



TRADE UNION-OECD DAC FORUM

OECD CONFERENCE CENTRE, ROOM CC2

25 SEPTEMBER 2023 – TIME 13.30-17.30

ACCELERATING PROGRESS ON THE SDGS THROUGH STRENGTHENED SUPPORT TO SOCIAL PROTECTION AND DECENT CLIMATE-FRIENDLY JOB CREATION

The COVID-19 crisis has both revealed and exacerbated inequalities, between and within countries. It has put jobs and social protection at the top of policy makers' agendas to ensure a sustainable recovery and build resilience, including in the face of climate change, but also as key enablers of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In September 2021 the United Nations (UN) Secretary General launched the [Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions](#), an initiative that pushes for decent jobs, social protection and just transitions to ensure a human-centred recovery based on the SDGs. The Global Accelerator aims to create 400 million jobs and extend social protection to 4 billion people that are currently uncovered, by 2030. It is “an integrated package of employment, social protection, and environmental policies with strong and sustainable economic and social returns” that calls for stronger and more targeted support of development cooperation to these priorities. The Accelerator is based on three complementary pillars: (1) Integrated and evidence-based national strategies and policies that combine investments in decent jobs, sustainable development and universal social protection; (2) Integrated financing combining domestic resources and international financial support to create decent and productive jobs, extend social protection coverage, and protect the most vulnerable populations; (3) Enhanced multilateral cooperation with increased and improved dialogue and coherence among national policymakers, countries providing official development assistance (ODA), UN agencies, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), multilateral development banks, social partners, civil society, and academia.¹

International development cooperation will play an important role in making the Accelerator, a reality. While G7 Leaders last year underlined the importance of this initiative², the UN is calling on member states to engage and commit to the Accelerator by amongst others “allocating significant ODA to the objectives of the Global Accelerator”³.

Social partners, comprising of workers' and employers' organisations, are moreover expected to be central to the Accelerator's implementation. Trade unions in particular play a key role in both campaigning and negotiating for extensions to social protection at national level, but also in facilitating access to social protection benefits, reaching out to workers in the informal economy, as well as in the formulation and implementation of national employment policies. Both workers and employers moreover play a central role in domestic financing efforts.

¹ https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/global_accelerator_summary.pdf

² [2022-07-14-leaders-communique-data.pdf \(g7germany.de\)](https://www.g7.de/2022-07-14-leaders-communique-data.pdf)

³ [https://unglobalaccelerator.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/Implementation%20Strategy Global%20Accelerator.pdf](https://unglobalaccelerator.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/Implementation%20Strategy%20Global%20Accelerator.pdf)



Given the important roles allocated to trade unions and development partners in the Accelerator, the Trade Union-DAC Forum will be a key space for trade unions and DAC members to discuss how they can jointly work on this important initiative.

This year's Forum will therefore focus on how unions and DAC members can work together on three key objectives of the Accelerator: (1) creating decent climate-friendly jobs, (2) extending social protection, and (3) ensuring a just transition towards carbon neutral and resilient societies. Discussions will build on the outcomes of [last year's Forum](#) in which participants acknowledged the importance of social protection and the need to scale up international support, and will reflect on trade unions' experiences based on their engagement at country level. The meeting will take place over an afternoon and will be divided in two main sessions: one focusing on strengthening social protection and the other on decent climate-friendly job creation. Addressing climate change, reducing inequalities and supporting a just transition will be cross cutting elements to both discussions.

PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION (13.30-13.50)

Carsten Staur, Chair, OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

Veronica Nilsson, General Secretary, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)

SESSION 1 (13.50-15.20): STRENGTHENING SOCIAL PROTECTION & ACHIEVING A JUST TRANSITION IN RESPONSES TO THE MULTIPLE CRISES

This session will discuss how to promote increased international support to social protection through ODA. It will look into how ODA support has been deployed over the last few years and consider how to ensure greater effectiveness in promoting the extension of national social protection systems that are both adequate and sustainable. It will promote an exchange of views on how support to social protection could be better mobilised and coordinated to contribute to the Global Accelerator and SDG targets. Ongoing proposals at international level for developing an international financing mechanism for social protection, or Global Social Protection Fund, will be debated.

MODERATED PANEL AND OPEN DEBATE

Moderator: **Pilar Garrido**, DCD Director

Rahul Malhotra, Head of Reviews, Results, Evaluation and Development Innovation Division, Development Co-operation Directorate

Alexandre Kolev, Head of Social Cohesion Unit, OECD Development Centre

Open discussion with contributions from DAC members and TUAC/ITUC members:

How can development cooperation further support the extension of social protection and greater collaboration with social partners?

Coffee Break (15.20 – 15.50)



SESSION 2 (15.50-17.10): PROMOTING DECENT CLIMATE-FRIENDLY JOBS WITH JUST TRANSITION THROUGH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement, will require significant investments and shifts in the labour market, including the creation of decent climate-friendly jobs. “Green jobs” are decent jobs that respect workers’ fundamental rights and contribute to preserve or restore the environment, be they in traditional sectors such as manufacturing and construction, or in new, emerging green sectors such as renewable energy and energy efficiency. The second session of the Forum will look into how DAC members are contributing to the creation of green jobs, through their development cooperation initiatives and consider how these initiatives could better contribute to the Global Accelerator. Trade unions will share experiences on how they have been contributing to jobs plans with just transition at national level. Discussions will consider how to promote greater job creation through development cooperation while ensuring that the jobs created are decent and climate-friendly, and will look at the potential for job creation in the green, care and digital economies.

MODERATED PANEL AND OPEN DEBATE

Moderator: *Alison Tate, Director of the ITUC Economic and Social Policy Department*

Jens Sedemund, Head of climate change and environment team, Development Co-operation Directorate

Open discussion with contributions from DAC members and TUAC/ITUC members:

How can we improve the contribution of development aid to decent climate-friendly job creation with just transitions?

CONCLUDING REMARKS (17.10-17.30)

Carsten Staur, Chair, OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

Veronica Nilsson, General Secretary, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)