

Remarks on behalf of the  
International Organization of Employers (IOE)  
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UNEP Report on Green Jobs  
Delivered by  
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- I am delighted to be here this morning on behalf of the International Organization of Employers (IOE), which represents 146 national employer organizations from 139 countries.
- Employers make an essential contribution to the pursuit of sustainable development. Employment creation provides not just livelihoods, but also the revenues, skills, technological solutions and other resources that are necessary to tackle the challenges ahead. Indeed, it has been estimated that the private sector will bring 85% of the necessary financing and resources to the climate challenge, and a similar lion's share to other environmental and sustainability challenges.
- IOE has long emphasized
  - The importance of the right enabling conditions and frameworks for successful and sustainable enterprises;
  - The need for partnerships between stakeholders and the public and private sectors.
- Thus, IOE welcomes the opportunity to join in the future work of the Green Jobs initiative, which of necessity addresses these important issues.
- We appreciate in particular the present Report's acknowledgement of
  - The positive contributions that can be made through jobs and workplaces to practical environmental stewardship, increasing energy efficiency and responding to a wide range of sustainability challenges; and
  - The role of markets in stimulating greener and more sustainable choices, by consumers, employers and societies.
- Definitions and assumptions about the greening of jobs must be broad and comprehensive. The Report refers to "shades of green." This is a useful concept. In making stark distinctions between "green" and presumably non-green jobs, we miss an opportunity to reflect on how to raise our sights, so that all jobs become greener.

- Part of this “greening” is adjusting proactively to changing environmental and regulatory realities. Climate change is a textbook example of the need for “long term” planning and risk management.
- Critical long-term climate policy and market frameworks are being developed in the UNFCCC and other influential inter-governmental discussions. It is vital that these frameworks and their implementation support economic prosperity and growth, job creation and livelihoods. Responsible companies will address climate change as they should other large-scale trends and impacts, making strategic choices and adjustments.
- For example, governments, workers and enterprises alike will have to meet the skills demands of evolving labour markets, while recognizing that there is no central planning or one-size fits adequate to the myriad contexts and realities that will emerge.
- We see a large and productive potential work program to tackle together. Key substantive areas for further work include:
  - Addressing the special needs and realities for employers in developing countries and vulnerable regions, particularly SMEs;
  - Opportunities for capacity building between groups in developed and developing countries;
  - Job and competitiveness impacts of climate policies;
  - The job impacts of sectoral approaches, within sectors and economy-wide;
  - Addressing climate, environmental and energy issues through management systems, initiatives, and partnerships;
  - Adaptation challenges; and
  - Technological innovation and deployment
- This is a challenging agenda. Just as, to be meaningful, the concept of “decent work” must be defined and addressed at the national and local level, there is no single universal model of a “green job,” and there will be many versions of green economies. Yet in all their diversity, one thing will be constant – they will be built on jobs provided by IOE member companies of all sizes, sectors and nationalities.