



ILO statement delivered at the UNFCCC side event on Current knowledge, expertise and potential support to the work programme on loss and damage under the Cancun adaptation framework' (7 June 2011)

Thank you chair for giving the ILO the floor

The synthesis report on *views and information on the elements to be included in the work programme on loss and damages* explicitly mentioned key ILO messages on this issue, such as the need to consider **social protection** and the **employment** dimensions when discussing consequences of the adverse impacts of climate change and climate change adaptation policies.

In view of the ILO striving for **Decent Work** and a “**just transition**” should be a priority. Decent Work and “Just Transition” in the context of adaptation should aim at creating the conditions that will ensure that those whose livelihoods, income and employment are affected by the adverse impacts of climate change are supported and policies and measures are implemented for the to find alternative livelihoods, income and employment opportunities.

The need for a just transition and decent work are captured in Article 10 under the Shared Vision of the Cancun Agreements and it is on this basis that the ILO recommends that the following six issues are incorporated into the programme:

- **Fundamental role of social security policies**, including basic social protection is a well established mechanism for risk sharing with regards to loss of income as a result of climate change effects. This aligns with the need of most developing countries to strengthen their social protection schemes as is reflected in the UN Social Protection Floor Initiative
- **Assessments of the impact of climate change on labour markets and employment**. These assessments should analyse impacts of climate change on livelihoods, labour markets and incomes.
- **Social Dialogue and participation of relevant stakeholders**. workers and employers' organizations should be involved in the design and implementation of climate change adaptation policies since they are the one directly affected by climate change and the ones that should be benefited by the programmes to address them..
- **“Soft Adaptation” options**. Soft adaptation build the adaptation capacities of individuals, businesses, communities and societies, skills development and adequately designed labour market institutions
- **Local economic development and economic diversification including green jobs creation**
- **Maximisation of social and employment gains of climate adaptation policies**. This could be done for instance through employment intensive investments and a local resource-based approach
- **Microinsurance and social security including basic social protection**. These are important mechanisms for risk management.

The ILO, as the UN specialized agency dealing with employment and labour remains at the disposal of the UNFCCC to expand on the information of above areas, sharing experiences and contribute to an enhanced understanding of the social dimension of adaptation to climate change, in particular policies and measures to address loss and damages caused by it.