



► Just Transition in the Textile and Garment Sector in China

International Summit and Capacity Building Workshop on Green Development and Responsible Transformation of Sustainable Fashion Industry

17 November 2022, 14:00 – 16:30 (Beijing time) 07:00-09:30 (CET),

Humen Township, Dongguan City, Guangdong Province, China

Concept note

▶ **Background**

The COVID-19 pandemic caused immense social and economic consequences for businesses and workers of the global textile and garment sector. There is still much uncertainty about the huge impact of the pandemic. At the same time, the on-going crisis provides an opportunity to rethink the social and environmental weaknesses of the current supply chain model, and step up efforts to restructure the sector in a way that gives greater value to the interdependence between social, environmental, technological and economic conditions and accelerates economic and industrial recovery and transformation.

The process of 'Just Transition' – achieving sustainability transitions in a way that is 'just' to the enterprises, workers and communities involved, ensuring that no one is left behind, is a highly relevant framework and provides a useful guide for structuring discussions, actions and investments in the sustainable recovery and green transition process.

The ILO [Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all](#) came at a timely moment in 2015 just before the Paris Climate Change Conference to provide a policy framework and practical tool to help countries at all levels of development manage the transition to low-carbon economies and achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The guidelines are designed to promote decent work on a large scale and ensure that social protection exists where needed. The guidelines also include mechanisms for social dialogue among governments, workers and employers' organizations throughout policy making processes at all levels. The UN's [Climate Action for Jobs Initiative \(CA4JI\)](#), launched in 2019 and spearheaded by the ILO, builds on the Just Transition Guidelines and help countries facilitate the transition to inclusive low carbon economies by providing technical guidance and support.

The ILO is working with national partners to apply these guidelines, including through a sectoral approach for green recovery and green development of the textile and garment industry across Asia.

In partnership with the ILO-SIDA project [Decent Work in Garment Supply Chains Asia \(DWGSCA\)](#) and the UN joint Programme on [Partnership for Action on Green Economy \(PAGE\)](#), a series of discussion on Just Transition in the Textile & Garment Sector in Asia are in progress. These discussions adopt a bottom-up approach, building from a country-level focus, while providing inputs into regional dialogues and forums, as well as contributing to global discussions (COP 26, CA4JI, Fashion Charter, Sustainable Fashion Alliance). The [first dialogue](#) was held in November 2020 in China, co-hosted by ILO and China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC).



To further facilitate the application of the Just Transition guidelines, the ILO has developed a [Toolkit for the Textile and Garment Supply Chain in Asia](#). The Toolkit consists of reports, briefs, highlights, videos and infographics to showcase: best practice of environmental regulation and policy settings; eco-innovation processes and barriers to uptake; multi-stakeholder initiatives; and just transition in the sector.

Building on the on-going collaboration, in partnership with the ILO-SIDA DWGSCA project and [PAGE China](#), the ILO is working with CNTAC and Humen Township Government to organize an International Summit and Capacity Building Workshop on Green Development and Responsible Transformation of the Sustainable Fashion Industry on 17 November 2022 in Humen Township, Dongguan City, Guangdong Province, China. The workshop will be held in a hybrid format with participants joining both online and on site.

Objectives of the workshop

The workshop aims to:

- raise awareness and build capacity of national partners on Green Jobs and Just Transition at national, local, sectoral and enterprise level;
- provide an opportunity for international knowledge sharing and exchange on Green Jobs and Just Transition promotion in the textile and garment sector;
- explore cooperation possibilities to promote Green Jobs and Just Transition in the textile and garment sector in Asia;
- create new content for sharing of good practices and solutions across the Asia region and beyond.

Event modality

Date & Time:	17 November 2022, 14:00 – 16:30 (Beijing time) 07:00-09:30 (CET)
Venue (in-person attendance):	Hotel Mels Weldon Dongguan Humen (Meeting Room: Asia Hall) http://yulvhotel.com/hotel-781.aspx
Zoom registration:	https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YYHOwK-0QQO6Aqa-YMwKGg
Working language:	English/Chinese
Interpretation/translation:	Simultaneous interpretation will be made available during the workshop.

Participants

The summit and capacity building workshop will gather participants from

- ✓ government, industrial associations, enterprises, workers' organizations, and academia working in textile and garment sector and in areas related to a Just Transition toward an inclusive green economy; and
- ✓ ILO and PAGE partner agencies working on the project and related areas.

► Draft agenda

MC: *Mr QIAN Chengchen*, PAGE China National Coordinator

Time (Beijing)	Activities
14:00 – 14:30	<p>Welcome and opening</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Ms YAN Yan</i>, Director of Office for Social Responsibility, China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local government welcoming remarks (7 mins) - <i>Ms CAO Xuejun</i>, First Level Inspector of the Consumer Products Industry Department, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) (7 mins) - <i>Mr SUN Ruizhe</i>, President of China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) (7 mins) - <i>Dr LEE Chang-Hee</i>, Director of ILO Country Office for China and Mongolia (7 mins)
14:30-15:20	<p>Session I: Just transition in the Textile and Garment Sector (TAGS)</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Mr Eric Roeder</i>, Technical Specialist on Green Jobs, Climate Action and Resilience through Just Transition - Asia Pacific Region</p> <p>A Just Transition for the garment industry will be part of a critical decade of action for achieving the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, both of which will also alter the future of work in the sector. Just Transition planning actively brings employment and job creation goals into the structuring of actions and investments for a sustainable textile and garment sector. The dominant historical patterns and models of development have been carbon-intensive, and have included environmental degradation and failures in many other areas such as decent work and gender equality. There is a need to create new development pathways that are net zero carbon, environmentally restorative and socially inclusive.</p> <p><i>What is your organization's approach in promoting a Just Transition of the textile and garment sector, in particular in the context of a green recovery and industrial upgrading toward increased economic, social and environmental sustainability?</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon neutralization and Just Transition in Asia Pacific – ILO Just Transition Guidelines and its application: <i>Dr Cristina Martinez</i>, Senior Specialist Environment & Decent Work, Asia-Pacific Coordinator Green Jobs & Just Transition (15 mins) • Introduction of ILO Just Transition Toolkit for the Textile and Garment Sector in Asia: <i>Dr Samantha Sharpe</i>, Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Future (ISF)/University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Convenor of the Textile Eco-innovation Research Network Asia (TERN) (15 mins) • The role of social dialogue in promoting a Just Transition, <i>Mr Youngmo Yoon</i>, Senior Specialist Social Dialogue & Industrial Relations, ILO (15 mins) <p>Commentator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr WANG Dong</i>, Programme Director of SDG Localization, UNDP in China (5 mins)
15:20-16:10	<p>Session II – Local and enterprise level policies and practices on promoting Just Transition in Textile and Garment Sector (TAGS)</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Dr LIANG Xiaohui</i>, Chief Researcher Social Responsibility, China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC)</p>

	<p>The Just Transition planning processes identifies the workers, enterprises and communities that will be impacted. Carbon emissions are not distributed equally across the supply chain, with emissions concentrating in specific production activities in certain hot-spots – areas that are both highly reliant on the textile and garment sector, but also highly vulnerable to supply chain disruptions and impacts on the sector. This creates a strong spatial dimension to the need for Just Transition planning: hot spots in local areas can be turned into opportunities for accelerated action by government, enterprises, workers and community.</p> <p><i>What are the local and enterprise level policies and practices on promoting Just Transition in Textile and Garment Sector as demonstrated by Humen? What are the international best practices?</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humen enterprise representative share the experience and practice of green development and responsible transformation (15 mins) • Ms Youngran Hur, Programme Management Officer, Global Opportunities for Sustainable Development Goals (GO4SDGs), UNEP (15 mins) • Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), Dr TANG Di, Senior Policy Analyst (15 mins) <p>Commentator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Abu Saieed, Green Industry Expert, UNIDO (5 mins)
16:10-16:30	<p>Closing and next-steps</p> <p>Moderator: Mr QIAN Chengchen, PAGE China National Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Cristina Martinez, Senior Specialist Environment & Decent Work, Asia-Pacific Coordinator Green Jobs & Just Transition, ILO - Mr CHEN Dapeng, Vice President, China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC)

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