



**Green Economy and Sustainable Development:  
Bringing Back the Social Dimension  
CONFERENCE**

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**Making Green Jobs a Reality in the  
Transition to a Green Economy**

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# The International Labour Organization (ILO)



- The international organization responsible for drawing up and overseeing **international labour standards**.
- It is the **only 'tripartite'** United Nations agency that brings together representatives of governments, employers and workers
- Incorporating '**real world**' knowledge about employment and work.

# Green Jobs Initiative

## Green Jobs Report

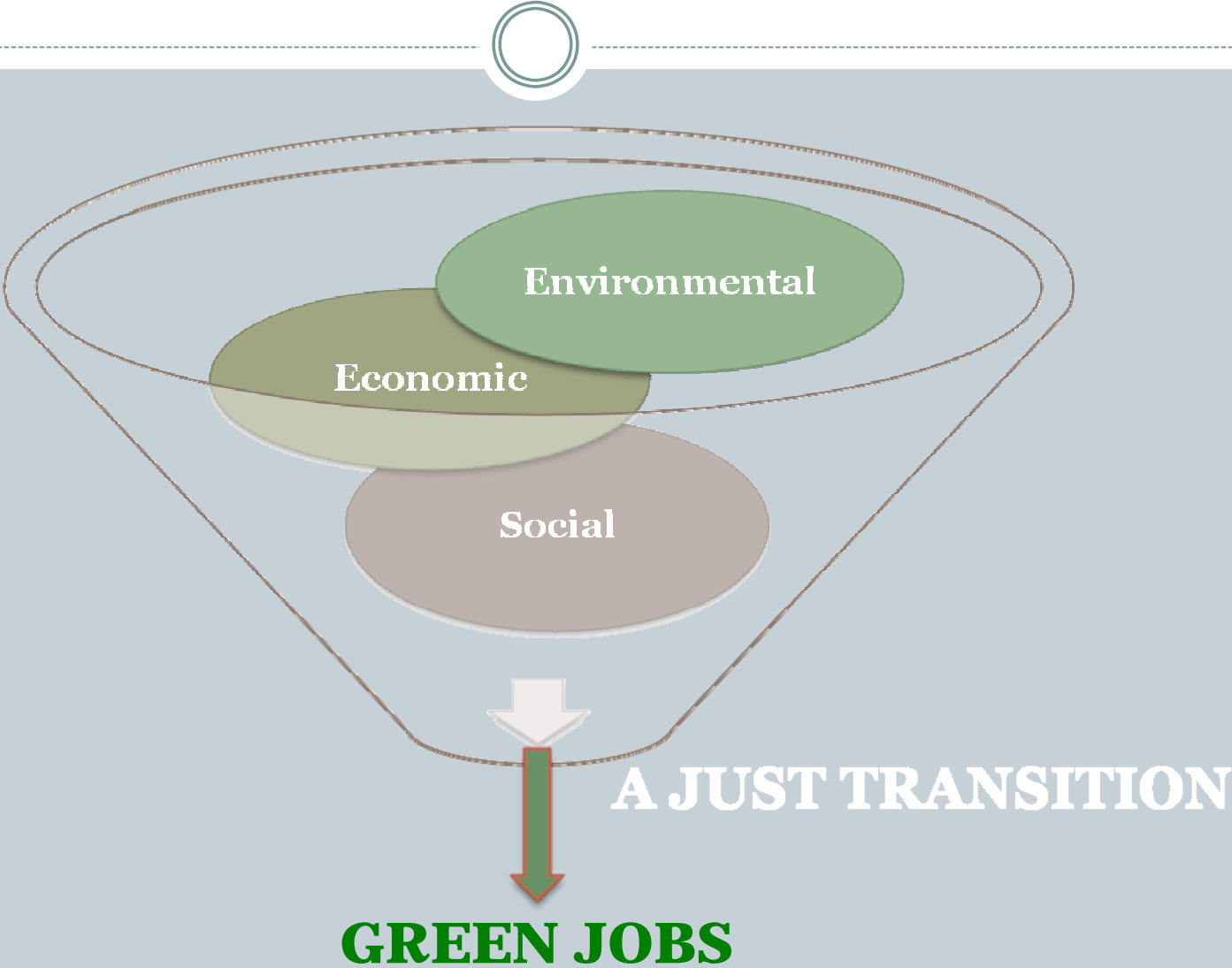
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### The partners:





# 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY CHALLENGES



# Brazil :

## Waste management & recycling

- ~ **60,000 workers in formalized recycling industry**
- Approx 400,000 informal
- **Cooperatives**, service contracts, installations, fair wages and OSH
- **New law: Tax reductions if recycling via cooperatives**



# India: Solar mission and Rural employment guarantee

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## Solar mission

- 20GW solar electricity 2030
- Human resources

## NREGA (Rural Employment Guarantee Act)

- 100 working days/year
- ~ 0.4% GDP
- Adaptation, restoration, conservation



# Brazil : Social housing, sustainable construction

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**‘My house-my life’** social housing program (5/2009)

- 500,000 units energy savings measures
- - 40% electricity bill
- - 18% peak demand
- + 18,000 jobs

**Sustainable construction**





# New Growth Strategy South Africa: SMEs, social economy, green jobs

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# Green jobs...

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- ✓ Reduce consumption of energy and raw materials (**dematerialize economies**)
- ✓ Avoid greenhouse gas emissions (**decarbonize economies**)
- ✓ **Minimize waste and pollution**
- ✓ **Protect and restore ecosystems** and environmental services
- ✓ **Adapt to climate change**

# ... but also

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- ❑ Are decent jobs:
  - ❑ Guaranteeing labour rights
  - ❑ Create productive employment
  - ❑ Promoting social dialogue
  - ❑ Extending social protection
- ❑ *therefore* contributes to sustainable development in the long term

# Implication for employment and labour market



1. Additional jobs will be created
2. Some employment will be substituted
3. Certain jobs may be eliminated without direct replacement
4. Many existing professions will simply be transformed and redefined as day-to-day skill sets and profiles are greener

# Implication for employment and labour market

- Major gains and losses, mostly within sectors
- Shifts in regions and skills profiles
- Transformation of most jobs+sectors
- Transition: anticipation + mapping

ILO's goal of **Decent Work** translates into a framework for **SOCIALLY JUST TRANSITION**

# Changing and emerging occupations

Degree of skill change	Occupational change	Typical skills response	Examples
None	None or only quantitative	None or increased training in existing occupation	Bus driver in CNG driven buses; forester
Low	Changing occupation	On-the-job learning or short training courses	Welder in wind turbine production; Organic farmer
Medium	Changing or emerging occupation	Short courses or longer continuous training	Energy consultant in building; car mechanic for electric cars or CNG cars
High	Emerging occupation	Initial training, university degree or longer continuous training	Solar energy technician; eco-designer; biofuels technician

# **Building blocks of a JUST TRANSITION framework**



1. Early identification of impacts on the world of work
2. Economic diversification and green jobs promotion
3. Participation and effective social dialogue
4. Providing social protection
5. Coherent policies: economic, environmental and social (labour). Bidirectional relation

# Policy coherence: Employment Policies



- Active and passive labour market approaches to enable environmental policies, tackle poverty and promote social cohesion and inclusiveness
- Entrepreneurship promotion, esp. for youth
- Job-rich approach: Ex. Employment intensive infrastructure investment for adaptation to CC measures
- Skills development policies to address the skills gap



# Governance: Social Dialogue



- Transition is JUST when policies are designed and implemented with **active participation** of those whose lives they affect: employers & workers at national, regional, local level
- Social dialogue through planning, education and preparation of changes will:
  - Make transition more fair and efficient
  - Raise awareness among workers' and employers'
  - Through agreement and consensus create more stable policies

# Social Protection: poverty eradication, inclusiveness, and resilience



- Social protection measures should **cushion the negative effects** of temporary and structural changes of transition
- The ILO advocates for a “**Social Floor**” to social protection— conducive to a Just Transition as it allows a shift into new forms of sustainable economic activity without fear of falling into extreme poverty
- Insurance and compensation for companies and workers at risk

# Rights and labour standards



- > Fundamental principles and rights are a pre-requisite for decent work
- Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining
- Elimination of child labour and bonded labour
- Equality in the labour market
- Adherence to safety and health standards also in new occupations

# Rio+20: Green Economy, Sustainable Development and Poverty eradication through Green Jobs



*Desirable outcomes would be:*

- I. National and sector assessment of current and potential green jobs
- II. Active labour market policies to promote Green Jobs
  - Green entrepreneurship promotion, focus: youth, women, rural communities...
  - Employment intensive investments linked to climate change, water and sanitation, energy
  - Skills for green jobs policies and programmes
- III. Monitoring progress: define SD indicators which include decent work elements



**Thank you for your attention,  
For further information:  
[www.ilo.org/green-jobs-programme](http://www.ilo.org/green-jobs-programme)**