



EMG Nexus Dialogues on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) – A vehicle to address the triple planetary crisis and to promote a sustainable economic and social transformation

Paving the way towards a UN Alliance for SDG12

1st Nexus Series: Digitalisation for Circular Economy and Green Jobs for Youth

Draft Agenda 17th May 2023, 13:30 -17:00 CET

International Labour Organization (ILO), Rte des Morillons 4, 1211 in Geneva, Room VII R2 Online link: (https://ilo-org.zoom.us/s/96215889544)

The United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) in its capacity has promoted programmatic collaboration and advanced the implementation of environmental activities through system-wide engagement of UN entities.

It is therefore pleased to co-organize with UNEP, and the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) Secretariat three nexus dialogues reflecting "how sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is a key vehicle to address the triple planetary crisis and to promote a sustainable economic and social transformation in the post-COVID context", especially focusing on high-impact systems and value chains. These nexus dialogues will also seek ways for UN agencies to join forces to accelerate the implementation of SCP/SDG12, and will pave the way towards the setting up of a "UN Alliance for SDG12"- which will be enhance and strengthen inter-agency partnerships and initiatives to achieve the SDG12. See <u>concept note</u> on the series of nexus dialogues on SCP

The first dialogue series will focus on **Digitalisation for Circular Economy and Green Jobs for Youth** as a critical pathway for a sustainable economic and social transformation, addressing the triple planetary crisis. It will be hosted by ILO and co-organised with the Partnership for Action on the Green Economy_(PAGE). The nexus dialogue will showcase existing inter-agency cooperation such as **PAGE**, the **Coalition for Digital Environment Sustainability (CODES)**, and the "Green Jobs for Youth Pact", as well as explore how to strengthen partnerships and scale up joint implementation.

Youth have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and youth labour markets are now being buffeted by the lingering impacts of the pandemic, geopolitical risks and macroeconomic risks such as the impact of supply chain disruptions and rising inflation, particularly that of food and energy. In particular, targeted investment in the green, blue (ocean), digital, creative and care economies hold great potential to provide decent jobs for young people while setting economies on path towards greater sustainability, inclusiveness and resilience.

Digital innovation comes with unprecedented opportunities to unleash major structural economic and social transformation for resource efficiency driving the change to new circular business models. Digital technologies and improved design can help reduce natural resources and other materials used in products by 90% - through efficiency, tracking and tracing, e-waste and energy

management. However, digital technologies also pose unprecedented challenges to equality, as evident by the growing digital divide.

Youth employment in the digital economy is characterized by the relatively high proportion of skilled workers with concomitant high levels of education. One significant challenge faced by young people nowadays is the lack of stability of the jobs available to them with clear attention to potential employment effects.

Thus, it is critical to direct the trajectory of digital transformation to accelerate the shift towards circularity and sustainable development. Including through the creation of new opportunities for green jobs for youth and nudging for behavioral changes towards more sustainable lifestyles.

The UN system is initiating efforts to harness a digital transformation through multi-stakeholder coalitions, while addressing inequalities and promoting decent and green employment that promotes new sustainable and prosperous economic models.

The **Coalition for Digital Environment Sustainability (CODES)** was launched in March 2021 in response to the UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. CODES' purpose is to advance digital sustainability – understood as the *design, development, deployment and regulation of digital technologies* to accelerate environmentally and socially sustainable development, while mitigating risks and unintended consequences. As a UN-led multi-stakeholder mechanism, CODES has been instrumental in advocating for and ensuring the integration of digital sustainability concepts in the UN Secretary General's Global Digital Compact process. The coalition is a collaboration between UNEP, UNDP, the International Science Council and the German Environment Agency, among others.¹

UNEP's One Planet Network and CODES are co-designing a new impact initiative on "**Digitalization for Circular Economy**", along with a 30+ multi-stakeholder expert group and in line with UNEP's Digital Transformation Strategy. The initiative aims to enhance business alliances, partnerships and networks to jointly leverage opportunities presented by innovation to incentivize and implement digitally enabled circular economy approaches along value chains, including through clear business models and standards for data sharing across high-impact sectors.

Moreover, **UNIDO** has since 2019 introduced a new approach to make the **Fourth Industrial Revolution** work for all, resting on four pillars: innovation, digital infrastructure, digital skills, and digital cooperation and partnerships. UNIDO is driving efforts towards mainstreaming a digital, gender-responsive, sustainable transformation and the upscaling of digital capabilities in developing countries.²

Furthermore, as a legacy initiative of the International Meeting of Stockholm+50 in June 2022, UNEP (GO4SDGs and YEA), ILO and UNICEF have joined forces to develop a 'Green Jobs for Youth Pact', launched at COP27.³ The Pact is working with member states, employers, worker's organizations and educators to tackle the youth and green jobs deficit based through three tracks on: Employment and entrepreneurship, Environmental education, Empowerment and youth partnerships to make the transition to a low-carbon, circular, just and nature positive economy.

The **Partnership for Action on the Green Economy_(PAGE**), brings together five UN Agencies - ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UUNIDO and UNITAR. PAGE, which is becoming an inter-agency model that delivers coordinated support of UN to countries for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets of the Paris Agreement. Therefore, it is an important inter-Agency vehicle that can support the delivery of UN-wide solutions that drive green jobs and digitalisation for circularity, allowing for an economic and social transformation across countries.

Hence, this session will present and discuss best practices that enable institutional environments and investments to prioritize, facilitate, urge and incentivize the use of digital technologies to accelerate the transition to circular economy and the creation

¹ Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability (CODES) (sparkblue.org)

² Digital transformation, innovation and industrial recovery | UNIDO

³ ILO, <u>https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_861228/lang--en/index.htm</u>

of green jobs for youth. In addition, it will showcase existing inter-Agency mechanisms such as CODES, PAGE and the Green Jobs for Youth Pact, as solutions from the UN system to harness a digital transformation for circularity.

Agenda

13:30-13:35 Introduction by Moderator of Session I

Welcoming words

Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Director Priority Action Programme, Just Transitions towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies, International Labour Organization (ILO)

13:35-13:40

Opening remarks

Hossein Fadaei, Head of the EMG Secretariat 13:40-13:45

Session I

Digitalisation as a driver for circular economy and new business models: our responsibility and opportunities 13:45-15:15 CEST

Moderator: Jorge Laguna Celis, Head of the One Planet Network

	Introduction by the Moderator The Moderator will shortly introduce the importance of harnessing digital technologies to accelerate the shift towards circularity –and why it is relevant to address the triple planetary crisis for a new economic and social transformation in the post-COVID context. The Moderator will introduce keynote topics, including the first presentation that showcases the new impact initiative on "Digitalisation for Circular Economy".
13:47-14:20	 Keynotes UNEP and CODES – Impact Initiative on Digitalisation for Circular Economy – enhancing digital transformation through Inter-agency and multi-stakeholder collaboration. (10min) Mr. David Jensen, CODES Co-Champion and UNEP Digital Transformation Subprogramme Coordinator (Confirmed, in person) UNIDO – Fourth Industrial Revolution and circularity – work for all, resting on four pillars: innovation, digital infrastructure, digital skills, and digital cooperation and partnerships. (7min) Mr. Marco Kamiya, UNIDO Chief of Digital Transformation and AI Strategies (Confirmed, virtually)
14:20-14:45	Panellist reactions and dialogue: Delivering as ONE UN - digitalisation for circular economy. Introduction by Moderator
14:25-14:50	 Dialogue on Digitalisation and Circular Economy Reyna Ubeda, ITU, Project Officer (Confirmed in person) Ms. Elisabeth Türk, UNECE Director of Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, (Confirmed in person) Reina Otsuka, UNDP Digital Innovation Lead for Nature, Climate Energy and CODES Co-Champion (Confirmed, virtually) Mette Grangaard Lund, ILO Technical Officer Green Jobs (Confirmed in person) Key questions:

	 ITU: What are the main challenges to truly have the digital revolution working in favor of sustainability and circularity in high-impact sectors, including ICT? UNECE: What opportunities are there to scale up circular economy transition with digitalization, do you have existing cases in the ECE region, and how can collaboration among UN Agencies help to strengthen these efforts? UNDP: What is UNDP doing in terms of Digital transformation especially in circular economy, what is your contribution to the Secretary General's "Roadmap for Digital Cooperation" and upcoming "Global Digital Compact"? ILO: What are the employment opportunities in the circular economy, and what is the role of SMEs in this transition? 	
14:45-15:00	Open dialogue and questions and answers	
15:00-15:15	Break	
Session II Upskilling and reskilling for green jobs in the age of digitalization and circularity 15:15-16:45 CEST		
Moderator: Steven Sto	one, Deputy Director, Industry and Economy Division, UNEP, and Chair of PAGE. (confirmed virtually)	
15:15-15:20	The Moderator will introduce the topic, providing an overview of the importance of a green economic and social transformation, especially by creating green jobs that unlock the potential for a digital and circular economy.	
15:20-15:45	The Moderator will introduce ILO speakers and keynote presentations: Keynotes ILO: • "Green jobs for youth in circularity and digitalisation", Speaker Susana Puerto Gonzalez, Senior Youth Employment Specialist • "Reskilling and upskilling needs and policy measures for the circular and digital transitions", Olga, Strietska-Ilina, Senior Skills and Employability Specialist, Team Area Lead Skills Strategies for Future Labour Markets	
15:45-16:20	Panellist reactions and dialogue on strengthening efforts to create Green Jobs for Youth	
	 Dialogue on Green Jobs PAGE: Asad Naqvi, Head of PAGE Secretariat, (<i>Confirmed in Person</i>) UNITAR: Ms. Amrei Horstbrink, Senior Specialist Climate Change and Green Development (<i>Confirmed in Person</i>) UNWOMEN: Bindu Bhandari, Climate Change Analyst, (<i>Confirmed virtually</i>) Office of The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Sudha Balakrishnan Head of the Youth 2030 Secretariat (<i>Confirmed virtually</i>) Key questions PAGE: What are the policies that PAGE is supporting to create new green jobs? 	

	 UNITAR: Which trainings is UNITAR offering for green jobs (green upskilling/reskilling) in sustainability and circularity, relevant to a social and economic transformation? UNWOMEN: How can we address the gender gap, and ensure that women can also access green jobs, leaving no one behind? Could you please explain inspiring examples of your work projects? Office of The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth: How are we leveraging UN's institutional capacity to build an enabling environment that will support youth to obtain future-fit skills and answer young people's call for a green and sustainable future? 	
16:20-16:45	Open dialogue and Questions and Answers	
Closing Remarks Working as ONE UN – towards a UN Alliance for SDG12 Jorge Laguna-Celis, Head of the One Planet Network		
16:45-17:00	 Working as ONE in a UN Alliance for SDG12 Reflections on promoting the relevance and co-benefits of circularity, and accelerate action on SDG12 across sectors (including digitalisation) Summarizing steps forward at intergovernmental processes Closing Remarks 	

17:00-17:10 Closing Remarks Ms Rie Vejs-Kjeldgaard, Director of the Sustainable Enterprises, Productivity and Just transition Department, ILO, Member of PAGE Management Board Group Photo and Networking Cocktail

17:10 -18:30

Annex BIOs of Speakers

Opening Remarks



Moustapha Kamal Gueye is the Director Priority Action Programme, Just Transitions towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies, of the International Labour Organization (ILO). He was previously Global Coordinator of the Green Jobs Programme. Prior to joining the ILO, he served as Head, Green Economy Advisory Services at the UN Environment Programme and Senior Programme Manager at the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development in Geneva. Earlier, he spent twelve years across Asia working at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in Japan. Kamal started his career working for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization on fisheries in West Africa. He serves in several boards and committees including the UNFCCC Katowice Committee of Experts; the OECD Steering Committee on low-carbon transition in

resource-rich developing countries, and the UNEP GEO for Business.



Hossein Fadaei is the Head of the UN Environment Management Group (UN EMG) in Geneva, Switzerland. He has an international relations degree and an intergovernmental environmental governance experience since the Rio Conference on the Environment and Development in 1992. He has coordinated global and regional initiatives on Environment and Security (ENV SEC), Environmental Rights, Nexus approach in SDGs, Green Economy, Biodiversity, Dry lands, E-Waste and Sand and Dust Storms. He has field field experiences in Africa, South-East Europe, Central Asia, and the Caspian Sea region.

First Session: Digitalisation as a driver for circular economy and new business models: our responsibility and opportunities

Keynote speakers



David Jensen is the coordinator of the Digital Transformation subrogramme at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In this capacity, he is responsible for helping to accelerate UNEP's work on climate stability, nature protection and pollution prevention using data and digital technologies. He is also currently serving as UNEP's focal point in the Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability (CODES) within the Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. He has been one of the key drivers behind the CODES Action Plan for a Sustainable Planet in the Digital Age. David has been advising the UN Science Policy Business Forum on digitalizing sustainability since 2018 and was the co-author of a discussion paper entitled The Case for a Digital Ecosystem for the Environment. Within the digital space, David has co-founded numerous digital platforms including

CODES, STRATA, MapX, Earthschool, AI for the Planet, the UN Biodiversity Lab, and the Environmental Peacebuilding Platform.



Marco Kamiya is Chief of the Innovation and Digitalization Division at UNIDO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. The Division works on frontier technologies, innovation ecosystems, and digital transformation. Marco Kamiya was the Coordinator of the Urban Economy and Finance Branch at UN-HABITAT. He has been a senior officer at CAF Development Bank for Latin America in Caracas, the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington DC, and senior economist of PADECO Co., Ltd., a development consulting firm in Tokyo.

Panellists:



Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk is the Director of the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD) at UNECE and leads the Division's work across its four Sections: Cooperation and Partnerships, Innovative Policies Development, Market Access and Trade Facilitation. Prior to that, Ms. Tuerk acted as Chief of the Section on International Investment Agreements (IIAs) in UNCTAD's Division on Investment and Enterprise (DIAE), where she led the Section's work across the three pillars of UNCTAD activities: research and analysis, capacity-building and consensus-building.



Mette Grangaard Lund is a Technical Officer, Green Jobs and Just Transition, ILO.

Mette works in Green Jobs Unit in the International Labour Organisation supporting constituents on topics of green jobs and just transition. In particular, she is covering work streams of private sector engagement, circular economy, and green jobs for youth. Before joining the ILO, she was working for a Danish employers' organisation on private sector development and job creation in more than 15 countries. Mette holds a master's degree in Business and Development Studies from Copenhagen Business School.



Reyna Ubeda is Project Officer at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). Reyna studied Industrial Engineering at the Thomas More University in Nicaragua and pursued a Master on International Management from the University for Economics and Environment Nürtingen-Geislingen in 2014. She joined the ITU's Standardization Bureau in 2015 and she currently serves as Project Officer for ITU-T Study Group 5 on EMF, environment, climate action, sustainable digitalization, and circular economy. Reyna is fluent in Spanish, English and German.



Reina Otsuka is UNDP's Digital Innovation Lead for Nature, Climate, and Energy, and serves as technical lead for the emerging digital portfolio across the climate change and environment practice. Prior to joining UNDP HQ, she served in the Rwanda Country Office as Environmental Specialist and acting Innovation Advisor for Africa region, designing and managing projects including digital technology applications for climate change adaptation and biodiversity finance policies. She comes with over 10 years of experience as an award-winning social entrepreneur on sustainable consumption and production, running a digital platform to support MSMEs on green business development.

Second Session: Upskilling and reskilling to create green jobs and decent workchallenges in the digital age



Steven Stone is the Deputy Director of UNEP's Industry and Economy Division. Steven joined UNEP in 2010, in the lead up to the Rio+20 Conference. While at UNEP, Steven has served as Chief of the Economics and Trade Branch, where he directed a team dedicated to furthering the knowledge base, outreach and support to countries on environmental and resource economics as key components of economic, trade and investment policy; and from 2017-2021 as Chief of the Resources and Markets Branch, which brought additional elements of sustainable consumption and production, life cycle analysis, and global flows of material resources via the International Resources Panel. Some of the key flagships he has helped to shape and incubate over time include the Green Economy Initiative, the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), the Green Growth Knowledge Partnership, and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy

(PAGE), which will be key for the delivery of the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy.Prior to joining UNEP, Steven worked at the Inter-American Development Bank, serving in a number of capacities from Resource Economist in Washington to Environmental Specialist in the Bank's offices in both Jamaica and Ecuador, to Country Representative in Honduras. Before joining IDB, Steven led field research in Brazil as part of the team at the Instituto do Homen e Meio Ambiente in Belem, Para State, for a number of years as part of his PhD. He has also worked at the World Bank on resource and agricultural economics with Uma Lele (an independent scholar and development economist), among others. Steven earned a MSc and PhD in Resource Economics from Cornell University, following his BA with Honors from Swarthmore College (USA). He has authored and co-authored numerous journal articles and blogs in the field of environmental and resource economics.

Keynote speakers



Susana Puerto is Senior Youth Employment Specialist, at the International Labour Organization dynamic leader at the International Labour Organization, spearheading the Youth Employment Accelerator. With a primary focus on advancing research and action on youth employment, she plays a crucial role in positioning the ILO at the forefront of global discussions, processes, and initiatives aimed at improving the quality and quantity of job opportunities for young people.

She coordinates the UN Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, an inclusive multistakeholder partnership chaired by the ILO to scale up action and impact on youth employment within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Her latest work revolves around the effectiveness of active labour market programmes for youth, identifying youth employment prospects in the green and digital economies, and

comprehending the far-reaching impact of various crises on young individuals. With over fifteen years of experience working in labour market issues, Susana has managed and contributed to multiple efforts boosting employability and job creation. Prior to joining the ILO, Susana worked at the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. She serves on a number of executive boards of youth employment partnerships. Susana is an economist from Georgetown University.



Olga Strietska-Ilina is an Area Lead for Skills Strategies for Future Labour Markets at the ILO, Geneva. Her work focuses on anticipating skills needs for the Future of Work, skills for trade and economic diversification, skills for environmental sustainability and climate action, and skills for technological change and digitalisation.

Olga worked at the European Centre for Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop). Earlier on, she was a Head of the Czech National Observatory of Employment and Training and taught International Relations at the Central European University (CEU).

Olga holds post-graduate degrees in Economic and Social Sciences from the University of Manchester, Society and Politics from the CEU, and History and Ethnography from the Moscow State University named after Lomonosov.

She published extensively and is the main author and/or (co-)editor of several books and reports, including "Changing demand for skills in digital economies and societies" (ILO, 2021), "The feasibility of using big data in anticipating and matching skills needs "(ILO, 2020), "Skills and jobs mismatches in low- and middle-income countries" (ILO, 2019), "Skills for a greener future" (ILO, 2019), "Skills needs anticipation systems and approaches" (ILO, OECD et al, 2017), "Parallel cultures" (Routledge, 2017 2nd edition) and "A clash of transitions: Towards a learning society" (Peter Lang Publishing 2007).

Panellists:



Asad Naqvi joined the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2004 and is, since 2014, the Head of the Secretariat of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE). Previously, he served as Acting Head of the Green Economy Advisory Services Unit (2012-2014), Coordinator and contributing author of the Agriculture Chapter of the Green Economy Report (2009-2010), Manager for Green Economy Advisory Services for various regions (2011-2012) and Coordinator of UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (2004-2009).

He also contributed to the CBTF work on Wildlife Trade Policy Reviews in Uganda, Vietnam, Nicaragua and Madagascar. This work resulted in the development of a Framework for Reviewing National Wildlife Trade Policies, and a study on Social Dynamics and Wildlife Trade.

Asad holds a Master's degree in Environment, Development and Policy from the University of Sussex, UK, and a Master's degree in International Relations from Quaid-I-Azam University, Pakistan.



Amrei Horstbrink is a Senior Specialist within the Green Development and Climate Change Programme at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Geneva, Switzerland. She leads UNITAR's contribution to the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) and supports the strategic positioning of the Institute's climate change and green development portfolio through programme innovation and exploration of new thematic areas. Amrei has 13 years of working experience in the field of capacity development for climate change and green economy. She regularly advises Governments and training institutes in partner countries on systematic and result-based approaches to education and training, including methodological advice for the implementation of capacity needs assessments and the development of national learning strategies. Prior to her work with UNITAR, Amrei was an Associate at the Global Environmental Governance Project, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington DC. A trained Geographer, Amrei received a Master's

degree in Development Studies from the Graduate Institute Geneva.



Bindu Bhandari is a Climate Change Analyst with UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. In her current role, she provides technical inputs, facilitates regional partnerships and overall implementation support for EmPower: Women for Climate Resilient Societies. EmPower is a five-year joint regional initiative of UN Women and UNEP, financially supported by SIDA. Currently in it's second phase, EmPower aims to promote and strenghten gender-responsive climate action in Asia and the Pacific through increased voice and leadership of women, inlcusive policies and climate resilient livelihoods.

Bindu has been working on climate change since 2014 in various roles and capacities. Before joining UN Women, she worked as the Outreach and Engagement Manager of Climate Interactive, a leading international think tank that develops accessible climate tools and simulation models based on the principles of system dynamics.



Dr. Sudha Balakrishnan is an international development professional from India, passionate about advancing the rights of women and girls, children and young people. She has served in the UN, Academia and the private sector at country and global levels, shaping public policies, programmes and projects on sustainable development and emergencies. She is currently the Head of the Secretariat for Youth 2030, leading the work on the UN's Youth Strategy, transforming UN's work WITH and FOR young people. The work cuts across sustainable development and elimate action, human rights, peace and security and humanitarian action. She is based in the New York in the Office of the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth.

Closing Remarks



Jorge Laguna-Celis is the Head of the One Planet Network, hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Based in Paris, The One Planet Network is a global community of practitioners, policymakers and experts working to accelerate the implementation of SDG 12: ensuring sustainable patterns of consumption and production. Jorge has previously worked for the United Nations in multiple capacities and possesses 20 years of experience in intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder processes, global sustainable development policies and sustainable development governance. Jorge holds an MA degree in International Trade from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po) Paris, alongside being an author of several publications and books on issues related to international affairs and sustainable development. His latest book entitled "From Rio+20 to a New Development Agenda: Building a Bridge to a Sustainable Future", was published in 2014 by Routledge.



Rie Vejs Kjeldgaard is the Director of the Sustainable Enterprises, Productivity and Just transition Department, ILO, Member of the PAGE Management Board.

Prior to her current assignment she served as the Deputy Regional Director of the ILO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. In the ILO she has held a variety of management positions including Deputy Sub-Regional Director for Southeast Asia, New Delhi; ILO Country Director for Viet Nam; Manager of the ILO Global Programme on "Decent Work Country Level Policy Analysis". She has also served as an Enterprise Specialist in several positions including as the Global Manager of a Technical Corporation Programme on "Job Quality in Micro and Small Enterprises"; Enterprise Development Specialist in the ILO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific in Bangkok; and as Senior Specialist in Enterprise Development, ILO Headquarters in Geneva. Prior to the ILO she worked as Head of Product and Market Development in the pharmaceutical industry.

Rie is a Danish national. She has an educational background in Economics and Business Administration with a specialization in marketing and international business development.