



Guidelines for Just Transition implementation

Outcome of the 'People and Climate,
Just Transition in Practice' online conference, 2020



**National Centre
for Climate Change**
Institute of Environmental Protection
National Research Institute

| Introduction

The global fight with the world COVID-19 pandemics and plans for economic recovery has undoubtedly dominated international discussion in 2020. This, however, has not paused the development of other global challenges, such as climate change. Despite additional obstacles that world leaders have been facing since the spread of the highly transmittable virus, processes related to energy transition necessary to achieve climate neutrality has already been put into motion. One of the key processes, especially from the European perspective, is the need to achieve the Green Deal and Just Transition Mechanism. These require high-level consultation, even in times when physical meetings and communication are straitened.

This report is the outcome of one such meeting. Over forty ministers, high-level representatives of international organisations and world-recognised scientists accepted the invitation of the Polish Minister of Climate and Environment, Michal Kurtyka to join a conversation on practical aspects of implementing Just Transition. It was the second edition of the 'People and Climate' conference realising Polish leadership in the subject of Just Transition which started with the adoption of the Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration during COP24 in Katowice. This year's event, entitled 'Just Transition in Practice', took place on 2 December 2020 and follows one held on 3 July 2019 entitled 'Solidarity and Just

Transition'. The conference was then opened by the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, and prominent guests including, among others, Former Presidents of the Conference of the Parties. The inspiring discussion resulted in publishing of the 'Solidarity and Just Transition' report. It contains a set of substantial actions and tools, which are necessary to make Just Transition possible. The report was presented during The UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 in New York.

Similarly to other coal-based economies, Poland has moved down the path of the actual planning of energy transition. Bearing in mind, not just the specific structure of the energy mix, but also the historic and cultural attachment to the profession of the miner and the deeply-rooted identity connected with it, the fairness and inclusiveness of this process is principal. This is why the Polish Minister of Climate and Environment has initiated the event, facilitating the sharing of transition experiences from different international contexts. Exchanging ideas, and also lessons learned from real life can facilitate the smooth rollout of the transition process. This report is a summary of the discussion conducted during the online conference 'People and Climate. Just Transition in Practice', translated into guidelines of Just Transition implementation.



Foreword

Michał Kurtyka

Minister of Climate
and Environment, Poland

Two years ago, two days after initiating COP 24 in Katowice, we invited leaders from all over the world to adopt the Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration. The 'People and Climate. Just Transition in Practice' Conference is the follow-up of this memorable moment, symbolic for bringing the just transition notion to the heart of climate policy. Indeed, we already see a lot of interest in looking at the challenges linked to climate policy and the implementation of ambitious climate targets through the eyes of different social and economic groups, which are true stakeholders of this process. What is more, we also see an increasing importance of looking at the climate challenges with the eyes of ordinary people. This brings a bottom-up dynamic to complement the top-down dynamic initiated at the COP24 by adopting Katowice Rulebook implementing the Paris Agreement and Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration. In 2019, during the first edition of the 'People and Climate' conference we had an interesting debate on the toolbox of strategies and policies needed to implement Just Transition into reality. This year we met again to share experiences on how it is really working in our countries.

Needless to say, we are living in times defined by uncertainty. We are facing an unprecedented moment in history, because we have to deal with both structural change linked to the transformation of our economies and societies towards climate neutrality and the still not fully understood consequences of the world pandemic.

Right now, the biggest world economies in Asia, Europe, the Americas are targeting climate neutrality by 2050. This means a lot of changes; economic, technological, industrial, societal transformations. There are many questions ahead of us. How to avoid a zero-sum game with winners and losers? How to balance benefits and costs in the best possible way? How to allocate financial resources given that some regions and countries will be disproportionately affected by the economic and structural transition? How to make sure that there is nobody left behind and job creation will be able to compensate for the old jobs in the coal-dependent sectors? How to evade the increase of energy poverty and other forms of exclusion during this process? Finally, how to make the best policy at the governmental level in order to meet all of the above needs and how to make sure that management on the administrative level meets expectations?

I would like to thank the National Centre for Climate Change and its director, Agnieszka Ragin for hosting this necessary and highly important event. I am also grateful to all my counterparts and colleagues for joining this conference and making significant contributions to the discussion and this report. I do believe that we will advance together, because ultimately a global challenge requires international solidarity.





Foreword

Agnieszka Ragin

Head of the National Centre
for Climate Change, Poland

Just Transition is the key term of climate action, especially in coal-dependent economies like Poland. At the National Centre for Climate Change we focus on research-based actions. All decisions in the subject of the scale and severity of climate change need to be thoroughly researched, properly planned and executed with the utmost care for the social effects of these actions.

This report is a joint work of the prominent representatives from various countries on the practical solutions and facilitation of Just Transition in its most practical dimension. Contexts and socio-economic situation of different countries and regions may highly vary – however, by gathering many different examples of transition, along with their successes and failures, we are able to formulate universal guidelines that will be helpful to all policy-makers in planning transformation in their countries.

As former director of the Bureau of the [COP24](#) Presidency with one of its top priorities – just and solidarity transition – I feel obliged to continue this important work in the National Centre for Climate Change. We are honoured to support the Ministry of Climate and Environment in all its activities related to the necessary energy transition with its important social dimensions as well as in creation of the frameworks for the National and Regional Just Transition Plans. We assure strong substantive background and readiness to cooperate with all sectors, social groups and actors of this complex and demanding process.


Agnieszka Ragin

27 participants



Prof. Anil Markandya
BC3 Basque Centre
for Climate Change



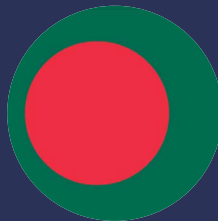
Ms. Amina Mohammed
Deputy Secretary-General
of the United Nations



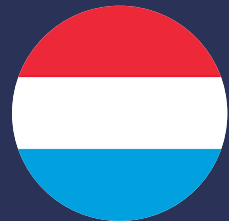
Ms. Beatriz Yordi
Director of the European
and International Carbon
Markets,
European Commission



Mr. Kwasi Kwarteng
Minister for Business,
Energy and Clean Growth,
United Kingdom



Mr. Shahab Uddin
Minister of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change,
Bangladesh



Ms. Carole Dieschbourg
Minister for the
Environment, Climate and
Sustainable Development,
Luxembourg



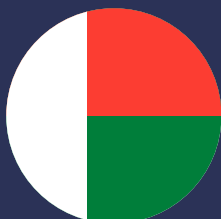
Mr. Mathias Fischer
State Secretary,
Ministry of Climate
and Environment,
Norway



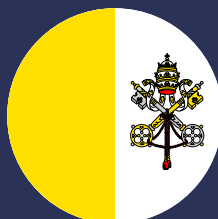
Mr. Meelis Münt
Secretary General,
Ministry of the Environment,
Estonia



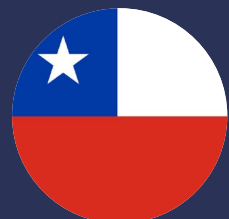
Mr. Ovais Sarmad
Deputy Executive Secretary,
UNFCCC



Mr. Rabenandrianina Rivosoa
Director of Green Diplomacy
and Partnerships,
Ministry of Environment
and Development,
Madagascar



Cardinal **Peter K.A. Turkson**
Prefect of the Dicastery
for Promoting Integral Human
Development,
Holy See



**Mr. Andrés Landerretche
Moreno**, Special Envoy
for COP25 Presidency,
Chile



Prof. Konstantinos Aravossis Secretary General of Natural Environment and Water, Greece



Ms. Svenja Schulze Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany



Mr. Juraj Smatana Deputy Minister of Environment, Slovakia



Mr. Adrián Peña Minister of Environment, Uruguay



Mr. Mohamed Benyahia General Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Morocco



Dr. Karsten Sach Director General of the Directorate General International and European Policy, Germany



Mr. Demetrios Papathanasiou Global Director of the Energy and Extractives Practice, The World Bank



Ms. Martha Elizabeth Newton Deputy Director-General for Policy, International Labour Organization



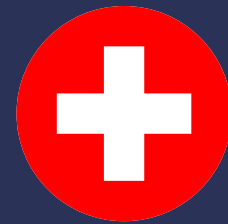
Mr. Marcel Beukeboom Dutch Climate Envoy, The Netherlands



Mr. Jonathan Wilkinson Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada



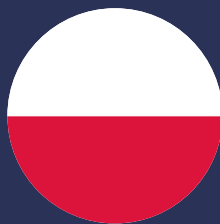
Mr. Roberto Suárez Santos Secretary General, International Organisation of Employers



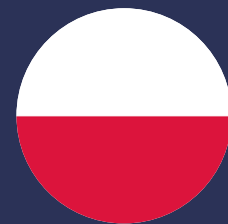
Mr. Stefan Estermann, Ambassador Head of the Sectoral Foreign Policies Division in the Directorate of Political Affairs of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland



Mr. Ludovic Voet Confederal Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation



Mr. Adam Guibourgé-Czetwertyński Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland



Mr. Michal Kurtyka Minister of Climate and Environment, Poland

New perception of climate targets for the post-pandemic economy

Bearing in mind the world COVID-19 pandemic it would be difficult to discuss the energy transition without taking into consideration the consequences of these overlapping challenges. The general approach during the conference was rather optimistic in the way that pandemics allows for restarting and reshaping elements of the pre-pandemic world, which were unsustainable and proved not to be crisis-resilient. However, some participants thought that the current health and economic crisis is making the climate goals much more difficult to achieve. Nonetheless, the mood was valorous and the leaders focused on searching for solutions rather than the issues themselves.

In her video speech for the conference Amina J. Mohammed noted that we are currently facing the perfect circumstances for taking action in reaching climate targets. She also suggested Europe's leadership in the process.

The European Union and its member states have a long, strong history of leadership on climate action, including the commitments to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Today there is encouraging use. Japan and the Republic of Korea together with more than 110 of the countries have now pledged carbon neutrality by 2050. China says that will do so by 2060 and this leadership (...) is reason to believe that we can achieve all climate goals (...). By fully implementing its plan to Green Region, Next Generation EU and by mainstreaming climate change into its long term budget the European Union can show the world how to move to carbon neutrality while ensuring prosperity and a just transition.

Ovais Sarmad stated that the current health crisis provides the right sort of opportunity to redefine the general approach towards global challenges. A similar opinion was presented by Svenja Schulze who mentioned a 'green recovery,' which would serve

as a plan on how the environmental protection and climate action can be actually used to come out of the coronavirus crisis stronger. The future resilience to different types of crisis was also important for Martha Elizabeth Newton, who called for return to a 'better normal' after the pandemic, to make societies much stronger for future shocks. Also, Beatriz Yordi spoke about the post pandemic recovery in the European Union in language that emphasized opportunities.

Aligning our economic recovery priorities with long-term climate objectives can help the EU turn an immense challenge of a crisis into an opportunity to foster sustainable investment, modernize the economy while boosting competitiveness, improve the state of our environment and build resilience for the future.

She stated that various tools being currently used in the EU are designed to prioritize climate-proof initiatives stimulating economic recovery and fostering an effective and just path to a climate-neutral reality.

Ovais Sarmad also underlined that post-pandemic recovery plans must take into consideration climate goals and inclusiveness. This subject was also strongly highlighted by Mohamed Benyahia. He firmly stated that the new, post-pandemic development models must revolve around equal possibilities, solidarity, health and the wellbeing of both people and planet. It aligned with the account of Stefan Estermann, who underlined that one of the many parallels that can be drawn between the current health pandemic and the climate change crisis is that they are hitting the most vulnerable and poorest parts of society hardest. Hence, the solutions for both these types of global issues should be compatible.

Mathias Fischer noted that COVID-19 makes the need for climate action even more urgent than before. Fighting climate change will also help to limit the risk of infectious diseases. He directly linked some of the root causes of climate change, like deforestation, with the increased risk of pandemics. In addition, he reported recent research highlighting a correlation between higher vulnerability to death from COVID-19 and living in places with poor air quality. Similar observations have been made in Poland, where some of the biggest coronavirus hotspots have been reported in Silesia and other coal-mining regions. The issue of climate change being exaggerated by the COVID-19 pandemic was also stressed by prof. Anil Markandya who said that recovery plans for the economy need to be oriented to sustainability. This wasn't the case before, when fiscal stimulation after crises has usually favored carbon, marginalizing environmental concerns.

Faced with the COVID-19 recession, governments do not need to compromise economic priorities for the sake of environmental ones. By carefully designing low-carbon stimulus packages, they can address both sets of priorities at once. There is also a growing and influential community in the corporate sector that supports such measures.

Meelis Münt on the other hand, was concerned that the pandemic has influenced the ability to reach climate targets and might slow it down. He pointed out how the current crisis has exposed instability within our economic systems. Roberto Suárez Santos presented a set of data that prove how badly the pandemic has affected our economies. The World Bank forecasts a 5.2 percent contraction in global gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020. This means we are facing the deepest global recession in eighty years. A result of an ILO ACT/EMP enterprise survey shows the coronavirus pandemic has dramatically compromised the financial health of enterprises. 86 percent of respondents reported that COVID-19 had a high or medium-level financial impact on their business. As Roberto Suárez Santos presented and according to the ILO Monitor 6th edition, the estimated total working-hour losses due to COVID-19 in the second quarter of 2020 (relative to the fourth quarter of 2019) is now 17.3 percent, or 495 million full-time equivalent jobs. However, Meelis Münt noted a sort of solidarity and readiness to fight against any global challenges, stressing the role of youth in the process. The remedy he proposes is to find ideas and solutions to keep up with the high climate ambitions and adapt to climate change through recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of these ideas have already been initiated. As Kwasi Kwarteng reported the Energy Transition Council is currently making sure that all countries can access the investments and technical assistance to phase-out coal as part of the general green recovery we want to see from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As devastating as the pandemic has been, and I know that Polish mining communities were particularly affected by it (...). I think this gives us an opportunity to show that we can change, show that we can transition and pursue decarbonisation.

Mathias Fischer said that studies show that the shift towards a sustainable and climate-resilient economy have net positive impacts on both quality and quantity of jobs and employment globally. Similarly, Amina Mohammed asserted that conviction on climate action and economic strength being opposite is false, proving that investing in renewable energy can produce three times more jobs than in fossil fuels. The discussion on the new perception of climate targets for the post-pandemic economy during the 'Just Transition in Practice' conference can be summarized with the words of Mathias Fischer. He said that ambitious climate policies depend on a just transition. But it is worth the effort: implementing these climate targets will pay us back with better societies with the better-quality jobs and, what is very important, should help to prevent future pandemics.

The European Green Deal

On 11 December 2019, the European Commission adopted a Communication on the European Green Deal, which sets out its roadmap towards a new growth policy for Europe with the objective of achieving EU climate neutrality by 2050 in a fair and effective manner. The European Green Deal is a long-term set of actions and political commitments taken by the European Union member states. The main goal of this comprehensive strategy is to make the EU climate-neutral by 2050 (net-zero greenhouse gas emissions). The European Green Deal is focused on transforming the economy. This can be accomplished by taking steps in all sectors. The most important target areas are energy, industry, buildings and mobility. In addition to the economic and industrial transition, an accompanying societal transition is also planned. To fulfil these ambitions, the European Commission has taken such initiatives as the European Climate Law, European Climate Pact and 2030 Climate Target Plan, that postulate cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. The agriculture sector is covered by Farm to Fork strategy. Care for the environment and biodiversity is an important part of European Green Deal. As the assumption of the strategy is Just Transition, and the EU is placed as a global leader in the field of sustainability, the key to achieving planned targets is supporting research and encouraging innovation in all areas. The European Green Deal can be seen as a path to sustainable development and green economic growth.

I firmly believe that the European Green Deal will strengthen our society, economy and create viable jobs for the future.

Svenja Schulze

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, The European Green Deal is currently considered one of the types of responses to it. After the initial question regarding possibility of its implementation and its urgency when the pandemic appeared, it was soon transformed into a post-COVID recovery plan. As Beatriz Yordi reported, the European Commission presented a EUR750 billion-recovery package Next Generation EU, which along side stimulating economic recovery is also designed for advancement in terms of climate targets. Similar to other EU programs, it is important to take different situations of the Member States, which disposes solidarity in all efforts.

The Commission is aware of the differences between Member States when it comes to baselines for reducing emissions, progress made and challenges yet to overcome as well as the associated investment needs. Already the existing climate policy framework has solidarity provisions built-in, both under the ETS Directive and Effort Sharing Regulation.

Beatriz Yordi

Another tool developed by the European Commission, dedicated directly to the issue, and which is the main subject of this report is the Just Transition Mechanism. Its main aim is to directly support the most vulnerable regions to the effect of energy-transition in terms of socio-economic aid mobilizing at least EUR 150 billion. As Beatriz Yordi noted, the Polish coal regions, notably Silesia, Lower Silesia and Greater Poland will be among these benefiting from the Just Transition Fund.

In Silesia alone, EUR 100 million of European Regional Development Fund have been reprogrammed to support 'Just Transition' projects. Poland and Polish coal regions are set to be the main beneficiary of the Just Transition Fund if there is a commitment to climate neutrality by 2050.

As part of the European Green Deal policy, the Just Transition Mechanism was established, based on 3 pillars: a Just Transition Fund, a dedicated scheme under InvestEU, and a public sector loan facility with the EIB Group. The Proposal for a Regulation establishing the Just Transition Fund was adopted by the Commission on 14 January 2020. The Just Transition Fund, with an amount of up to EUR 10,000,000,000, will be implemented under shared management and targeted at selected regions within the Community, whose economy is largely based on coal. These regions are committed to creating Territorial Just Transition plans, setting out the timetable and ways to move away from coal in each of them and the projects to be implemented to achieve the adopted goals. Currently, work on the final shape of the support mechanism is being carried out in parallel and in cooperation with the Council of the European Union and coal regions and as a result, they should lead to the development of a coherent, effective and just policy of abandoning coal in Europe.



Just Transition around the world

One of the greatest benefits of the 'Just Transition in Practice' conference was creating a platform to exchange information about various effective tools enabling just transition in different countries. They will be briefly presented below.

The path forward may not be easy, but it is necessary. Together, we can build a cleaner and more inclusive world that is also a prosperous one.

Jonathan Wilkinson

Kwasi Kwarteng reported activity and its effects of The Powering Past Coal Alliance, a joint initiative with Canada to drive up ambition on coal phase out. In addition, in the UK the Prime Minister has recently announced the 10-point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution aimed at creating and supporting up to 250,000 new jobs as part of the larger blueprint package towards net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Jonathan Wilkinson also promoted the Canadian and UK co-founded Powering Past

Coal Alliance which brings together governments, businesses, and labour unions to conduct an inclusive transition to climate-neutral societies. During his video-speech for the conference he emphasised that an economy based on renewable energy can be prosperous.

Another important voice in this part of the discussion was from Svenja Schulze, who shared some transition guidelines, which have already proved to be effective in Germany. First of all, she stressed the need for a reliable framework of conditions for industry.

In Germany we created these conditions with the Climate Change Act, which sets out annual CO₂ emission budget for the energy, buildings, transport, industry, agriculture and forestry sectors. This way, everyone knows in the coming years which investments are useful and necessary, and which are not.

In her positive narration, the German minister highlighted the importance of exposing all the positive effects of the coal-phase out, such as better air quality, healthier environment and more friendly cities. In her view, governments should be promoting climate-friendly alternatives in the areas of construction, transport and electricity generation. Germany is also a member of the previously mentioned Powering Past Coal Alliance, which, among other activities, supports job creation through the development and expansion of renewable energy technologies.

An interesting input to the discussion was given by Stefan Estermann who stated that in case of Switzerland the most beneficial factors on the path towards climate neutrality proved to be a highly diversified economy and solid financial sector. He reported that even the IPCC mentions building strong financial systems as key to reaching climate targets and maintaining resilience to the risk related to the negative effects of climate change. Also, the Swiss approach indicates the financial sector as component facilitating the equitable transition to a sustainable economy.

The Swiss Government has most recently adopted voluntary guidelines on sustainability in the financial sector. Voluntary, because we believe that trust and encouragement does more than compulsion and punishment. Implementing these guidelines will make the Swiss financial industry a main driver of change towards a more sustainable economy and more responsible markets. We want to become a leading location for sustainable financial services.

A different, much more community-based approach, was presented by Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson. He stated that the participant processes that the Holy See has initiated and is supporting have proved to be very successful. One such large project is a '7-year journey in the spirit of Laudato Si'. It is designed as an 'ecological conversion in action' and translates the global challenge of climate change to the specific programs implemented by churches and schools. Cardinal Turkson also highlighted that we can decarbonise our societies by both reducing production of carbon and increasing carbon sinks. In his view, energy transition must be just in order to avoid 'climate apartheid' and is urgent as some of the effects of climate change may soon be irreversible.

Adrián Peña on the other hand described the Uruguayan National Climate Change Response System aimed at coordinating national policies, plans and actions on climate change. It integrates more than nine Ministries, the Congress of Mayors, the Office of Planning and Budget, among other organizations and resulted in formulating a National Policy on Climate Change with a long-term perspective. Another responsibility of this body was the formulation of the Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement, as well as its monitoring and reporting.

The approach of our National Policy on Climate Change and our Nationally Determined Contribution considers that climate action must be ambitious and with a social approach, based on human rights, with gender equity, and intergenerational perspective, and that allows a sustainable productive transformation that generates new value chains, new development opportunities and quality employment.

He explained that Just Transition is being implemented to the Long-Term Climate Strategy and will be presented to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the first half of 2021.

Norway also has significant accomplishments in just transition implementation. Mathias Fischer reported that aiming to become a low emission society by 2050, Norway has recently submitted a Low Emission Strategy, which shows the clear path to achieve it.

Cooperation and consensus on the common goals in terms of climate action is also a key approach in Chile. Andrés Landerretche Moreno reported that in 2019 the Ministry of Energy and key power generating companies agreed on the path of coal phase out. The Special Envoy emphasised the importance of citizen participation in the process and defined Just Transition as an approach facilitating management of the positive and negative social impacts in the transition towards sustainable societies. A similar approach was presented by the Greek representative, prof. Konstantinos Aravossis. He reported the presence of the integrated programs to support local communities in the regions most affected by closing coal mines and the activity of the committee coordinating the Just Transition development plan in the regions of West Macedonia and Megalopolis.

Guidelines for Just Transition Implementation

Based directly on the presentations and discussions during the 'People and Climate. Just Transition in Practice' conference this report presents the main findings of the meeting. It draws on the experiences of different countries which was shared by the invited guests. It was translated into 10 prerequisites, which are believed to support Just Transition implementation despite differences in the specific national contexts.

1 | SOLID MANAGEMENT



The energy transition towards climate-neutral economies is a civilisational challenge and extremely complex process with its technical and social dimensions. Therefore, it is crucial that it has strong leadership on different levels: international, state and local. Ideally, all managers of Just Transition should have clear and specific roles in the process and share a common vision on how it should be conducted. Because of uncertainty connected with the upcoming changes, stable management can facilitate social support and acceptance. Stakeholder engagement is critical to implementing a socially fair and inclusive transition.

Almost 20 years ago, when the world was transitioning in the 90's, a lot of uneconomic mines were slowly wrapped up and we've helped communities in transition to modern economic environment. This can be done again, and the clean energy revolution that we're all experiencing can help in meeting climate change objectives and assisting countries with a new employment.

Demetrios Papathanasiou

2 | LONG-TERM PLANNING



Energy transition is a process aimed to last about three decades (climate neutrality by 2050) depending on the individual national commitments. Over such a period of time a lot can change: for example the ruling authorities or even political system in the given country. No such changes should affect continuity of the process. Hence it is crucial to establish long-term and integrated plans resistant to changing circumstances. A significant amount of time should be devoted to the planning process itself, which can ensure that it is thought-through and clearly agreed between different stakeholders. Simultaneously, the budget should be planned for the long term.

3 | CONTINUOUS CONSULTATIONS



Social consultation is one of the inevitable elements of Just Transition that assures the inclusiveness of the process. Broad involvement ensures the ownership of all interested parties. The planned changes must be compatible with the realities of different groups of actors most vulnerable to their effects. The consultations should be ongoing on different stages of the transition, as the realities mentioned above can change over time.

It is true that the path to net zero emissions is challenging and sometimes difficult. But it is worth it. In Germany, we established a Commission for the phase-out of coal-based power, which brought the scientific community, industry, environmental and industrial associations, trade unions and the regions affected together at one table. Doing so enabled us to achieve a broad consensus which combines climate action, a clean environment, sustainable development and good, viable jobs for the future.

Svenja Schulze

We know that we, people, are accelerating climate change. Hence we know that we, people, can slow down climate change as well. To be successful in this endeavor we have to make sure the transition can be made by all people, in a fair and inclusive manner. A just transition.

Marcel Beukeboom

4 | SUPPORTING BUSINESS



Most of the conference participants highlighted the importance of facilitating investment policies and the key role of business for the success of the just transition implementation. Trust and support can create environments for the private sector to flourish. As there aren't yet solutions for all issues and answers to all questions, innovation is critical. The young and small entrepreneurs should not be discriminated against.

Stimulating responsible markets means creating incentives and support for workers and an enabling environment for business (excessive taxation, burden some administrative requirements, lack of coordination, weak institutions, unrealistic regulation), which allows them to absorb (...) shocks.

Roberto Suárez-Santos

During the discussion, it was highlighted that responsible markets also need education and modifying consumer behaviors. On the other hand, new business models should be created with products and consumer information. In addition, financial standards, transparency and reporting are key elements that can positively influence markets.

5 | SHARING KNOWLEDGE



Solidarity, the exchange of experiences and mutual support are key to the success of any civilisational challenge. Every country has different social contexts and economic situations. By discussing specific issues, failures and achievements on the level of states and regions, common knowledge and sets of data for future use are being built. This report and guidelines are a perfect example of such actions.

The UK stands ready to support Poland in its transition. Just as we are very eager to learn from Poland in terms of sharing experiences about coal and also coming together to tackle real social and economic challenges in the field of the huge economic benefits in transition.

Kwasi Kwarteng

International collaboration and knowledge sharing can also provide solutions unavailable within one country's borders.

A great example of a European collaboration is the partnership between Philips, the Silesian University of Technology and Brainport Eindhoven. They are exploring the opportunities to create a R&D Lab for Health-tech Innovation in Silesia. A very good opportunity to support a new economy with high-quality employment to offset job losses in the future.

Marcel Beukeboom

One of the international tools useful in learning from each other are task forces, such as the Just Transition Task Force of the Powering Past Coal Alliance. The taskforce members work on real examples and share best practices on how to support the phase-out of coal in a just and inclusive manner. They also offer expertise for the communities willing to embark on transition.

6 | CLEAR COMMUNICATION



Transparent and clear communication of the transition plans should influence the rise of social awareness and understanding of the inevitable changes. It works two ways: society needs full information on the costs and benefits of transition so it is able to learn, negotiate and internalise this knowledge. One of the key elements of this communication should be the credibility of the authorities in their assurance of inclusiveness. This is at the centre of the just transition process and that no one is left behind.

Much of managing perceptions of justice is about communication. While communicating, it is crucial to understand both the problem and the target audience to convey the message in an efficient manner. The approach should also consider what are the expected returns or actions from the audience.

Anil Markandya

Communication on the environment and sustainable development can no longer be limited by the simple transmission of information, but must also include explanations, negotiations, popularization (...) The communication strategy for development has been established by promoting adaptable teaching materials and content for the Malagasy school system.

Rabenandrianina Rivosoa

7 | COST EFFECTIVENESS



Many governments and international organisations have already confirmed significant financial support for energy transition towards climate-neutral societies. It is a great responsibility to use this capital wisely. Governmental subsidies are important part of the process, especially in order to support innovation and research in clean energy and technological solutions, which can create new quality jobs. Subsidies should be distributed in a fair and integrated manner. Some of the conference participants stressed the need for targeted investments, especially at the regional level.

The funds for structural change are necessary and worthwhile investments in a prosperous future which also strengthens social cohesion. Through the Just Transition Mechanism and other instruments, the EU, too, is providing considerable funding to support its 2050 climate neutrality goal with measures to ensure a just transition.

Svenja Schulze

8 | TARGETED POLICIES



Policies created to support the just transition in the regions must be well-suited to the specific needs of the particular local community and market. These policies should have both central and local management, align with the general state-level paths of development, and yet be flexible in taking into consideration local contexts. Policy irrelevant to the local reality can follow from a waste of social trust and misuse of subsidies.

Just transition means for us policies to support the most vulnerable people and communities through social protection and solidarity; policies that provide workers with the right training programs to move toward greener jobs; policies that invest in public services and regional infrastructures to provide new and alternative job opportunities in those affected regions.

Ludovic Voet

9 | FOCUS ON THE REGION



Focus on the regions and the transfer of certain eligibility to these units are conditions for the adequacy of undertaking actions for transformation to local social and economic problems. An approach focused on regions and local administrative units covered by the just transition process, in practical terms, should be conducive to achieving greater accuracy, effectiveness and efficiency of actions taken, and thus a better allocation of capital. Placing the process closer to local problems and cooperation with the enterprise sector should help to direct it towards eliminating the negative effects of transformations on local economies and local labor markets, with the consent of its participants as well as strengthening and using local potentials.

10 | RISK ASSESMENT



Even the best thought-through plan can have its flaws and the world COVID-19 pandemic reminded us how unstable and unexpected our reality can be. However, the more challenges we have gone through, the better we can prepare for future shocks. Preparing different scenarios and backup plans should be an important part of the impact assessment when working on Just Transition policies.

We also need to handle the risk. Financial risk, stemming from stricter climate policies and technological development as societies decarbonize. And risks from climate change impacts.

Mathias Fischer



| Summary

The Conference 'People and Climate. Just Transition in Practice' has brought together the world leaders of the green transition. They shared experiences of the efforts, challenges and first successes in the process of the transformation towards sustainability from their countries. After stimulating presentations and discussions during the event, a set of guidelines for practical implementation of Just Transition has been created. Interestingly, despite very different regional contexts or starting points for different states represented in the conference, the main ideas and prerequisites for making Just Transition possible were repeated in the statements of most of the speakers. It proves that some universal pointers can be used when designing Just Transition policies. The process is now ongoing, the cooperation between the countries should continue as there is a common goal for everyone. In the future, further editions of the conference are planned to share how the established guidelines work in practice, and how implementation looks in the making.

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