• General discussion 1 year after Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development
• Outcome: tripartite conclusions
• Unique opportunity for World of Work to formulate guidance on how to translate political will from Rio and Cancun into practice
Contents

Introduction

1. Sustainable development and decent work
2. Seizing the opportunities
3. Identifying and managing the challenges
4. Effective policies and institutions, and the scope for a supportive role by the ILO
5. Points for Discussion
Introduction

• Two defining challenges of the 21\textsuperscript{st} century:
  – Achieving environmental sustainability
  – Decent work for all

Both are intimately \textit{linked}
1. Sustainable development and decent work

• The economic and social costs of environmental challenges
  – **Productivity loss** from increased GHG
  – **Jobs and incomes losses** as a result of extreme weather events

• Social challenges and economic instability add complexity to environmental challenges
  – Unemployment
  – Working poverty and poor job quality
  – Widespread lack of basic social protection

The Green Jobs Programme of the ILO
1. Sustainable development and decent work (cont.)

• Environmental sustainability can be a driver of economic growth
  – Regulations, market-based mechanisms and other policy instruments can promote green workplace practices and investments in new green products and services

But …

• Understanding the labour market dynamics is critical
  – Transitions will cause shifts in the volume, composition and quality of employment across sectors
  – Environmental jobs created in the process must be green and decent i.e. green jobs

The Green Jobs Programme of the ILO
2. Seizing the opportunities

• Job creation
  – A greener economy could lead to up to 60 million additional jobs
  – Gains may be higher in emerging economies and developing countries than in industrialized ones

• Improving the quality of existing jobs
  – There is opportunity for improved working conditions, better OSH, and higher incomes e.g. in agriculture, waste management and recycling, building sector
2. Seizing the opportunities (cont.)

• Advancing social inclusion
  – Green economy transitions offer possibilities for greater social inclusion, in particular for women
  – E.g. Improving access to affordable renewable energy, energy efficient transport, energy and water efficient buildings and payments for environmental services
3. Identifying and managing the challenges

• Economic restructuring
  – Nature and scope of adjustments
    • In most OECD countries 10-12% of total workforce employed in resource-intensive industries
    • Employment shifts much smaller than those triggered by globalization?: OECD: 0.5-1% of workers change sectors
  – Protection of existing jobs through greening of enterprises
    • Improving the productivity of energy and materials is an important means
    • for example through combined heat and power (CHP) in industry
3. Identifying and managing the challenges (cont.)

Particular attention is required for SMEs

- Largest employer and main source of job creation, key for making the transition to low-carbon and resource-efficient strategies
- But also facing the largest challenges:
  - access to information and to skills upgrading programmes
  - cost of compliance
  - new technologies and finance for greening

Threats of jobs loss

- Anticipating and mapping of likely impacts is critical for timely and targeted measures
- Addressing the needs of low-skilled workers in carbon-intensive industries
- Integrated approaches for smooth and just transitions, using good practice from earlier adjustments

The Green Jobs Programme of the ILO
3. Identifying and managing the challenges (cont.)

• Impacts of climate change
  – Poorer segments of the population in developing countries have the least adaptive capacity
  – Adaptation measures are essential to protect enterprises, workplaces and communities
  – Assessment on employment and income should guide appropriate measures, often region-specific

• Addressing energy poverty
  – Higher energy prices impact poorer households disproportionately (spend 3-20 times more than average)
  – Compensation measures will be necessary to cushion shocks and protect vulnerable groups
4. Effective policies and the scope for a supportive role by the ILO

- Country-specific policy mixes for more and better jobs in a green economy
  
  Key policy areas:
  - **Macroeconomic fiscal and monetary** policies
  - **Sectoral** policies
  - **Social and labour** policies

- Shortages of skilled workers and enabling measures for sustainable enterprises must be addressed

- OSH issues must be integrated into design, procurement, operations and recycling policies

- Social dialogue at all levels is central
5. Points for Discussion

1. What are the **opportunities** for more green and decent jobs?

2. What are the **challenges** arising from new regulations and price increases of energy and scarce resources? How will the incorporation of carbon as a cost (e.g. through eco-tax) affect different groups in the labour market?

3. What **lessons from other transitions** due to globalization, automation, ICT and related productivity increases?
Points for Discussion (cont.)

4. What **policies and institutions** can facilitate a just transition and minimize negative effects on jobs and enterprises?

5. Which **priorities** for the work of ILO? What means of action?

6. What **roles** for Member States and the social partners?
For additional information please see:


www.ilo.org/greenjobs

www.ilo.org/green-jobs-programme

The Green Jobs Programme of the ILO
Questions & Answers