



ILO SUBMISSION TO UNFCCC PARTIES

Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) 2.9 – June 2015

– More and better jobs and a just transition for all through ambitious climate action –

The International Labour Office (ILO) presents its compliments to UNFCCC Parties and has the honour of making this submission to the ADP.

At COP20 in Lima, in December 2014, UNFCCC Parties agreed on the elements of the future climate agreement and on the process of the negotiations towards Paris with an outcome document named the “Lima Call for Action”.

At the eighth part of its second session held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 8 to 13 February 2015, the *Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP)* fulfilled the mandate given to it by the Conference of the Parties (COP) of making available before May a draft negotiating text.

This draft negotiating text includes new proposals by Parties on decent work and just transition issues in the following three parts of the document:

A - Preamble

- *Pre-para 33. [Stressing that all actions to address climate change and all the processes established under this agreement should ensure [a gender-responsive approach] [gender equality and intergenerational equity], take into account [environmental integrity] [the protection of the integrity of Mother Earth], and respect human rights, the right to development and the rights of [youth and] indigenous peoples, [as well as the just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work, in accordance with nationally defined development priorities and strategies,] LMDC*
- *Pre-para 36. [Acknowledging the importance of promoting a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, in accordance with nationally defined development priorities and strategies,] USA*

C - General Objectives

- *Para 15. [All Parties should consider in their climate policies and actions a just transition of the workforce that creates decent work and quality jobs] EU*

D – Mitigation (reference to response measures)

- *Para 42. [Parties will also consider economic and social issues, including the just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality, decent jobs, in accordance with nationally defined development priorities and strategies;] LMDC*

The ILO congratulates Parties on this remarkable progress and wishes to contribute inputs on the work of the ADP to consolidate and streamline the negotiating text, in particular with reference to paragraphs on “just transition and decent work” (pre. para. 33, pre. para. 36, para. 15, and para. 42).



ILO's views on how and where “decent work and just transitions” could feature in the text

1. Rationale

- The ILO and its constituents view **climate change and decent work agendas as inseparable**, both in terms of global priorities and the urgency needed for action.
- **ILO constituents – governments, workers and employers have all been supportive** and actively engaged in the climate process, voicing concerns that a new climate change agreement must also address employment, social inclusion and just transition issues to be viable.
- The **notions of “just transition and creation of decent work”** signal that action on climate change can offer new opportunities to create jobs, improve the quality of existing jobs and enhance social inclusion for millions of people around the world. They equally recognise that transitions to low-carbon economies entail structural economic transformations, with a critical need to support countries diversify their economies and adapt to the effects of climate change. Enterprises, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, and the workforce will need retraining, skills building and upgrading, and social protection, all underpinned by inclusive social dialogue.
- The **“just transition framework”** results from the [Resolution on sustainable development, decent work and green jobs adopted by ILO Members](#) at the 102nd session of the International Labour Conference in June 2013, and agreed to by governments, workers and employers organisations.

2. Proposals for decent work and just transition in the negotiating text

- The references to “just transition and decent work” as contained in sections A - Preamble, section B - General Objectives, and section C - Mitigation are all relevant and serve different purposes. Informal discussions indicate that most delegations have no objection to the inclusion of decent work and just transition. In particular, the ILO encourages reference to decent work and just transitions in section C - General Objectives, as suggested by some delegations. This section refers to operational objectives and will thus enable further action by Parties and by actors in the world of work.

3. ILO Actions and Initiatives for Climate Solutions

On the basis of research and analytical work undertaken since 2007, the ILO has gained a strong understanding of how to address climate change through policies on employment, social protection, skills, and enterprise development. The ILO is taking several initiatives and actions:

- **Mobilisation of ILO constituents – 2015 World of Work Summit on Climate Change:** [The 104th Session of the International Labour Conference](#) (Geneva, 1-13 June 2015), at which the World of Work Summit on Thursday 11 June, is dedicated to *Climate Change and the World of Work*. The Summit will be an occasion for governments, employers and workers’ organizations to build momentum for action.
- **World of Work Solutions on Climate Change:** The ILO proposes a “Solutions Agenda on Climate Change and Decent Work” consisting of tools, policy advice, intervention models and successful practices representing the contribution of actors in the world of work to tackle climate change.
- **Direct support to countries:** Research and analytical support to understand the effects on employment and incomes of nationally determined contributions (NDCs); promoting decent work creation through climate action; technical assistance on skills and capacity building; innovative social protection systems for adaptation to climate change; and fostering social dialogue and tripartism for strong social consensus.
- **Guidelines for implementation of a just transition framework:** The ILO Governing Body mandated the organisation of a tripartite expert meeting on sustainable development, decent and green jobs in October 2015, in view of preparing practical guidelines that would assist countries in the implementation of a just transition framework within their respective national contexts and priorities.