

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**Green Economy after Rio+20 – Progress and Prospects
Inaugural PAGE Global Conference**

March 4 - Thematic Breakout Session 14:30 – 16:00

Session 2a: Green Jobs

How can green economy approaches lead to more and better jobs?

Organiser: ILO

1. Background

In a context of global employment crisis, with unemployment standing at close to 200 million people (74 million youth) in 2012, and nearly 400 million workers remaining in what the ILO defines as working poverty (workers earning less than USD2/day) governments around the world are searching for ways to stimulate job creation and to improve the quality of existing jobs. Against this backdrop, the Rio+20 Outcome Document “The Future We Want”, devoted a full section on promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all, and social protection. It encouraged each country to consider the implementation of green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in a manner that endeavours to drive sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and job creation, particularly for women, youth and the poor.

Global research and practical experiences from a range of countries provide growing evidence that greening economies could be a means to create more and better jobs in sectors and activities that reduce energy and material consumption; minimize waste and pollution; limit greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impact; or protect and restore ecosystems – in other words, green and decent jobs.

However, understanding the labour market dynamics is critical in terms of the shifts in the volume, composition and quality of employment across sectors; the levels and distribution of income; and how to ensure that jobs created are green and decent are important policy issues. Addressing these issues and challenges is fundamental for a green economy to really hold promises of a new and more inclusive path of growth and development leading to jobs, and income, particularly for the vulnerable and marginalized groups.

2. Session Theme and Objectives

The overall theme/question addressed by the session is “How can green economy approaches lead to more and better jobs”? Drawing from interaction among panelists and participants, the session has the following objectives:

- Share state-of-the art knowledge, good practices, and identify front runners
- Identify key action, actors and institutions to harness new opportunities
- Explore measures for scaling up learning and knowledge sharing

In addressing the overall theme and objectives, the session is guided by the following questions:

1. What is the evidence that greener economies create more and better jobs, what good practices exist and what are experiences from developed and developing countries?
2. Which are the key actors, institutions and policy options and approaches and means of action required (e.g. skills and human capacity development, entrepreneurship, investments, social dialogue, social protection policies, development cooperation)?
3. How can government and social partner build on lessons learned to scale up learning, knowledge and experience sharing?

3. Methodology and Structure

The Session lasts for 90 minutes. During the first 45 minutes, following a brief introduction by the Co-chairs, a moderated and interactive panel discussion will take place which is introduced by two 5 minutes “setting-the-scene” statements/short presentations. Following the presentations, 3 other panellists will express their perspective on the issue and/or provide discussant comments. The moderated discussion then proceeds to address specific questions.

During the remaining 45 min, the moderator will extract and open for discussion what he/she has heard on the three themes/objectives of the session. At the end, the co-moderators/co-chairs will summarize relevant discussions and suggest 2-3 key take home messages/recommendations emerging from the Session.

4. Agenda, Moderators and Speakers/Panellists

Co-Chairs Introduction: (3 max each)

- Nancy Teresa Victoria Laos Cáceres, Minister of Labour and Employment Promotion of Peru
- Peter Poschen, Director, Enterprises Department, ILO

Introductory Statements: (5 minutes each)

- Osman Mahomed, Executive Chairman of Maurice Ile Durable Commission, Mauritius
- Alfonso Navarrete Prida, Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare, Mexico

Panelists:

- Nompumelelo Barbara Mnconywa, Head, Labour Activation Program, Department of Labour, South Africa
- Mika Vehnämäki, Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
- Steve Bass, Head, Sustainable Markets Group, International Institute for Environment and Development co-founder of Green Economy Coalition