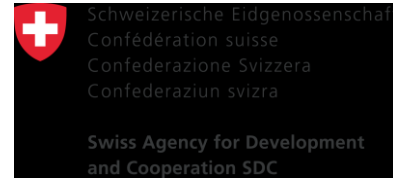




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14th Summit Global Forum on Migration and Development

Maximizing the social and economic opportunities of labour mobility for a just transition

Side Event co-hosted by Switzerland, International Labour Organisation (ILO), International
Organisation of Employers (IOE)

24 January 2024 17:00 – 18:30 (CET)

Room 4

The International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)
(Rue de Varembé 9, 1202 Geneva)

Imagine...

...a world where the transition to the green economy would be smooth and just...

...a world which is fair and inclusive for all, including migrant workers...

...a world where green jobs would be filled by workers – migrants and nationals – motivated, capacitated and duly remunerated to take up new challenges...

...a world which provides new promising perspectives for migrant workers, creates decent work opportunities and leaves no one behind...

...a world which responds to the specific needs of women migrant workers

In this world...

...Governments would implement ambitious just transitions that fairly and effectively create just societies and green economies...

...Employers would be able to employ all skilled workers needed through regular migration pathways, offering decent working conditions and contributing to sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

...Migrant workers would acquire new capacities and benefit from increased choice of job opportunities and higher incomes, while having their rights protected and being valued as contributors to societies.

Facts, evidence, and best practices from around the world are testimony that this world exists. To make it sustainable, we need all stakeholders around the table.

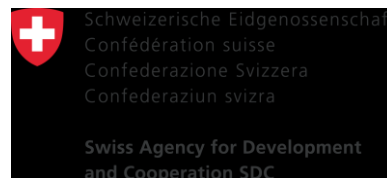
Pressing environmental challenges put pressure on nations and businesses to transition towards green, resilient and climate-neutral economies and societies. This journey offers an opportunity to create a more sustainable, social and equitable world.

A Just Transition, as defined by the ILO Guidelines,¹ means greening the economy in a way that is fair and inclusive for everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind. In addition to the important role of Governments in mitigating the risks of the impacts of climate change, business plays a crucial role in defining and implementing climate action. It employs the largest proportion of working-age people globally, drives economic growth, provides goods and services, and harnesses creativity and innovation to help solve societal challenges. If properly managed, the risks arising from climate change can be turned into opportunities to create a better and just future for all

¹ Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all, ILO, Geneva 2015
https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_emp/@emp_ent/documents/publication/wcms_432859.pdf



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and through appropriate mitigation and adaptation policies, labour markets could be more dynamic, accessible, and sustainable. By recognizing the latent potential of migrant workers and ensuring their well-being, all stakeholders contribute to constructing a sustainable and equitable future in the just transition.

Globally, the ILO and UNEP² found that at least half the global workforce – the equivalent of 1.5 billion people – would be affected by the transition to a greener economy. This transition has the potential of creating 24 million jobs by 2030.³ However, the successful reallocation of workers and the filling of new, additional jobs, depends on workforce access to training to ensure that workers in all sectors and at all levels have the necessary skills.⁴ Currently, the lack of appropriately-skilled workers is a key impediment to upscaling just transition efforts. It also depends on adequate enabling environments that can empower labour markets and economies to take on the various challenges they're faced with and also support the creation and growth of sustainable enterprises through incentives and capacity-building measures.

In this regard, migrant workers could make valuable contributions. Yet, many migrant workers still face challenges getting skills recognised and developed in line with these new opportunities.

A just transition requires collective actions within a common framework, inclusive of the interest and dignity of migrant workers, of the skills needs of employers and based on international labour standards.⁵ Proactive outreach, fair and ethical recruitment efforts and decent work opportunities, undertaken with the involvement of social partners and supported by adequate policies and employment services, will be needed to ensure that migrant workers are aware of available green job opportunities, have equal access to them and positive outcomes from them. Migration represents a deeply gendered experience and hence efforts need to respond to the specific needs of women and men migrant workers. Extensive collaboration among governments, private sector and education institutions is also needed to ensure a coherent plan, awareness among employers, data collection and analysis on current and future needs and possibilities for hiring for green skills.

Side-Event Objectives:

This side-event aims to delve into the complexities of just transition, with a focus on migration dynamics and labour migration, emphasizing the interconnected nature of challenges and opportunities within this transformative journey. It will highlight the pivotal role that all GFMD stakeholders, i.e. governments, the private sector, civil society, local authorities and other stakeholders, including academia and the UN, can play in addressing these dynamics positively and addressing social protection issues.

² [Working towards sustainable development : opportunities for decent work and social inclusion in a green economy](#), International Labour Office. - Geneva: ILO, 2012

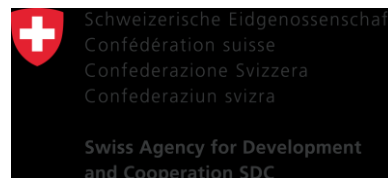
³ ILO; Greening with Jobs, 2028 on: <https://www.ilo.org/weso-greening/>

⁴ [Skills for a greener future. Key findings](#), International Labour Office – Geneva: ILO, 2019

⁵ Resolution and conclusions concerning a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all, ILO, 111th Session June 2023 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_886647.pdf



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This side-event seeks to highlight promising practices in the following areas:

1. Access to Green Job Opportunities through Upskilling / Skills Development

Sustainable enterprises and governments, in collaboration with civil society, can provide training and upskilling programs to facilitate the transition of migrant workers into green jobs. This would not only promote economic mobility but also enhance workforce retention and the smooth functioning of the labor market, ensuring that skills are available where and when needed. Establishing tripartite systems for green skills development and recognition in various occupations and sectors in origin and destination countries, with a focus on the human rights and labor standards, is of importance.

2. Decent work for migrant workers as part of the just transition

Decent work, social inclusion and poverty alleviation constitute integral elements of the just transition concept. By leveraging the global competition for a capacitated workforce and the push for sustainable business practice, the positive social effects of the green transition on migrant workers can outweigh its costs. Ensuring decent working conditions, as well as fair and ethical recruitment for migrant workers at all skills levels and in all sectors is essential. GFMD stakeholders can work together to address potential deficits: Governments are primarily responsible of ensuring legal frameworks towards a conducive environment for fair recruitment and decent work, while employers have the responsibility of implementing the framework and pursue skills development for workers who should keep pace with the skilling requirements.

JOIN US!

The event aims to create a platform for in-depth discussions and collaborative efforts to address the complexities of a just transition positively, recognizing the potential of migrant workers, and the role of the GFMD stakeholders in building a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

AGENDA:

Facilitator: Ms. Romaine Jean, Senior Consultant and Media Communication

Opening: Mr. Roberto Suarez Santos, Secretary-General, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)

Enlightening crisp pitches from:

- **Ms. Gladys Cisneros**, Director, Labor Migration Branch, International Organisation of Labor (ILO)
- **Ms. Anne Kung Soo Ching**, Vice-president, Malaysian Employers Federation
- **Ms. Stephanie Sepulveda**, Specialist on Immigration and Labor The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
- **Dr. Helen Adams**, Senior Lecturer in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, King's College London
- **Ms. Azmina Aboobaker** Director, US and Global Immigration at Meta, Chair, Immigration Policy Forum at Worldwide ERC, Vice-Chair, Business Advisory Group on Migration
- **Mr. Neill Wilkins**, Head of Migrant Workers Program, Institute for Human Rights and Business

Closing remarks: Ambassador Christian Frutiger, Assistant Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation, Head of Thematic Cooperation Division

Q&A and discussion



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