

Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 6) 26 February – 1 March 2024

Statement by the International Labour Office

Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Director, Priority Action Programme on Just Transitions

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The impact of climate and environmental change is undermining prospects for growth, poverty reduction, job creation and social justice.

Uncontrolled global warming, and the related heat stress, will lead to the loss of 2 percent of working time globally by 2030. That's the equivalent of 80 million full time jobs.

However, tackling the global environmental crisis is not just about numbers and targets.

This ambition is fundamentally about human capacity.

About workers with the right skills to transform our food, energy and transport systems.

About enterprises with the capacity to innovate, invest, and develop new business models that give us environmentally sustainable goods and services.

And about communities who transform and diversify their economies.

This is why the world of work is a key actor and driver of change towards sustainability.

What's more, tackling the global environmental crisis is not a jobs killer.

Rather, tens of millions of new, green, jobs can be created if we adopt the right policies and measures.

For instance, implementation of the Paris Agreement could generate 24 million jobs by 2030.

The ILO estimates that a shift to circular economies could create 78 million jobs.

However, we also know that, without the right, well-coordinated policies, millions of jobs could be displaced.

This is why a transition that is also just is imperative.

In June 2023, the International Labour Conference endorsed the *ILO Guidelines for a Just Transition Towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All*.

These Guidelines provide a solid framework to design and implement comprehensive policies that can... promote inclusive, sustainable and job-rich economies, finance a just transition, support social dialogue so that it forges social consensus and, advance social justice.

However, to be effective we need a multilateral approach.

That's why the ILO has launched the Global Coalition for Social Justice. The Coalition seeks to build a future with social justice for all, and to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I hope you will join us in this work. Together we have the chance to create a sustainable world, with decent work and social justice for all.

Thank you.