

Research report

COMMITTEE: Environment (ILO3)

ISSUE: How to promote "green jobs" without penalizing employees whose jobs are harmful to the environment?

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INTRODUCTION: PRESENTATION OF THE CHAIRS



Hello! My name is Waliya Said Abasse and I'm one of the chairs of the ILO3 committee with Nada and Mandisa. Welcome to all of you!

I'm in Première Générale at the Lycée International of Ferney-Voltaire in France. I'm a homebody by nature, so reading is a big part of my life. I like basketball, movies and thrill rides.

This year, the delegations will be *tripartite* - a first for FerMUN! It's a big challenge, but we'll all get through it by working together!

For this January's conference, our issue will concern the relation between work and the environment, with a particular focus on fast-fashion and the place of green jobs within companies. These issues are as important as they are topical, so it's essential that we

discuss them. I look forward to meeting you and discovering your solutions!

KEY WORDS

Decent employment: Work that meets people's expectations in terms of working life, such as stability, security and equality.

Green jobs: According to ILO, green jobs are considered decent jobs in any economic sector (e.g. agriculture, industry, services, administration) contributing to the preservation, restoration and improvement of the quality of the environment.

Green economy: According to ILO, it means the recognition of the economic value of natural resources and ecological services, and the need to protect these resources.

Sustainable development: Consideration of social and environmental aspects in the short, medium and long term.

Sector of activity: According to INSEE, a sector of activity is a group of manufacturing, trading or service companies with the same main activity.

Entrepreneurship: The work that someone running a company has to do.

Ecological transition: Change of social and economic model to meet the needs of sustainable development.

Climate change: Long-term variations in temperature and meteorological parameters.

Flood: A rise in the water level of a river or stream due to a meteorological event such as a thunderstorm or heavy rainfall. This can cause flooding and enormous damage.

OVERVIEW

1. Green jobs

To meet the needs of its inhabitants and the well-being of the global economy, the world relies on a variety of industries and natural resources. However, all this extraction of resources in ever-increasing quantities has led to climate change, with the disruption of seasonal cycles, the threat of extinction of multiple species and rising sea levels. The biggest problem currently facing mankind is the rise in the earth's temperature, commonly known as global warming. Although the call for prevention of this phenomenon dates back to the late 70s, according to sciencepost.fr, world leaders have yet to come together to try and combat this disruption.

One of the proposals being put forward is the concept of green jobs. These are represented by the striped areas in this diagram:



Ilo.org: What is a green job?

According to the ILO, 24 million new jobs could be created worldwide by 2030 if sustainable practices are implemented.

It's important to specify that a green job is not necessarily a job that produces goods or services for the environment. It is simply a job that respects the environment and strives to:

- Reduce pollution and waste,
- Improve the use of energy and raw materials required for work,
- Preserve and protect ecosystems,
- Minimize CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions,
- Improve the efficient use of energy and raw materials,
- Adapts to the effects of climate change.

2. Successful results

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The ILO's "Green Jobs" program (a program promoting the greening of businesses, their practices and the labor market, based on the objectives set out in OVERVIEW 1) has proved its worth in Zambia, for example. This country is suffering from an energy crisis, making it difficult for many inhabitants to access electricity. With the help of local residents, particularly women, 18 homes were built in 5 months using green technologies. Local people learned how to assemble solar panels and install them on the new buildings. The project has thus benefited the local population while respecting and limiting the impact on the environment.

In 2018, the ILO also took action in Sri Lanka, working with national and local authorities to create a model for reducing the impact of extreme weather events on harvests, through better management of water resources. The country, which ranks fourth among the world's most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, was hit by incessant flooding in 2016 and 2017. The country's tea-growing regions were severely damaged, despite the fact that tea is the source of income for a large proportion of the population.



CBSNews: "220 families feared buried by flood-triggered landslides"

This project, entitled "Jobs for peace and resilience", is a model that could be adopted by development partners and replicated in other regions of the world affected by drought or flooding.

We must also take into account the effects of climate change, which are worsening, as in El Salvador. This country is particularly affected by a shortage of water, which is essential to the lives of its inhabitants and to the regeneration of the land.

In conclusion, the issue of climate change is becoming increasingly urgent. Indeed, its repercussions are becoming increasingly serious and present in our daily lives.

3. The challenges of a transition from non-green to green jobs

Governments simply must not forget the workers who would lose their jobs if their companies had to lay off staff and/or change production methods in the name of sustainable transition. They represent a tiny proportion of the global workforce (1% in the industrialized countries where the repercussions on the labor market would be greatest), but it is essential that they be taken care of by being given quick and easy access to one of the new jobs that a greener economy would create. Indeed, according to the ILO, sustainable transition would enable a global increase in employment of 0.5% to 2%, or 15 to 60 million more people.

Equality between men and women is also something to be taken into account. Women are recognized as being among the poorest people in the world, and their economic activity is more dependent on natural resources. Global warming and environmental degradation particularly affect them.

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A number of research studies have shown that, worldwide, women have less access to resources that would enable them to adapt more easily to changes in their working environment. They have less access to training services, technology and education than their male peers.

Promoting greener ways of working, particularly on farms and in waste management, where they predominantly work, would enable them to better integrate into society. These jobs would become more productive and formalized, the food production rate would increase, lifting millions out of poverty, and increasing the recycling rate would mean more jobs.

Finally, the training provided by the companies would enable them to assimilate new skills in the work field, and thus subsequently broaden their range of employment opportunities.

RELEVANT ILO TREATIES AND EVENTS

10/06/2015

The Joint Call to Action on Climate Change and Decent Work from France and Peru:

Calling on all countries to make efforts to minimize and adapt to climate change, as this would create jobs and facilitate social justice, poverty eradication and gender equality.

12/05/2015

Dialogue on decent work and climate change:

The aim of this dialogue, which included government representatives, members of international organizations and non-governmental organizations, was to examine the key issues for effective climate action at national and global level. These included financing, education, policy coherence, decent work and, among others, green jobs.

12/12/2015

The Paris Agreement:

Entering into force on November 4, 2016 and adopted by 196 parties at COP21, the Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change that aims to limit the rise in temperatures preferably to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Countries will be required to report transparently on their actions and progress in reducing global warming from 2024.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

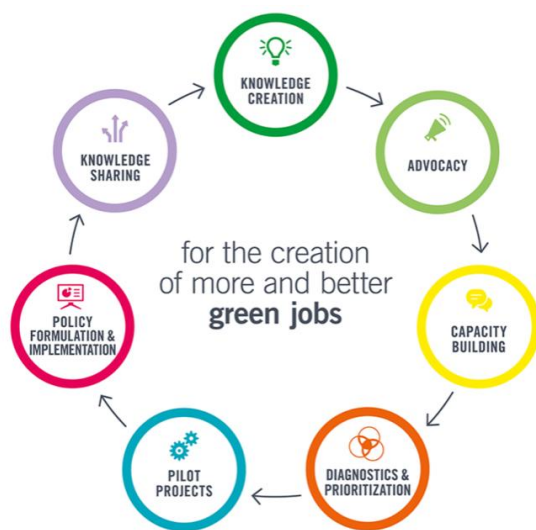
As mentioned above, to demonstrate its commitment to promoting green jobs, ILO has set up a program which it claims has already helped over 30 countries. The aim of this program is to include more environmentally-friendly jobs, while protecting those affected by the transition. These services are:

- The preparation of reports bringing together global, national, regional and sectoral studies with the aim of raising awareness of the usefulness and urgency of expanding green jobs.

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- The creation of partnerships and participation in international negotiation processes designed to increase policy coherence.
- Giving stakeholders opportunities to broaden their knowledge of the green jobs concept by providing them with training programs and adapted tools.
- Identifying priority sectors through national diagnostics and assessments.
- The “pilot projects” that enable the evolution of tools such as green entrepreneurship or the development of local infrastructures designed to adapt to climate change.
- Advise on the implementation and formulation of effective policies that create green jobs, encourage social inclusion and improve sustainability.
- Sharing knowledge so that improvements benefit everyone.
- Dialogue between employees and employers would enable them to share their respective problems and find more realistic common ground.
- Finally, setting up a fund for those most vulnerable to the transition could be one of the keys to facilitating their adaptation.

The program is summarized in the following diagram:



Ilo.org: The ILO's Green Jobs Programme

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- What environmental challenges does your country face? Are they more significant than others? If so, why?
- How much responsibility does your country bear for global pollution?

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- Has your country already taken measures to promote green jobs?
- Would an increase in green jobs have a negative impact on your country? If so, how serious would it be?
- What problems could employees face as a result of the transition?
- The ecological transition could put some countries in financial difficulty. How can other countries help?
- What would the sanctions be in case of non-compliance with agreements or targets?

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<https://youtu.be/kGUKwmo4L2k>

ILO.org: What is a green job?

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/news/WCMS_220248/lang--en/index.htm

Brochure: Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/documents/publication/wcms_432859.pdf

Interview: ILO ensuring a "just transition" to sustainable economy

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More about Zambia:

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/climate-solutions/green-jobs>

Video Zambia:

<https://youtu.be/D1FEnljx8kU>

FAQ on green jobs:

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/WCMS_214247_EN/lang--en/index.htm