainable operations requires significant financial investment in technologies, for which they seek government support.

2. Workforce Management:

- Employers must manage the impacts of layoffs in declining sectors and invest in reskilling programs for workers.
- Skills Mismatch: There is concern about finding workers with the necessary expertise for green technologies, requiring training initiatives.

3. Corporate Responsibility:

- Employers are under pressure to adopt socially inclusive practices, ensuring diversity in hiring and training for green jobs.

4. Global Dynamics:

- Adjusting supply chains to meet sustainability standards is complex and costly.
- Employers seek global trade policies that ensure fair competition and prevent exploitation in regions with weaker environmental regulations.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

Government Challenges and Concerns

1. Balancing Short-Term Economic Costs with Long-Term Benefits

- Governments must balance economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social justice. This involves setting clear policy goals for reducing emissions, promoting renewable energy, and transitioning industries away from fossil fuels.
- Governments are concerned about the high initial costs of infrastructure, R&D, and retraining for green jobs.
- Policies must reflect national economic realities and avoid placing unsustainable burdens on developing economies.
- Long-term environmental and social benefits must be balanced with near-term fiscal challenges.

2. Financing and Fiscal Space

- Many countries, especially SIDS and developing nations, lack the fiscal space to fund transition efforts.
- Governments see the need for increased access to loans or financial assistance provided on more generous terms than market conditions and climate funding—typically by international financial institutions, donor countries, or development banks—to support countries with limited financial capacity, especially developing countries.
- Some governments advocate for global financial reforms to support equitable transition financing.

3. Financial Incentives for Business and Private Sector Engagement

- Governments can incentivize the private sector through subsidies for green technologies, tax incentives for sustainable practices, and regulations that phase out unsustainable industries. Governments also need to implement policies that ensure workers in declining industries are supported through welfare programs, education, and job creation initiatives.
- They also recognize that small and medium-sized enterprises require support to invest in green technologies as well as the need for public-private partnerships that are seen as essential to scaling sustainable innovation and job creation. Governments can foster public-private partnerships to help finance renewable energy projects, green transportation systems, and other necessary infrastructure to support the transition to a sustainable economy.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

Government Challenges and Concerns

4. Employment, Skills Development, and Economic Diversification

- Governments are concerned about job losses in fossil fuel sectors and see the need for investment in skills training, upskilling, and reskilling to prepare workers for green jobs.
- Economic diversification is also necessary to ensure sustainable employment opportunities across regions.

5. Social Inclusion and Protection

- Governments understand that Just Transition policies must protect vulnerable populations, including women, youth, and informal workers and that universal access to social protection systems (e.g., unemployment insurance, healthcare) are essential to a just transition.

It is very important to break down these issues further to better understand the different perspectives of workers, employers and governments because each stakeholder group experiences different challenges in the transition process.

Workers, on the other hand, may worry that: 1) job losses from the decline of fossil fuel or other carbon-intensive industries will lead to long-term unemployment, 2) new green jobs may not be located where they live (regional disparity), and 3) new green jobs may require skills or offer wages that do not match their previous employment (economic misalignment).

Employers, on the other hand, face the dual challenge of adapting their businesses to meet environmental standards while maintaining competitiveness and profitability.

And governments which hold the primary responsibility for crafting the policies that guide a just transition are concerned about balancing short-term economic costs associated with the creation of green jobs which require investing in infrastructure, research and development, and providing financial incentives for businesses to adopt sustainable practices with long-term environmental and social benefits.

The following is a more detailed outline of the key points and main issues for each group:

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

1) Main Issues from the Perspective of Workers

Workers' Concerns

- **Economic Shifts:**
 - **Job Losses:** Workers worry about losing jobs in carbon-intensive industries like coal, oil, and gas as these sectors decline.
 - **Wage Stability:** Many fear that green jobs may pay less than traditional jobs, particularly if they require new skills.
- **Regional Disparities:**
 - **Geographical Mismatch:** Green jobs, such as those in renewable energy, may not emerge in the same regions where traditional jobs are being lost, leaving some workers without local opportunities.
- **Social Inclusion:**
 - Workers from marginalized groups fear exclusion from green job opportunities due to barriers in training or access.
 - **Health and Safety:** Concerns exist about workplace safety in emerging industries, where standards may not yet be established.
- **Skills and Training:**
 - **Retraining Needs:** Workers emphasize the importance of accessible and affordable training programs to acquire skills for new industries.
 - **Decent Work Standards:** There is a demand for fair wages, job security, and safe working conditions in green sectors.
- **Global Cooperation:**
 - Workers in developing countries fear being left behind in the global green transition, calling for international support to ensure equity.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

2) Main Issues from the Perspective of Employers

Employers' Challenges

- **Economic Adaptation:**
 - **Profitability and Costs:** Employers face challenges in adapting to new environmental standards while remaining competitive.
 - **Investment in Innovation:** Transitioning to sustainable operations requires significant financial investment in technologies, for which they seek government support.
- **Workforce Management:**
 - **Layoffs in declining sectors:** Employers must manage the impacts of layoffs in declining sectors and invest in reskilling programs for workers.
 - **Skills Mismatch:** There is concern about finding workers with the necessary expertise for green technologies, requiring training initiatives.
- **Corporate Responsibility:**
 - Employers are under pressure to adopt socially inclusive practices, ensuring diversity in hiring and training for green jobs.

Q: Why do employers have the primary responsibility of ensuring social inclusion in the transition from a carbon economy to a green economy?

A: Because employers decide who gets hired, trained, or promoted, which directly affects access to opportunities for marginalized groups. Ensuring social inclusion also creates a broader talent pool and allows employers to tap into previously underutilized groups, such as women, rural workers, and marginalized communities to address skill shortages in green sectors. Many employers are adopting Corporate Social Responsibility strategies that emphasize social inclusion as part of their commitment to sustainable and ethical practices.

- **Workforce Flexibility:**
 - In order to remain competitive in the marketplace, employers seek flexibility in the management of their workforce, including the ability to hire, train, and, if necessary, downsize as needed to adapt to changing market demands.
- **Global Dynamics:**
 - Adjusting supply chains to meet sustainability standards is complex and costly.
 - Employers seek global trade policies that ensure fair competition and prevent exploitation in regions with weaker environmental regulations.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

3) Main Issues from the Perspective of Governments

Governments Concerns

1. Financing the Transition

- Governments in both developing and developed countries worry about the fiscal pressures of funding large-scale initiatives, such as worker retraining, infrastructure investments, and social protections for workers as they transition to new jobs in the green economy.
- Developing countries specifically call for international financial support to help implement Just Transition policies, including grants, loans, and technology transfers.

2. Social Inclusion and Equity

- Governments are concerned about ensuring that the transition is inclusive and does not disproportionately push vulnerable populations, such as low-income workers, marginalized communities, or women into poverty.
- Governments highlight the need to include informal sector workers in Just Transition strategies.

3. Managing Labor Market Dynamics

- Governments recognize the need to support workers displaced by the decline of fossil fuel industries through retraining and education programs.
- Concerns include addressing potential mismatches between the skills of displaced workers and the requirements of emerging green jobs.

4. International Cooperation

- Governments acknowledge that the success of a Just Transition requires strong international collaboration, particularly on:
 - Technology transfer.
 - Financial aid for developing nations.

5. Preserving Competitiveness

- Some governments, particularly from developed and market-oriented economies, worry about maintaining economic competitiveness while implementing stringent environmental and labor policies.
- Concerns include the risk of industries relocating to countries with less stringent regulations, leading to a loss of jobs and investment.

6. Respecting inclusive nature of decision-making process

- Governments support involving all stakeholders—workers, employers, and governments—in social dialogue to ensure policies are fair and practical. Governments must manage the dynamics of the labor market during the transition, addressing potential unemployment in traditional sectors while facilitating the growth of new industries. This requires careful planning and coordination with both workers and employers. (cont.)

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

3) Main Issues from the Perspective of Governments (cont.)

Governments Concerns (cont.)

7. Addressing Diverse National Contexts

- Developing countries highlight the need for flexibility in implementing a Just Transition given their unique economic and social challenges.
- Governments emphasize that a one-size-fits-all approach will not work, and strategies must be tailored to national and regional contexts. Developed and developing countries have different needs that require both global cooperation and locally tailored strategies.

While workers and employers speak with one voice, the government group is composed of representatives from different countries, each with its own national interests, political priorities, and regional alliances. Because governments are not required to speak with a single voice like the workers and employers, the perspectives within the government group can be diverse. To better understand the diverse range of perspectives typically found within the government group, looking at specific proposals put forth by workers and employers and examining how governments respond to them can bring the differences in government positions into greater relief.

Scaling up social protections for workers vs. reducing employer contributions to healthcare, social protections, and training.

As noted above, workers are worried that a transition to a green economy will threaten wage stability if green jobs pay less than traditional jobs in the fossil fuel industry. Therefore, they favor increasing social protections for workers going through a transition from employment in carbon-intensive industries to employment in a green economy.

Employers, who want to prevent financial strain during the transition, propose scaling back contributions to healthcare, social protections, and training. Workers consider these contributions essential and oppose any reductions.

What is the position of governments on these issues? Let's first look at the position of developing countries on these two issues:

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

On Reducing Employer Contributions

(Proposed by Employers and Scaling Up Social Protection (Proposed by Workers):

- **Developing Countries Express Concerns (not outright opposition):**
 - While they recognize the importance of expanding social protection systems, they express reservations about the financial feasibility due to constrained fiscal resources.
 - Many developing countries lack the budgetary capacity to implement large-scale social protection measures without significant international financial aid or assistance.
 - They seek gradual or phased implementation, along with external support, rather than fully opposing the workers' proposals.
- **Developing Countries Oppose Reductions:**
 - Employer contributions are a critical funding source for healthcare and social programs in many developing nations.
 - Reducing these contributions risks weakening already fragile social protection systems, leaving workers vulnerable.
 - Developing countries emphasize the importance of maintaining these contributions to sustain basic protections for their populations.

Key Tension:

- **Developing countries are in a difficult position:**
 - On one hand, they resist reductions in employer contributions to avoid further underfunding essential social systems.
 - On the other hand, they are hesitant to commit to scaling up these systems at the ambitious levels proposed by workers due to financial and logistical challenges.

Conclusion:

Developing countries do not inherently oppose the principles of either proposal. Instead:

- They prioritize maintaining existing funding sources, such as employer contributions, to avoid weakening their current systems.
- They advocate for flexibility and international support when considering expansions of social protection, as proposed by workers, to align with their limited fiscal capacities.

This reflects a pragmatic approach where they aim to balance immediate economic realities with long-term goals for a just transition.

Now let's look at the position of developed countries on these two issues:

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

1. Scaling Up Social Protection Programs for Workers (Workers' Proposal) vs. Reducing Employer Contributions (Employers' Proposal)

Developed Countries' Responses to Scaling Up Social Protection Programs (Workers' Proposal):

- **Supportive in Principle but Cautious:**
 - Developed countries generally support strengthening social protection systems to ensure fairness in the transition.
 - However, they emphasize fiscal sustainability (a government's ability to manage its spending and debt over time without jeopardizing its financial stability) and the need to prioritize cost-effective measures (approaches that maximize the benefits of social protection programs while minimizing the financial resources required).
 - Some countries stress that scaling up social protections should not lead to excessive public spending or higher taxes that might strain their economies.
- **Focus on Existing Frameworks:**
 - Many developed nations prefer leveraging and improving existing systems rather than creating entirely new ones.
 - Examples include enhancing unemployment insurance, upskilling programs, and targeted subsidies for green sector jobs.

Developed Countries' Responses to Reducing Employer Contributions (Employers' Proposal):

- **Mixed Responses:**
 - While some developed nations align with employers' concerns about the cost burden of contributions, others resist reductions, recognizing the importance of employer funding for sustaining social protections.
 - Countries with strong social welfare systems (e.g., in Northern and Western Europe) oppose reducing employer contributions as they view these as crucial for maintaining worker protections.
 - More market-oriented economies (e.g., the U.S.) are more open to discussions on easing employer burdens, particularly if it aligns with fostering competitiveness.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

1. Scaling Up Social Protection Programs for Workers (Workers' Proposal) vs. Reducing Employer Contributions (Employers' Proposal)

Nuances in Their Position:

- **Conditional Flexibility:**
 - Developed nations support targeted reductions in employer contributions for small businesses or emerging green industries but oppose broad, across-the-board cuts.
- **Emphasis on Public-Private Partnerships:**
 - Advocating for partnerships that allow businesses and governments to share the financial burden of social protection systems.

Conclusion:

By emphasizing fiscal sustainability and cost-effective measures, developed countries aim to:

- Ensure that social protection programs are robust enough to support workers without creating unsustainable financial burdens.
- Maintain a balance between immediate needs and long-term economic stability.

The nuances in the positions of the developing countries on these two issues illustrate the complexities of balancing economic growth and social equity. This example also nicely highlights that the perspectives within the government group can be diverse. Not only are there differences between developing and developed countries but also within developed countries particularly between those with strong social welfare systems and those that follow more market-oriented economies. In a similar vein, another interesting set of issues to explore is centered on the workers' proposal for Mandatory Collective Bargaining vs. the Employers' Proposal for Flexible Labour Relations. See if you can determine the different positions of governments on this issue. You will find it is equally nuanced.

[A globally just transition: Perspectives from the Committee for Development Policy](#)

2024

Summary: This Policy Note presents insights from the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) on a just transition to sustainable economies. It includes key messages from the CDP's 2023 plenary meeting, reports to the Economic and Social Council, and articles by CDP members on topics like sustainable industrialization, fossil fuel dependency, carbon border adjustment mechanisms, middle-income country challenges, climate resilience, market and political barriers, and multilateral progress.

[A/78/155: Extractive sector, just transition and human rights](#)

2023

Summary: The United Nations report titled "Human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises" examines the human rights implications of the global shift towards low-carbon energy sources, particularly within the extractive sector (i.e., industries involved in the removal of natural resources from the earth, including mining, oil and gas extraction, and forestry). It highlights that while transitioning to renewable energy is crucial for combating climate change, it has led to human rights concerns such as land dispossession, forced displacement, child labor, and environmental degradation. The report emphasizes the importance of designing and implementing energy transition programs that are just, inclusive, and aligned with international human rights standards. It provides actionable recommendations for states, businesses, and stakeholders to ensure that the pursuit of sustainable energy does not compromise human rights.

[Just Transition Finance \(UNEP\)](#)

2023

Summary: The "Just Transition Finance: Pathways for Banking and Insurance" report, jointly released by the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) at COP28 in December 2023, serves as a comprehensive roadmap for financial institutions aiming to facilitate a just transition to low-carbon, resource-efficient, and resilient economies.

A Policy Brief: A GENDER-RESPONSIVE JUST TRANSITION FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET (UN WOMEN) **2023**

Summary: The UN Women policy brief emphasizes the necessity of integrating gender equality into the shift towards low-carbon economies. It highlights that climate change disproportionately affects women and girls, potentially pushing up to 158.3 million more into poverty by mid-century under severe climate scenarios. The brief advocates for a just transition that ensures decent work opportunities for all, with a focus on women's participation and leadership. It calls for policies that address existing gender inequalities, promote social protection, and invest in the care economy to support both people and the planet. The document underscores the importance of inclusive decision-making and the need for accountability in commitments to achieve a gender-responsive just transition.

What does Just Transition mean for Middle Income Countries? **2022**

Summary: This article examines the unique challenges and opportunities these nations face in shifting towards climate-neutral economies. Middle-income countries (MICs) are home to a significant portion of the world's population and are pivotal in global climate efforts. The article emphasizes that a just transition in these countries must address existing socio-economic disparities to prevent the creation of new inequalities. It advocates for tailored strategies that consider each country's specific context, ensuring that environmental policies also promote social equity and economic resilience. The piece underscores the importance of international cooperation and support, highlighting that successful transitions in MICs can have positive global implications, especially for low-income countries.

Decent Work in Nature-based Solutions 2022 **2022**

Summary: This report highlights how Nature-based Solutions (NbS) can drive sustainable economic transitions by creating green jobs that prioritize environmental protection and social inclusion. It underscores the importance of aligning NbS initiatives with decent work principles to ensure that the transition benefits all, particularly vulnerable populations.

4th CB Hub - Just Transition & Sustainable Economies Day

2022

Summary: The Just Transition & Sustainable Economies Day at the 4th Capacity-building Hub during COP27 addresses coherence and coordination in capacity-building efforts by enhancing cooperation among employers, trade unions, ministries, and research and training institutions to achieve environmentally sustainable economies.

Statement on the just energy transition

2022

Summary: The UN Economic Commission for Africa calls for a just energy transition that balances reducing emissions with ensuring energy access for 800 million people. It urges developed nations to lead in financing and technology support while cautioning against new fossil fuel projects that risk stranded assets and debt.

Just Transition Policy Brief

2022

Summary: This brief discusses the impact of climate change and non-inclusive climate action on indigenous peoples.

UNDP's Issue Brief: Just Transition

2022

Summary: This brief discusses the risks and opportunities of transitioning to a green economy, focusing on the need to manage social inequality and support vulnerable populations.

Climate Action

2021

Summary: If you are representing Workers, this interview with the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, Sharan Burrow, is a must for you to listen to. In the interview she emphasized the critical role of labor movements in ensuring a just transition to a low-carbon economy. She highlighted that climate change is inherently a labor issue, asserting, "There are no jobs on a dead planet." Burrow advocated for the inclusion of unions in planning transitions to secure workers' futures, especially those in carbon-intensive industries like coal. She stressed the necessity of providing secure pensions, income guarantees, reskilling opportunities, and redeployment support to prevent community devastation seen in past industrial shifts. Addressing the broader economic context, Burrow criticized globalization for failing to distribute prosperity equitably, leading to exploitation and social crises. She called for a new social contract centered on decent work, universal social protection, and equality across income, gender, and race to effectively tackle both climate and social challenges

Mapping Just Transition(s) to a Low-Carbon World

2018

Summary: This report, by the Just Transition Research Collaborative (JTRC), unpacks the approaches and case studies showing efforts in shifting to a sustainable economy, focusing on social equity, decent work, inclusive decision-making, environmental sustainability, and effective governance.

Statements

Record of Proceedings International Labour Conference – 111th Session, Geneva, 2023: Report of the General Discussion Committee on a Just Transition **2023**

Summary: The "Report of the General Discussion Committee on a Just Transition" is a document produced by the International Labour Organization (ILO) that summarizes the key points and discussions held during a dedicated session at the ILO's International Labour Conference, focusing on how to achieve a transition towards environmentally sustainable economies while ensuring fairness and inclusivity for all workers, communities, and businesses affected by the change, particularly those potentially facing job losses or economic disruption due to the shift. The report focuses on how to minimize negative impacts and maximize positive opportunities for a "just" transition to a greener economy. It is the best resource for learning about the positions of the workers, employers and governments because it contains a detailed record of their statements during the entire proceedings of the General Discussion Committee.

Documents

Just Transition

2023

Summary: The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs emphasizes that a Just Transition is essential for achieving a clean energy future by centering workers in the climate transition. This approach ensures that workers, who are most impacted by climate change, have a voice in policymaking and receive the necessary skills and support to thrive in a decarbonizing world. Key components include creating quality green jobs with respected rights, involving workers in climate agenda discussions, providing training for new industry skill sets, encouraging corporate investment in low-carbon sectors, and investing in communities affected by the transition. Domestically, initiatives like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act support these goals, while internationally, the U.S. advocates for Just Transition policies in forums such as COP28.

Political Groups

G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers' 2024 Meeting Communiqué

Summary: Statement by the G7 climate ministers, representing major economies including the US, UK, EU, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, and Canada, having committed to delivering climate plans aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5°C by late 2024/early 2025. They emphasize a just transition, highlighting the role of social dialogue and protection.

The Role of the G20 in Promoting Green and Just Transitions (OECD/ILO/United Nations/UNIDO) 2024

Summary: The OECD report titled "The Role of the G20 in Promoting Green and Just Transitions" emphasizes the critical role of the G20 in facilitating a global shift towards carbon neutrality by mid-century, ensuring that this transition is inclusive and tailored to individual national contexts. The report underscores the necessity for active cooperation between developed and developing nations to achieve this goal. It highlights the importance of leaving no one behind, advocating for support to those in need, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The report proposes strategies for G20 and developing countries to align their policies effectively, enhance cooperation, and adapt the international framework to better support the implementation of green and just transitions.

Regional Groups

The Americas

Seminar – “Opportunities created by the partnership between the European Union and the Andean countries: Global Gateway, investments, trade, and just green and digital transitions.” **2024**

Summary: This report is relevant to the issue of a just transition because it highlights the importance of ensuring inclusivity, equity, and sustainability in the green and digital transitions within the partnership between the European Union and Andean countries. Key points that connect to the just transition framework include:

1. Inclusive Development:

- Emphasizes aligning economic growth with social inclusion, ensuring vulnerable populations benefit from sustainable development efforts.

2. Equitable Transition:

- Focuses on addressing disparities in the green and digital transitions by promoting **value-added production** and ensuring investments reach marginalized communities.

The concept of “value-added production” is very important. This means helping local economies grow by doing more with their resources instead of just exporting raw materials. For example, within the context of a green transition, it means using natural resources (like minerals for solar panels or wind turbines) to not only export raw materials but also build parts of the clean energy technologies locally, creating more jobs and income. And in the context of the digital transition it means developing technology industries that go beyond just using imported gadgets to creating and maintaining local digital tools or services. This approach helps reduce inequalities by ensuring that more people in a country benefit economically from these new industries rather than profits going mostly to wealthier countries or companies.

Regional Groups (cont.)

The Americas (cont.)

Joint Statement: The Parliamentary Observatory on Climate Change and Just Transition (OPCC) at COP28 **2023**

Summary: This statement launches a global call for a pact for a new model of green, sustainable, inclusive and just development and establishes the commitment to develop ambitious and comprehensive plans for ecological and just transition.

Advancing a Just Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean **2023**

Summary: This document addresses the societal implications of the net-zero transition in Latin America and the Caribbean. It addresses how a just transition is incorporated into the climate change agenda and proposes a series of steps that regional governments may take to ensure that the net-zero transition is fair and inclusive.

Ninth Summit of the Americas - Accelerating The Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, And Just Energy Transition **2022**

Summary: Statement by Heads of State and Government of the Organization of American States (OAS), which emphasizes the need for a sustainable and just energy transition strategies considering gender equity and equality, empowerment of women, and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, people of African descent, and persons with disabilities.

Regional Groups (cont.)

Africa

[Africa Speaks with Unified Voice as AU Executive Council Adopts African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Energy Transition](#) **2022**

Summary: African Union's Executive Council approved the African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Transition. This framework outlines Africa's strategies across short, medium, and long-term periods to advance universal energy access while ensuring a balanced transition that supports its developmental goals.

Asia

[Policy Options for Just Transitions in Asia](#) **2023**

Summary: The document highlights that policies for just transitions encompass more than just creating value addition and employment for disadvantaged populations, also aiming to protect them from climate hazards. It states that advancing just transitions in Asia relies on timely progress in related policy areas like fiscal measures, industrial policy, and human capital development to ensure broader participation and benefits from a green economy.

[Just Transition Beyond the Energy Sector](#) **2021**

Summary: This brief explores the possible adverse effects of climate action in non-energy sectors such as transport, waste, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, and tourism. It emphasizes the social dimension of climate action and stresses the importance for policymakers to account for these impacts when developing and executing mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The Americas

Advancing SDG7 in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region

2021

Summary: This report outlines the progress and challenges in achieving SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) within the UNECE region. It highlights the region's efforts in increasing renewable energy investments, improving energy efficiency, and ensuring universal access to affordable energy. The report also discusses the policy measures and regional cooperation required to overcome the barriers and accelerate the transition towards sustainable energy systems.

Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific Regional Synthesis Report on SDG 7

2020

Summary: This report examines the progress of Asia-Pacific countries towards achieving SDG 7, which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. It highlights the region's advancements in renewable energy deployment and energy efficiency improvements, while also addressing challenges such as financing and policy implementation.

Africa

Advancing SDG 7 in Africa

2023

Summary: This report provides an overview of the progress made by African countries in achieving SDG 7. It covers aspects such as access to electricity, clean cooking solutions, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. The report underscores the need for enhanced investment and policy frameworks to accelerate progress in the region.

Arab Region

Advancing SDG 7 in the Arab region

2023

Summary: This report assesses the progress of Arab countries in meeting the targets of SDG 7. It provides insights into the region's advancements in renewable energy adoption, energy access, and energy efficiency. The report also highlights the need for increased investment and supportive policies to achieve sustainable energy goals.

Just Transition - COP29 Negotiation Updates

2024

Summary: The article from CGIAR provides updates on the Just Transition discussions at COP29, focusing on the shift to a low-carbon economy that supports affected workers, communities, and industries. It highlights the evolution of the just transition concept, originating from 1970s labor movements and gaining prominence in international climate agreements like the Paris Agreement and subsequent COPs. The piece emphasizes the importance of inclusive, multi-stakeholder approaches to ensure no one is left behind, noting that COP29 will host the second High-Level Ministerial Roundtable on Just Transition. It also discusses the potential expansion of just transition considerations to sectors beyond energy, such as agriculture, and underscores the necessity of financing mechanisms and stakeholder engagement to address diverse regional impacts.

35 good practice examples of Just Transition projects

2024

Summary: This report unfolds the possibilities and strategies for the transition towards sustainability and improvement of inhabitants' living conditions.

Explainer: COP28 deal on fossil fuels gives impetus to 'just transition'

2023

Summary: The COP28 climate summit concluded with a landmark agreement to transition away from fossil fuels, marking a pivotal step toward mitigating global warming. This decision underscores the necessity of a "just transition" to support the estimated 32 million workers in the fossil fuel industry who may face job displacement. Ensuring these workers have access to new employment opportunities and requisite training is crucial to prevent resistance to low-carbon economic shifts. UN Secretary-General António Guterres emphasized that while decarbonization will generate millions of new jobs, governments must provide support, training, and social protection for those adversely affected.

[APEC - Transitioning to a Sustainable Economy](#) **2023** [while Ensuring Inclusion](#)

Summary: This source from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) outlines strategies for a sustainable economy transition that includes inclusive growth and environmental sustainability. It emphasizes the importance of policy alignment, stakeholder engagement, and strategic planning.

[Climate and the Just Transition](#)

2018

Summary: This report explores how to face climate change and enforce climate actions while preserving economic vitality and ensuring adherence to global labor standards.

[The just transition looks different for small islands – their voices must be heard](#)

2023

Summary: The article from Climate Analytics emphasizes that the concept of a just transition—the shift to sustainable economies—often overlooks the unique challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS). These nations, despite contributing minimally to global emissions, are disproportionately affected by climate change, experiencing severe impacts such as sea-level rise and extreme weather events. Traditional just transition discussions focus on job losses in fossil fuel industries, a perspective more relevant to developed countries. However, for SIDS, the transition encompasses broader issues, including climate justice, adaptation, loss and damage, and access to finance. The article advocates for the inclusion of SIDS' voices in international climate dialogues to ensure that transition strategies are equitable and address their specific vulnerabilities

[Addressing the challenges of a just transition](#)

2022

Summary: The Climate Group's webpage titled "Building a Just Transition: Must-Read Resources" offers a curated list of materials aimed at guiding businesses and policymakers in achieving a just transition to a low-carbon economy. These resources cover various aspects of the transition, including policy frameworks, case studies, and strategies for ensuring that the shift to sustainable practices is inclusive and equitable for all stakeholders. The compilation serves as a valuable tool for understanding the complexities involved in balancing economic growth with social equity and environmental responsibility during the transition process.