



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

Just Transitions Dialogue: Exploring the need for international rules based on local realities

Wednesday 5 – Friday 7 October 2022 | WP3012

Background


As nations move ahead with efforts toward net-zero, protecting the human rights of workers and communities must be a central component of strategies to achieve truly “just” transitions for all. The fast developing green economy – with its mineral-heavy supply chains and land-hungry infrastructure – risks being as damaging to workers and communities as traditional high-carbon industries. Without broadly agreed “rules of the road”, it is unclear how quality-control of evolving transition strategies will be assured as governments, companies, trade unions, and broader civil society put forward their own perspectives on what is “just” in specific contexts and sectors. There is significant danger of hollow claims concerning people- and planet-respecting energy transitions on the one hand (green washing), as well as irresponsible abandonment of hard-to-remediate assets on the other (asset dumping). The need for shared norms and standards on these challenges has been recognised by the United Nations as can be seen in the number of new just transitions initiatives launched at and around COP26 last year. In particular, increasing attention is focused on the need to align standards and incentives relating to the supply, demand, and financing of the emerging green economy with outcomes that ensure respect for human rights as well as climate objectives.

Purpose

This high-level dialogue will enable constructive exchange amongst key actors. The purpose is to further develop collective thinking and action around the necessary norms, standards, and safeguards for implementing just transitions strategies by governments, businesses, and local authorities to effectively navigate context-specific social, environmental, and economic complexity while ensuring consistency with international human rights and labour standards. In particular, the agenda aims to:

- enhance understanding of how the human rights framework can contribute to just transitions;
- identify gaps in existing normative frameworks and recommendations for filling them;
- strengthen links among key institutions and actors, particularly across a spectrum



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- of policymakers, civil society, and frontline practitioners, and;
- generate the emergence of expert networks to take forward actions and proposals in specific areas.

The Wilton Park/IHRB meeting will result in a public report with recommendations that can be shared at COP27, and which will provide the basis for greater alignment around the implementation of just transition strategies, in particular, towards greater clarity and quality-control for governments and businesses and their accountability to workers, communities, and consumers.

Participation and Format

The dialogue will be composed of senior level participation from 55 experts, policy makers, and practitioners drawn from key transition countries, international organisations, trade unions, civil society, businesses across major emissions sectors, and finance.

The Agenda has been structured to maximise interactivity and dialogue. Listed speakers will share brief and targeted remarks in order to initiate wider table discussion during each session.

The residential location of Wilton Park allows for deep and meaningful discussion over a three-day period. The Wilton Park Protocol will be maintained throughout the meeting to enable open and frank exchange. Notes will be taken and a public meeting report prepared summarising key discussion points.

Sky Media Partnership

In parallel to the main event, IHRB and Wilton Park are partnering with Sky to undertake a series of filmed interviews with interested participants of the dialogue. These would be filmed in a separate room during the breaks between sessions on 6th October, covering a diversity of just transitions topics. Some of the footage will be used both by Sky as part of their own COP27 and COP15 coverage and storytelling, as well as by IHRB and Wilton Park as part of post-event communications and amplification of the dialogue's key messages.

There is no requirement or expectation to participate, but interested participants should express their interest to Haley St. Dennis for further information and scheduling (haley.st.dennis@ihrb.org)

In partnership with the Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)

**With support from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs,
Ford Foundation, and Laudes Foundation**

Wednesday 5 October

1500-1545

Participants arrive. Tea and coffee on arrival

1545-1600

Welcome and introductions

Julia Purcell

Programme Director, Wilton Park

1600-1715

1. Maintaining Urgency: Competing and Connected Global Challenges

The interrelated climate, ecological, inequality, and security crises raise fundamental questions about sustainability, governance, geopolitics, and technology. Since COP26, the ongoing impacts of the COVID19 pandemic have been dramatically aggravated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, creating acute energy, food, and inflationary pressures globally, and changing the nature of the climate action conversation in ways unthinkable just months earlier. Vulnerability is becoming more widespread and systemic, and the inequitable distribution of climate costs amongst different countries and regions is exacerbating divides in international cooperation. Hard-fought commitments to phase down reliance on coal are being reversed as disruptions to global supply chains continue, in part because of growing geopolitical divides, and expanding resource demands.

Governments and major emitting industries have less than three years left to halt the growth of emissions and clarify what policy designs are most appropriate to scale the economic, industrial, technological, and governance reforms required. Long-standing deficits in interest, budgets, programming, and imagination cannot continue. How influential actors respond will have a massive impact not only on the climate and environment but also the health and dignity of much of the world's population. This session will explore these competing and connected global challenges, setting the stage for the rest of the event's deep dives into specific thematic and sectoral imperatives.

Key questions:

- How will the climate crisis and international responses to it change the prospects for multilateralism writ large? Are new international governance institutions or mechanisms required to correspond to the challenges at hand?
- If just transitions processes are fundamentally place-based and context-specific, how can accountability, comparability, and quality control be most effectively realised?
- Climate shocks and the demands of the energy transition are fueling polarisation and populism in many countries around the world. What methods can be used to combat attacks by those who may seek to co-opt the just transitions concept to slow climate action?
- How can the challenges of green washing and "trendiness" of the just transitions concept be effectively addressed, to ensure accountability for net-zero and other climate commitments?
- What should be done to prepare for the scenario of not meeting the international community's collective transition deadlines?

Session Moderator:

Julia Purcell

Programme Director, Wilton Park

John Morrison

Chief Executive Officer, Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)

Margot Wallström

Former Vice President of the European Commission, EU Environment Commissioner and Foreign Minister of Sweden; Chair, IHRB

Xavier García Casals

Energy Transition Senior Expert, Policy Unit, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Amr Essam

Senior Advisor, COP27 Presidency Team (Egypt)

1715-1745

Tea/coffee

1745-1915

2. Equity Models: Learning from Communities on the Front Lines of Transitions

Trade unions and the green jobs movement have pioneered the concept of just transitions for the last several decades, developing international guidelines that have advanced policy and practice significantly in recent years. While those leading these efforts have been clear that workers are central within the just transitions agenda, they also recognise the importance of addressing both risks and opportunities for communities. Indigenous peoples, marginalised communities, and afro-descendant groups with customary land rights, face many risks as well as opportunities across the economic, industrial, and technological transitions to come. In the rush to meet Paris climate targets, land and ocean grabs for renewable energy and inadequate or non-existent consultation with locally affected stakeholders are on the rise. Impacts of increased demand for raw materials are already negatively impacting local communities. Lessons learned from the past 30 years in the extractive sector are not being heeded in many places.

And yet, there is also huge potential for increased energy security and long-term revenue streams for marginalised host communities where community equity and benefit-sharing models are properly embedded and where traditional knowledge is an integral part of any project planning and risk assessment. Companies are expected to assess the risks that their activities pose to all potentially affected stakeholders and take appropriate action to prevent, mitigate, and remediate adverse impacts. This session will explore some of the emerging approaches being advocated by community and indigenous leaders across diverse local contexts, as a complement to the subsequent session focusing on the deep work of the union and labour movement to operationalise the ILO Just Transition Guidelines since 2015.

Key questions:

- Women, indigenous leaders, and young people regularly rebuff common climate policy framing that refers to them as “vulnerable groups”. They emphasise instead the fact that they are agents of change. How can narratives within business and government on climate action evolve to more meaningfully embrace these groups’ unique knowledge and skills in identifying and implementing solutions?
- What emerging approaches, particularly concerning community equity and benefit models, are developing to reflect the contexts and specific rights of different community groups within just transitions strategies, and the growth of the renewables economy?
- What steps are required to embed international standards on indigenous peoples’ rights (UNDRIP and FPIC) in the context of climate action? To what extent are FPIC models transferrable to different transition scenarios involving other communities?
- Should special protections be placed on the roles of environmental and human rights defenders in ongoing transition processes?

Session Moderator:**Deanna Kemp**

Director of the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, The University of Queensland

Galina Angarova
Executive Director, Cultural Survival

Nnimmo Bassey
HOMEF (Nigeria)

Phil Bloomer
Executive Director, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

1915

Reception followed by dinner

Thursday 6 October

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1000

3. Good Jobs: Pioneering Just Transitions for Workers Worldwide

Trade unions have pioneered the concept of just transitions for the last several decades, culminating in the 2015 ILO Just Transition Guidelines negotiated between experts representing 162 governments, employers and their associations, and unions. Designed to promote decent work on a large scale, the Guidelines provide a framework for managing transitions in ways that minimise impacts on affected workers, make the economy more inclusive, eradicate poverty, and promote social protection, including mechanisms for social dialogue among governments, workers, and employers' organisations throughout policy making processes at all levels.

The 2015 ILO Just Transition Guidelines are the central framework for just transitions policy-making by governments and social partners across industries. In this session, the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) will reflect on the recent history and rise of just transitions on the international agenda, as well as key union and labour priorities for COP 27, 28, and beyond.

Key questions:

- The ILO is planning a major just transitions discussion in 2023. How will that discussion feed into and inform the global just transitions agenda?
- The ILO Guidelines are not an official international "standard", though such a step is now being called for by some governments and employers. Standards development takes time. How is the union and labour movement balancing the importance of international quality-control against the little time remaining to bring climate mitigation in line with global targets?
- The ILO, ITUC, JTC, and partners have contributed enormously to thought leadership on just transitions. What key messages should inform and influence different audiences ahead of COP27?

Session Moderator:
John Morrison
CEO, Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)

Sharan Burrow
General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Moustapha Kamal Gueye
Global Coordinator, Green Jobs Programme, International Labour Organization (ILO)

1000-1045

Photograph and Tea/coffee

4. Just Transactions: Integrating Social Concerns in Climate Finance

At COP26, hundreds of investors, banks, pension funds, and other financial institutions committed to net-zero and formed industry initiatives such as the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) to harness the collective impact of over \$130 trillion in assets toward aggressive decarbonisation goals. While new climate finance efforts are laudable and ground-breaking, most firms don't have definitive plans for how they will achieve such objectives. Diverse transparency and disclosure frameworks from the likes of ISSB, TCFD, the US SEC, and others are under development, but the variety of rules presents its own challenge, with many financial institutions calling for greater alignment, consistency, and global coherence.

Within these developments, questions of justice and equity are often at best siloed but more often side-lined. Standards makers, including the UN Secretary General's own High-Level Expert Group (HLEG), are currently grappling with how to practically and effectively incorporate just transitions considerations within net-zero scrutiny. This session will explore the challenge of effectively integrating environmental and social considerations within climate finance actions, and the risks of not doing so. It will identify promising examples and opportunities for deeper collaboration on integrated approaches.

Key questions:

- What specific approaches have been most effective so far in mobilising finance at scale to deliver on decarbonisation targets in tandem with human rights and social development imperatives?
- How can the logjam of transparency and reporting requirements be unblocked to better leverage the power of financial institutions to drive just transitions investments across the board, particularly in nations needing capital to overcome energy access barriers?
- Given the critical role of banks, investors, pension funds, and other financial actors in securing just transitions, where should governments and regulators prioritise policy direction and action to influence the practices these actors should follow?
- With the profusion of voluntary industry-led initiatives such as the Climate Action 100+, Just Transition Finance Challenge and forthcoming "label", and the Just Transition Engagement Initiative, amongst others, what shared standards if any are needed to better govern the baseline expectations of financial institutions' social responsibilities as part of the net-zero transition?
- What is needed to drive financial institutions to invest in long-term regional just transitions strategies, given challenges concerning time horizons, defining concrete interventions, and measuring impact?

Session Moderator:

Nick Robins

Professor in Practice for Sustainable Finance, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, LSE

Isabel Blanco

Lead Economist for the Green Economy, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Karl-Oskar Olming

Head of Sustainability Strategy and Policy, SEB Group

Lois Guthrie

Senior Technical Advisor, International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB)

5. Energy Systems: Learning from Emerging Just Transitions Models

The energy sector has been the primary focus of multilateral efforts to develop just transitions strategies in specific countries. High-level “just transition partnerships” (JTP’s) in South Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam, and other key coal-dependent countries are beginning to take shape as the models of choice for national approaches to phasing down and “transitioning-out” of carbon intensive industries. These partnerships offer transformational potential for these countries as well as numerous lessons for the development of shared principles to execute just transition strategies in practice on the ground. And yet, it is clear that not every country in the world will be a beneficiary of this JTP approach, nor is full global coverage of such a model feasible or even desirable given varying national energy and development needs.

Advancing in parallel with “transitions-out” of carbon intensive industries are multiple “transitions-in”, as can be seen in the explosive growth of the renewables industry despite supply chain and market constraints. Leaders in wind, solar, and other renewables industries are much newer to navigating their social and human rights risks and opportunities, even as demand for transition minerals to feed these technologies is expanding mining activities exponentially around the world. This session will explore social considerations across transitions-out of coal in the South African and Colombian contexts in particular, and transitions-in to wind across a diversity of contexts. The aim is to better understand the state of play in current approaches, their potential for offering scalable lessons in delivering equity and justice outcomes, and how momentum for just transitions can be further advanced in the face of significant geopolitical shifts in energy demand.

Key questions:

- The level of collective action required to achieve just transitions is unprecedented, but single-country JTP models will not work everywhere. What complementary models exist or should be developed to scale just energy transitions globally, particularly in the short-term?
- What models are providing the best responses to transition-out contexts where new livelihood strategies are not equivalent to or co-located with the jobs being phased down/out?
- How can the renewables industry be more effectively catalysed to prioritise human rights and social responsibilities throughout the value chain, to prevent duplication of extractive models, which too often externalise social impacts?
- How do we reconcile legitimate development aspirations in countries reliant on continued use of “cleaner” energies such as gas with the urgency of curbing greenhouse gas emissions to confront the climate crisis?
- As energy and other industry transitions begin to move from planning to implementation on the ground, how can we best build in grievance handling systems to proactively manage local tensions and impacts?

Session Moderator:

Seema Joshi

Independent Expert

Sikhulekile (Khule) Duma

International & Sustainability Relations Principal, Anglo-American plc (South Africa)

Luis Fernando de Angulo

Executive Director, CREER (Colombia)

Ben Backwell

CEO, Global Wind Energy Council

6. Food Systems: Elevating Agriculture and Food Production within Climate Leadership

The global food system – agriculture and food production collectively – accounts for some one-third of global emissions and has far-reaching impacts on biodiversity, climate, nutrition, and livelihoods. Despite global food production exceeding global demand, food insecurity has hit crisis levels with nearly 250 million people on the brink of famine and 1.6 billion people food-insecure, and these numbers are only set to grow.

Decarbonisation of agriculture will impact farmers, workers, communities and consumers, the same groups already feeling the impacts of climate shocks and highly vulnerable to further changes.

Despite having altered our planet more than any other human activity, the food system is inexplicably overlooked and under-explored in global climate policy discussions, not least at COP26. Given the lack of momentum in decarbonising agriculture and food production, questions of just transitions and “agroecological” (socio-environmental) transformations lag even further behind in global, regional, and national policy responses. This session will interrogate this state of play along with examinations of promising approaches at local, national, and regional levels to tackle the interconnected crises of agricultural emissions, livelihoods, and food insecurity. The session will identify gaps and opportunities for collaboration that can contribute to catalysing this critical system’s social and environmental transformation.

Key questions:

- Some of the most effective agroecological transformations have been implemented through organisation amongst farmers and labourers. Given the seasonal and transient nature of agricultural labour, how can the sector’s net-zero transition be engineered to overcome challenges of participation in unionisation and unlock greater global momentum of practices?
- What methods are big food businesses, global trading and shipping companies, wholesalers, and retailers using to address, not exacerbate, inequalities while decarbonising their specific agricultural activities?
- How can more effective incentives/disincentives be put in place to reengineer supply networks towards more regional and local levels to lower emissions and increase resilience to climate and conflict shocks?
- What have been the most effective policies of governments and financial institutions for enabling regenerative practices that prioritise small-holders and SMEs? How can social safety nets (such as fair price income assurance) be more effectively devised and implemented, given limited takeup in many countries.
- The global biodiversity crisis is intrinsically linked to the climate crisis, yet discussions around decarbonisation and just transitions do not focus often enough on the socio-economic implications of biodiversity collapse. Where should governments, agribusiness, and food producers be paying more attention to biodiversity protection linked to food security and livelihoods?

Session Moderator:

Haley St. Dennis

Head of Just Transitions Programme, Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)

Ishmael Sunga

CEO, The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)

Cleo Verkuil

Scientist, Stockholm Environment Institute

Yann Wyss

Global Lead, Social Impact; Public Affairs & ESG Engagement, Nestlé S.A.

1800-2000

Reception followed by dinner

2000-2100

Fireside Chat: Just Nature Transitions

An after-dinner fireside conversation on emerging company approaches to supporting just transitions through nature and biodiversity investments that respect human rights and empower communities.

Moderator: Frances House

Senior Advisor, Institute for Human Rights and Business

Fiona Ball

Group Bigger Picture and Sustainability Director, Sky

Ed Ikin

Director of Wakehurst, Royal Botanical Gardens Kew

NB: Session will be filmed for Sky and IHRB communications

Friday 7 October

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0915-1045

7. Beyond Mitigation: Integrating Justice and Equity into Adaptation and Resilience

Around the world, temperatures and sea levels are rising, rainfall patterns are more variable, and extreme weather events more frequent. Limited adaptive capacity makes populations more vulnerable to climate change impacts. Building resilience is imperative to meet sustainable development goals, yet this is a lesser-explored area of the just transitions agenda.

Developing countries' industrial conditions are starkly different from those that developed countries historically benefitted from. This requires rethinking climate and development not as distinct, parallel agendas but instead as integrally linked in unlocking transformation. Energy access deficits combined with geopolitically unstable fossil fuel provision means many countries will have to find ways to jump straight to renewable economies. Just transitions experience to date underscores the importance of having the capacities to adapt, but access to education needed to make such adaptation possible lags behind and gaps continue to grow. In this session, discussions will focus on the state of play in rethinking the development paradigm and approaches being advanced across major regions, as well as how the just transitions agenda can enhance adaptation and resilience efforts globally.

Key questions:

- How can investments in climate adaptation and resilience best unlock new industries and revenue with a view to scaling good jobs, skills, and standards of living?
- How can technological innovations be harnessed to embed just, equitable, and people-centred outcomes in the research and development of climate solutions?
- What new definitions or metrics are required to better link climate and development pathways, in particular elevating the importance of economic, social, and cultural rights in ensuring peoples' wellbeing?

Session Moderator:

Julia Batho

Deputy CEO, Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)

Chandra Bhuschun

CEO, iFOREST

Jim Skea

Chair, Scottish Just Transition Commission

Tariq Al Olaimy

Co-founder & Managing Director, 3BL & Associates

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1130

8. Evaluation survey

Completion of online evaluation survey

1130-1245

9. Two Years: Stakeholders' Imperatives for COP 27 and 28

As the climate crisis continues, each annual climate COP will become more vital than the last. COP27 in Egypt and COP28 in the UAE, as well as the Saudi-led Middle East Green Initiative, provide important platforms for stronger cross-regional coordination and international partnerships to advance just transitions strategies.

This final session will attempt to draw together the key takeaways from the discussions over the previous three days.

Key questions:

- What are the essential priorities for COP27 to deliver an internationally agreed climate package in line with just transitions imperatives?
- In what ways do just transitions conversations need to be shaped in the time ahead to better reflect specific characteristics of countries and regions?
- How can the range of initiatives currently underway and in development best be structured and coordinated during the remaining months of 2022 and in the run up to COP28 in 2023?
- How are and can businesses, partnering with investors, cities, and regions, accelerate action to address current and growing climate losses and damages?

Session Moderator:**Julia Purcell**

Programme Director, Wilton Park

Anthony Bebbington

International Program Director, Natural Resources and Climate Change, Ford Foundation

Rémy Friedmann

Senior Adviser, Business and Human Rights, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Government of Switzerland

Amol Mehra

Director of Industry Transformation, Laudes Foundation

Haley St. Dennis

Head of Just Transitions Programme, Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

Enquiries about participation to: Gemma Funnell, Project Manager
T: +44 (0) 7388 994647 | E: gemma.funnell@wiltonpark.org.uk

Enquiries about the programme to: Julia Purcell, Programme Director
T: +44 (0)1903 817 699 | E: Julia.Purcell@wiltonpark.org.uk