

Concept and practices of Just Transition

JUST TRANSITION with climate ambition

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Compelling necessity: Revision of growth model

Just transition is the (only) way to make the **fundamental revision** of our energy and resource depleting **growth model become reality** and reach net-zero carbon economy by 2050

Four transformations shape the **future of work**:

- **Decarbonisation**
- Technological change
- Demographic change
- Globalisation



HUGE emissions gap after COP21; IPCC report (2018) – only a **max 1.5 C warming is manageable**

So, the clock is ticking...and this is more and more recognised

Just transition: – wrap up - NOT `Just another transition`

JT is about **`just burden sharing`**, with different dimensions:

- Addressing climate and environmental justice (global North <> global South, historical + inter-generational)
- Dealing with distributional effects of climate policies (FiT, carbon price, ETS design during the transition),
- **+ managing job transitions (More than a `fancy funeral`)**
- **regional restructuring (industrial policy, regional development)**
- **decent work and inclusive society in a zero-carbon world**

Outcome: decent jobs (ILO) in a zero carbon inclusive society: traditional jobs - good organised jobs; new green jobs often precarious;

Process: getting there, how job transitions are managed (nobody left behind, just burden sharing, managing social impacts), revitalise local economy – social dialogue at all levels

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Dimensions of inequality in the climate change context

With a fundamental revision of the economic model JT to a zero carbon world works only if it also contributes to repair entrenched inequalities of the past – TRUST is vital that you are not losing on change

There is no genuine trade-off between green-labour and social dimensions – still, during the transition these may appear

Many questions arise, inequality has a lot of cross-cutting dimensions, (e.g. housing, mobility, energy)

Is China that has still lower per capita emissions than EU (and less than half of US) `allowed` to catch-up? Sure it cannot repeat Western consumption models..

India, Indonesia, Africa??

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The concept of `Just transition`: an early trade union demand, now mainstream

- UNEP, ILO, CEDEFOP, OECD, UNFCCC, COP21 – by now, `just transition` became a **mainstream** narrative
- Make sure it does not become an empty phrase – fill with content, concrete policies and practices
- The concept of JT **is multi-faceted**, has different dimensions and contexts, also theoretical backgrounds – **cross-cutting each other**
- **Must be implemented in form of concrete strategies and actions that are matched to concrete economic, social and institutional context that differs by country, region and economic branch**
- There is no silver bullet of just transition, but some common principles established (the 2015 ILO Guidelines make a useful contribution)

- Green transition should not create new inequalities, but should contribute to more equal societies (in line with SDG-s)
- **Political context:** co-operative or confrontational
- In countries with deep and entrenched inequality the `JT concept` is seen as too soft, consensual and co-operative approach, they question market based decarbonisation and claim that `JT` for a zero carbon economy cannot be reached under capitalism, based on profit principle and private ownership
- Lesson: JT also needs to consider these factors

Role of governments in JT

- Governments in charge of energy policy – infrastructure – networks – public investments – roadmap + employment policy framework to facilitate job transitions – comprehensive and **coherent policy framework needed**
- What responsibility do private and state owned energy firms have vis-à-vis employees at downsizing, restructuring and closure?
- What burden sharing, financing (JT fund)
- Social dialogue, social plans, employment transitions, training
- Differences by economic branch are also substantial:
 - A JT strategy for the energy sector (e.g phasing out coal) needs different approaches than e.g. in the automobile sector
 - Decarbonisation (in sectors) has different interlinkages to other megatrends (as e.g. digitalization /auto/, demography /mining/)
 - Not to speak about agriculture, land use

Trade union role

focus not just on core workers (members), but on all –

Status quo is no solution, change is inevitable:

managing change in an advance looking way

Time horizon is crucial: short term vs long term interest
(jobs of here and now vs future jobs)

Transition time is also important in order to get prepared

New innovative organisation strategies

The case of environmental justice becomes a catalyst of
decarbonisation (US, CDN), in EU with delay (Diesel..)

Coalition building: trade unions and environmental justice
groups (blue-green alliances) – more developed in North
America, in the EU not yet an established practice