Progress, gaps and challenges: Pathways toward a green economy

Accelerating Global Actions for a World Without Poverty: Gaps, Challenges and Progress | Presentation to the Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Third UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)
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Context

- Triple planetary crises broadening inequalities and jeopardizing achievement of 2030 Agenda and SDGs

- Inextricable link between poverty eradication and better maintenance of ecological commons

- Enormous challenge ahead of the world:
  - 836 million still in extreme poverty
  - Environmental degradation concentrated among groups and households in vulnerable situations
  - Lower baseline health, limited access to healthcare, etc. increase vulnerability of poorer households to environmental issues

- But opportunities exist:
  - Resilience-building, livelihoods diversification
  - Exploring pathways towards inclusive green economy
  - Involving industries in transition towards greener economy
Inclusive Green Economy: Central to Poverty Eradication

- Inclusive green economy may address persistent poverty; overstepped planetary boundaries; and inequitable sharing of growing prosperity

- Member States have embraced green economy as an important tool for achieving sustainable development (The Future We Want, 2012)

- They agreed that (The Future We Want, 2012):
  - Green economy policies should be consistent with international law; respect national sovereignty; enhance welfare of IPLCs; and continue efforts to strive for inclusive, equitable development approaches to overcome poverty and inequality

- Called on UN system to provide information on (The Future We Want, 2012):
  - Toolboxes and/or best practices in applying policies on green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication at all levels
  - Methodologies for evaluation of policies on green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
  - Existing and emerging platforms that contribute to the topic
UNEP’s Activities: Green Economy

- Advisory Services
- Economic and Fiscal Policy
- Environment and Trade Hub
- Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
- GGKP
- PAGE
- UNEP Finance Initiative

Towards a GREEN Economy
Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication
A contribution by Ashley Watson
PAGE in Numbers: 2022

- 8 Funding Partners
- 299 National Institutions and Ministries partnering
- 196 Assessments
- 12 Collaborating Partners
- US$ 94.6 m Total Contributions to PAGE
- 31,782 People Trained
- 81 Global Events
- 56 Initiatives Providing Co-financing
- 23 Knowledge Products
- 96 Countries Represented at PAGE Events
- 21 Training Packages
- 103 Policies Supported in 16 Countries
- 22 Partner Countries
- 67 Countries requesting PAGE support
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PAGE Highlights: 2022

Influencing global debate
Inputs to Indonesia’s G20 Presidency, the Stockholm+50 Conference, UNFCCC COP27, and the World Circular Economy Forum put green and just economic transition high on the agenda in global debates with mention in the G20 Bali Leaders Declaration.

Leveraging economic expertise
UNRCOs benefitted from training on green economic modelling and dialogues reflecting on priorities for a green economic transition, in addition to targeted economic expertise provided to countries through the Green Transformation Economic Advisory Mechanism (Green TEAM).

Developing skills and capacity
Since PAGE’s inception, 26,000 learners completed courses of PAGE’s e-learning portfolio contributing to improved knowledge on inclusive green economy. A Green Industry Summer School provided deep-dive learning for key actors in industry on circular economy, green recovery for SMEs, decarbonization and green jobs.

Providing knowledge on green economic recovery
The Green Recovery Observatory helped to showcase policy solutions and green investments providing the basis for a Sustainable Budgeting Approach. Focused on the impact of COVID-19 on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, additional guidance was developed on how to recover from exogenous shocks and increase resilience.

Accelerating policy reforms in countries
PAGE countries announced new policy measures to reduce carbon emissions, facilitate green finance and sustainable public procurement, promote green industry, and protect natural resources. Capacity building and social dialogue advanced sectoral reforms related to agriculture, energy, infrastructure, textiles, and tourism, with green jobs and circular economy being prevailing areas of action across countries.
Going Forward: Challenges and Gaps

Economic polarization undermining poverty eradication efforts and protection of environmental systems.

Crisis of rising inequality must be placed at center of policy issues and analyses.

Coordination between different government ministries is imperative.

Informal sector: requires greater attention within green economy discourse and action.

Need to connect global policy goals across the transition i.e., connect financial system reform agenda to goals of green economy.

Indicators of success must be re-defined.

Foreign and international relations on green economy must extend beyond ODA and global initiatives.
Thank you