



Issue-based Coalition  
on Environment and Climate Change



Ministry of Labour and  
Social Protection of Population  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan



**PAGE** PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION  
ON GREEN ECONOMY

► **From Vision to Practice for a Just Transition for All: a cross-regional South-South Policy Dialogue on energy, sustainable finance, and enterprises for inclusive policy-making processes and enhancing NDC ambition.**

20-21 November 2024, COP29

Policy Dialogue 1 (20 Nov afternoon): Strengthening climate plans to promote green jobs, sustainable enterprises, and circular economy approaches for a Just Transition.

Policy Dialogue 2 (21 Nov morning): Financial mechanisms and operationalizing the ILO's Just Transition Guidelines in the energy sector: implementing the NDCs to promote sustainable enterprises and decent work for all.



International  
Labour  
Organization



## ► Background

### I. Background information

**Climate change is one of the largest and most complex existential challenges of our time, outpacing predictions and placing immense strain on global communities, labour markets, businesses and workplaces.** Recent years have witnessed an alarming surge in climate-related disasters, including wildfires, floods, heatwaves, and droughts, leading to socio-economic disruptions, the displacement of populations, agricultural losses, and heightened air pollution. The ongoing climate crisis has significantly increased the risk of life-threatening diseases such as cholera, malaria, and dengue. Further, the climate crisis is not “gender neutral”. In the world of work, climate change impacts carry a high risk of exacerbating existing gender inequalities and decent work deficits..

Energy transition, climate finance, nature and livelihoods in climate action, and inclusiveness were key topics in the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP28)’s Action Plan where global stocktake, finance, loss and damage, adaptation and just transition were discussed. **Nations at COP28 in Dubai approved a roadmap for “transitioning away from fossil fuels” - a first for a UN climate conference.** Recognizing the importance of gender-responsive climate policy and action, a new Gender-Responsive Just Transitions & Climate Action Partnership was endorsed by over 80 Parties at COP28 to ensure a gender-responsive just transition to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.<sup>1</sup> Parties will conclude the review of the enhanced Lima Work programme on gender and its gender action plan at the COP29. Moreover, COP28 also adopted the Just Transition Work Programme, which includes a focus on social dialogue as well as inclusive and participatory approaches that leave no one behind.

**COP29, the United Nations next climate conference in 2024 (November 11-22) in Baku, Azerbaijan, presents a crucial opportunity.** Parties are expected to agree on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, a priority for Azerbaijan. COP29 represents one of the last major chances to get the world back on track and hold nations accountable for delivering on their environmental targets, with a focus on ensuring that developing nations receive adequate support. It also presents an important opportunity for countries to reinforce the role of ensuring a just transition for all to enhance ambition and to build the required social consensus for implementing bold climate measures. Employers and workers play a central role are fundamental for accelerating climate action, Employers and workers are fundamental for accelerating climate action and governments need to prioritize the role of sustainable enterprises as engines of just transition processes and decent work creation.

### **New Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) update preparation and communication process**

Effective governance is critical in updating the NDCs and aligning them to national socio-economic policies and strategies. New NDC formulations are underway, with countries expected to make their climate plans bolder and more ambitions by early 2025. Through these NDCs or climate plans, countries undertake strong political commitments and implement clear plans for integrating the entire ecosystem of services (line ministries and different agencies) into climate action. For these climate plans to be holistic and address the social dimensions of climate action, ministries charged with formulating NDCs should work closely with Ministries of Labour, and workers’, and employers’ organizations to ensure that voices of workers and businesses contribute to the formulation and implementation of climate action

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cop28.com/en/cop28-gender-responsive-just-transitions-and-climate-action-partnership>

plans. The COP29 Policy Dialogue 'A Call to Action for a Just Transition for All' will enable participating countries to share experience and gain insights into successes, challenges, and common NDC planning and implementation themes while providing an opportunity for constituents to bridge capacity gaps.

The **ILO's offer on strengthening NDCs for a just transition and decent work** will be used for discussions on leveraging NDCs, with and among tripartite constituents with a specific focus on the role of sustainable enterprises as vehicles for taking forward a just transition for all and realizing ambitious climate action. The COP28 Just Transition work program will serve as an important reference document. Most importantly, the ILO Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all will shape the discussions. This should ensure an enhanced understanding among participants on operationalising these, and to ensure that the NDC process is inclusive and leaves no one behind.

Importantly, the Policy Dialogue will showcase the role of **enterprises, including MSMEs and the private sector**. This role is pivotal for ensuring that **NDCs are ambitious and advance a just transition**. It entails their participation in the NDC formulation and implementation, and a focus on policies and tools that support sustainable enterprise development and greening of enterprises. Furthermore, the 2023 Resolution concerning a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all adopted by the International Labour Conference emphasise that governments and employers' and workers' organizations promote the development of sustainable enterprises and create an enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship. Moreover, the involvement of enterprises and the private sector is also essential for addressing concerns about funding and financing a just transition to **create decent work, foster productivity and innovation, and promote social justice**.

### How can the ILO and UN partnerships help?

The UN Partnership for Action on a Green Economy (PAGE) brings together the specialized expertise of five United Nations agencies – ILO, UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO and UNITAR – to accelerate a just transition to a low carbon, resource efficient, nature friendly and socially inclusive economy. Its [new Strategy until 2030](#) highlights the importance of involvement of **workers' and employers' organizations** in global and national policy-making processes to connect champions of green structural transformation, inspire PAGE and non-PAGE countries, and disseminate tools and knowledge, as well as influence policy debates.

**UN-PAGE promotes successful economic transformation through dialogue to inform decision-making, policy-design and build deeper political movement.** [PAGE](#) engages across the UN system and through the UN Resident Coordinator network, to leverage collective expertise in economic thinking, offering deeper policy advice to partners and contributing to a strengthened global understanding of green economy principles.

**The UN Issue-based coalitions (IBCs) are key platforms to advance policy thematic work in UNCT and UNRCOs on strengthening environmental and climate change governance, improving environmental management and climate change mitigation and adaptation, and contributing to the achievement of the SDGs and the relevant commitments and undertakings under multilateral environmental agreements, including the NDCs.** [The Europe and Central Asia IBC Environment and Climate Change](#) serves as a regional platform supporting UN Country Teams (UNCT) through knowledge and policies on environment and climate change to help catalyse Member States' action towards the 2030 Agenda. 18 UN agencies are part of the IBC; together they deliver [key UN messages](#) such as: (i) Even at current levels, climate change already has massive impacts on human rights, humanitarian needs, welfare, and dignity, particularly for those in vulnerable and marginalized situations, rocking the



foundations of peace and security – as people are displaced and vital resources depleted; (ii) The climate crisis is not “gender neutral”. Women and girls are often disproportionately impacted by climate change, which frequently amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, rights, health, and safety; (iii) When taking adaptation action, governments should ensure country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and human rights-based approaches, as well as intergenerational equity and social justice, taking into consideration vulnerable ecosystems, groups and communities, and including children, youth and persons with disabilities.

**The Policy Dialogue will use South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) approaches to foster mutual learning and collaboration among countries facing similar challenges and opportunities.**

As highlighted in the PAGE Strategy 2021-2030, SSTC facilitates knowledge exchange between countries and ensures that successful models of just transition and enterprise development are replicated across regions. This cooperative approach will be crucial in supporting developing nations, particularly in Central Asia and the Asia-Pacific regions, to advance their NDCs and transition plans in alignment with global climate goals. This cooperative approach leverages the unique experiences and innovations of diverse nations, enhancing the capacity to implement effective gender-responsive strategies. Moreover, SSTC helps in building stronger partnerships and networks that can drive sustainable development and resilience against climate change. By engaging in SSTC, countries can share best practices, enhance policy coherence, and collectively work towards achieving the goals set for COP29 and beyond.

## II. The Cross-regional dialogue at a glance

The Policy Dialogue will be hosted by the ILO Just Transition Pavilion during CoP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, at the COP29 Blue Zone area which is dedicated to host formal negotiations, high-level meetings, and policy discussions. The ILO's 5 key messages for COP29 provides a broader background for the thematic policy dialogues:

1. Gender-responsive just transition drives adaptation and mitigation actions
2. No climate resilience without universal social protection
3. Sustainable enterprises and skills development unlock more and better jobs
4. Financing a just transition is climate investment in people and planet
5. Effective social dialogue produces ambitious and inclusive NDCs

To support the NDC formulation and implementation process, country delegations are invited to develop position papers for the Policy Dialogue and to share good practices, opportunities and challenges. Preparatory discussions at the National level in Azerbaijan and Central Asia countries have been underway since May 2024.

**This activity contributes to PAGE's goal of enabling deeper economic reforms and sustainable development.** The outcomes of these exchanges and dialogues will be designed to feed into relevant global and regional negotiations/fora such as CoP30. **Furthermore, it will focus on policy support on environment and climate change to catalyse the PAGE countries' (and non-PAGE countries) actions towards 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Paris Agreement objectives.** The event will consist of two main policy tracks:

**The first policy track focuses on leveraging solutions to support NDCs and/or climate plans for promoting green jobs, sustainable enterprise development, and circular economy approaches** for a gender-responsive just transition in Central Asia and South Caucasus. Participants will discuss different scenarios for a just transition in their countries, including in the energy sector and highlight the implementation needs of workers, employers and governments, with a particular focus on an assessment of jobs implications and enterprise development challenges and opportunities. Close interaction will be ensured with relevant PAGE agencies involved in the NDCs update process.



**The second policy track aims to discuss climate plans contributing to the NDCs for advancing a Just Transition and Sustainable Financing in Asia-Pacific.** The first session will hear from key stakeholders to discuss what actions are needed for mobilizing sustainable financing that promotes equitable transitions and sustainable enterprise development in the Asia-Pacific region. Anchored by the ILO and UNEP report "Just Transition Finance: Pathways for Banking and Insurance," unveiled at COP28, the session will emphasize multilateral partnerships, especially between UNESCAP and ASEAN, and it will leverage South-South cooperation, co-led by UNDP and ILO. This will aim to exchange expertise on financing mechanisms and policy development for energy transitions, particularly between countries like China and Indonesia, which have demonstrated successful models of South-South cooperation for renewable energy development.

The second session will discuss the challenges and financing needs of transitioning from Coal Dependency and Implementing the Roadmap for reaching Net Zero. The session will tackle challenges in reducing coal dependency in Indonesia, focusing on strategies for recruiting and retraining talent from the oil and gas sectors to support the development and growth of enterprises in the renewable energy sector to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

### III. Objectives of the Cross-regional dialogues:

- ✓ To foster a policy dialogue between the participating countries in Western Europe, Central Asian and South Caucasian region (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, North Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine) as well as from the Asia Pacific region (China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Thailand, Cambodia) on **leveraging solutions to support green jobs promotion, sustainable enterprise development and circular approaches** for realizing a just transition and creating decent work for all.
- ✓ To explore and bring the **workers' and employers' voices** with particular emphasis on women's representation into the NDCs formulation process; this will involve addressing the social objectives from PAGE and non-PAGE countries to learn good practices and understand challenges in engaging with the NDC process.
- ✓ To discuss different **scenarios for a just energy transition** and policy recommendations for mobilizing sustainable financing that promotes equitable transitions and enterprise development in countries as well as addressing the implementation needs of workers, employers, and governments.
- ✓ To explore ways to unlock **public and private finance** in the region for achieving climate mitigation and adaptation challenges;
- ✓ To draw experience and gain insights into **successes, challenges, and join NDC planning and implementation** themes while providing an opportunity for countries' tripartite constituents to bridge capacity gaps. To foster peer learning/knowledge sharing of integrating Just Transition considerations into the NDCs towards their update in 2025 and COP30.
- ✓ To share the insights and **lessons learned from PAGE countries at global and regional platforms regarding NDC revision and formulation**, contributing to greater insights on promoting sustainable enterprise development and ensuring a just transition for all.
- ✓ To discuss tripartite "Call to Action for a Just Transition for all" developed by the participating countries.
- ✓ To **leverage South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) as a platform for fostering mutual learning and collaboration** among PAGE and non-PAGE countries, enabling the exchange of best practices in promoting green jobs, sustainable enterprise development, and

gender-responsive just transitions, with a particular focus on aligning NDCs with social and economic priorities across regions.

### Event modality

Date & Time:	<b>20-21 November 2024</b>
Venue:	COP29 ILO Just Transition Pavilion, Blue Zone Live broadcasting ILO YouTube channel.
Working language:	English/ Azerbaijani/ Russian (simultaneous interpretation will be provided).

### Participants

The event will gather participants from:

- ✓ Policymakers and key stakeholders from the participating countries in the Central Asian and South Caucasian region as well as the Asia Pacific region responsible for designing climate actions for a just energy transition away from coal and other fossil fuels.
- ✓ Delegations of ILO tripartite constituents (National Tripartite Councils/Committees) from Europe and Central Asia region, Asia and the Pacific region, Arab States, and Latin-American region for peer learning/knowledge sharing of integrating Just Transition considerations in NDCs towards their update in early 2025.
- ✓ UN-PAGE agencies, UNESCAP, ASEAN, UN IBC agencies, staff and technical consultants contributing to the design of climate actions and the NDCs.
- ✓ Development partners.