

OECD LAC Ministerial Meeting on Social Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean

Side-event

“Ensuring social inclusion through a just transition in Latin America and the Caribbean”

Monday, 21 October 2024

While Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries generate a relatively small share of global greenhouse gas emissions compared to other regions (approximately 8%, a figure proportionate to their population), they contribute strongly to carbon sequestration through their extensive biodiversity and forests.

OECD research shows that the LAC region will suffer disproportionate exposure to the impact of climate change, especially among its most vulnerable groups. The figures also show that LAC countries face major challenges in financing the green transition in limited fiscal space and in a context of high levels of informality, economic and social inequality and development challenges, including access to energy.

The green transition also brings considerable challenges, though there are opportunities for the creation of decent jobs and social inclusion in Latin America. By empowering workers, including those in the informal economy, trade unions can play a key role in this regard and help to bring about a truly just transition.

The objective of achieving a ‘just transition’ is high on the agenda of LAC countries, both individually and at the regional level. At the 2021 Summit of the Americas, LAC countries adopted the document ‘Accelerating the Just Transition to Clean, Sustainable and Renewable Energy’. The OECD Action Plan adopted by LAC Ministers in October 2023 recognises the need for “coherent labour market policies, based on effective social dialogue, to facilitate a just transition into new, formal, high-quality green jobs and strengthen the social protection systems”.

However, much needs to be done to ensure that such commitments lead to concrete actions, in law and in practice, to foster a just transition in line with the 2015 ILO Tripartite Guidelines for a Just Transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all.

Multinational enterprises play an important role and will be key players in ensuring that the green transition fosters social inclusion and leaves no one behind. Building on relevant OECD instruments, including the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct, engagement with workers through collective bargaining and social dialogue will be key to ensuring credible business action towards a Just Transition.

Ensuring social inclusion through a just transition in Latin America and the Caribbean

Agenda

Monday, 21 October 2024 / 08.30 – 01:00 pm

Venue: Agora Bogotá Convention Centre, Calle 24 No 38-71

08:30 am Registration

09:00 am - Opening session – High level remarks

- Veronica Nilsson, General Secretary, TUAC
- Oliver Dalichau, Director, FESCOL
- Gloria Ines Ramirez, Minister of Labour, Colombia
- Ulrik Knudsen, Deputy Secretary General, OECD (*tbc*)
- Fabio Arias Giraldo, President, CUT Colombia
- Percy Oyola Paloma, President, CGT Colombia
- Diana Gómez, General Secretary, CTC Colombia

09:45 am - First thematic session (60-75 min):

Panel discussion: Opportunities and challenges for a Just Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean

Amidst a global shift towards more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy production, many countries face immense challenges. How can we ensure that this transition is not only ecologically sound but also socially just? What specific opportunities are available in Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve a fair and sustainable energy transition, and how can social inclusion be guaranteed?

The panellists will explore political strategies that involve international partnerships and local initiatives to ensure a just transition for everyone.

- Stefano Scarpetta, Director of Employment and Social Affairs, OECD
- Paola Aliaga, General Secretary, Autonomous Central of Peruvian Workers (CATP)
- Edwin Palma, Board member of Ecopetrol, former Vice Minister for Labour Relations, Colombia
- Fanny Sequeira, General Secretary, Workers Confederation Rerum Novarum, CTRN, Costa-Rica
- Ana Catalina Herrera, Lawyer, Expert on just transition

Moderator: Nolberto Diaz, CUT Chile

11:00 am – Coffee break (30 minutos)

11:30 am – Second thematic session (60 min):

Panel discussion: Fostering a just transition and social inclusion through responsible business conduct

The responsibility for a just and inclusive transition lies not only with governments and international organizations but also with enterprises. Given the global challenges posed by the shift to more sustainable economic practices, enterprises must increasingly focus on both ecological and social responsibilities.

How can enterprises in Latin America and the Caribbean meet these demands and contribute to a just transition? What opportunities arise, and what measures are necessary to ensure that the economic and social impacts of their activities are fair and inclusive?

- Molly McCoy, Associate Deputy Undersecretary, U.S. Department of Labor
- Alejandro Ochoa, Secretary for Just Transition, CUT-Chile
- Maribel Batista, Expert, Workers' activities, ILO
- Julio César Bazán Figueroa, President, CUT-Peru
- Kaira Reece, Secretary of Sustainable Development, Trade Unions Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)

Moderator: Antonio Lisboa, Secretary for international relations, CUT-Brazil

12:45 pm – Closing remarks (10 minutos)

- Veronica Nilsson
- Oliver Dalichau