



Permanent Mission  
of the Kyrgyz Republic  
to the United Nations



United  
Nations

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



International  
Labour  
Organization

## Commemorative Meeting on the occasion of the World Day of Social Justice

### “Strengthening a Just Transition for a Sustainable Future”

**20 February 2025**

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Conference Room 6, UNHQ

The Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs are pleased to convene the commemorative meeting of the 2025 World Day of Social Justice.

#### **Background**

General Assembly resolution 62/10 established 20 February as the World Day of Social Justice, inviting Member States to advance social justice through concrete actions. In 2025, this day takes on heightened significance as the international community prepares for the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2). The global agenda for social justice must resonate more urgently than ever.

Building on the 2024 theme of fostering alliances for social justice through the Global Coalition for Social Justice, the 2025 commemoration seeks to capitalize on the Coalition’s operational maturity and its potential to address inequalities exacerbated by structural transformations, climate change, and the evolving demands of the future of work.

#### **Context and Objectives**

2025 marks a pivotal year to reinforce commitments from the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action and accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The priority theme of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Commission for Social Development on “*strengthening solidarity, inclusion, and cohesion*” similarly aims to realize the vision of social justice for all.

As the world is at a critical turning point to prevent irreversible climate damage to economies and societies, prioritizing equity, social justice, inclusion and just transition processes can enable adaptation and ambitious mitigation actions and climate resilient development<sup>1</sup>. A just transition promotes environmentally sustainable economies in a way that is inclusive, by creating decent work opportunities, reducing inequality and by leaving no one behind (ILC 2023 Resolution).

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 6 Assessment Report, 2023.

This year's World Day will focus on advancing a just transition and the social dimension of sustainable development, trade and investment. In doing so, it seeks to ensure that no one is left behind and that the benefits of climate action contribute to building equitable societies.

### **Thematic Focus**

Climate and environmental changes are posing serious threats to economies, labour markets and societies, and have the potential to disrupt millions of jobs and worsen income inequality, wealth gaps and access to opportunities. However, if properly managed, climate action can lead to more and better jobs in a low-carbon, greener economy and advance social justice.

The 2025 World Day for Social Justice will focus on advancing social justice by strengthening governance structures and creating adequate mechanisms to guide policy and investment decisions towards a just transition to a low-carbon and job-rich economy.

Central to this effort is the promotion of macroeconomic policies and trade frameworks that foster inclusive growth as well as integrated just transition policies and strategies. The event will explore how investments in green infrastructure and renewable energy can drive innovation, create decent jobs, and build resilient economies. Additionally, it will address the critical role of responsible supply chains and governance in the extraction and use of critical minerals essential for green technologies, ensuring labour rights, environmental standards, and resource access are upheld.

The event will also underscore the importance of social protection systems as a cornerstone of climate adaptation and mitigation. By extending coverage and implementing innovative safety nets, these systems can shield vulnerable populations from climate shocks and the unintended consequences of climate policies, while encouraging sustainable practices and ensuring no one is left behind. Discussions will focus on addressing skill gaps and fostering lifelong learning systems to prepare workers for emerging green technologies. Special emphasis will be placed on ensuring that education and training initiatives are inclusive, particularly for women, youth, and marginalized groups, to enable broad participation in the transitions shaping the global economy.

Financing a just transition will be another critical area of focus, exploring innovative mechanisms such as climate bonds, international development funds, and public-private partnerships. The event will advocate for strengthened international solidarity, including multilateral support and debt relief, to enable equitable transitions, particularly in low-income countries. Guided by the ILO Guidelines for a Just Transition and the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals, the event will provide actionable pathways for integrating social justice into climate and environmental agendas, ensuring sustainable development and a resilient future for all.

Finally, the event will be pivotal in highlighting the transformative role of collaboration and partnerships in driving systemic change. By leveraging the Global Coalition for Social Justice, the event will emphasize the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in addressing key transitions affecting the world of work. It will call on governments, businesses, trade unions, and civil society to align their efforts and foster social dialogue and stakeholder engagement as a means to build consensus-driven solutions. These collaborations will be critical in designing policies and initiatives that reflect shared values of equity and sustainability, ensuring that the benefits of global transitions are distributed fairly and inclusively across all sectors of society.

### **Key Questions for Discussion**

1. How can macroeconomic policies, trade frameworks, and investments be designed or adapted through a strong social consensus, to simultaneously advance social justice, climate resilience, and inclusive economic growth?
2. What strategies and actions are needed to ensure integrated policies and a just transition - whether in infrastructure, energy, technology or critical minerals — that is inclusive, protects workers, and provides equitable access to opportunities for all?
3. What innovative financing mechanisms and international cooperation strategies can be mobilized to support a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies with a focus on low-income and climate-vulnerable countries, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development?

## PROGRAMME

<b>1:15 – 1:40 p.m.</b>	<b>Opening / Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>H.E. Mrs. Aida Kasymalieva</b>, Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN</li><li>- <b>H.E. Mr. Gilbert F. Hougbo</b>, Director-General, ILO (video message)</li><li>- <b>H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa</b>, Vice-President of ECOSOC, Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to the UN</li><li>- President of the General Assembly, UN</li></ul>
<b>1:40– 2:25 p.m.</b>	<b>Discussion: “Strengthening a Just Transition for a Sustainable Future”</b> <b>Moderator: Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon</b> , Special Representative and Director, ILO Office for the UN <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs</li><li>- International Organization of Employers</li><li>- International Trade Union Confederation</li></ul> Statements from Member States and other stakeholders  Participants are welcome to make remarks to provide views and share their own experience/reflections in the field of social justice. They are kindly invited to indicate whether they intend to speak via email ( <a href="mailto:t.chotonova@gmail.com">t.chotonova@gmail.com</a> / <a href="mailto:corell@ilo.org">corell@ilo.org</a> ). The list of speakers will be on a first-come-first-serve basis.
<b>2:25 – 2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Closing remarks / Family photo</b> <b>H.E. Mrs. Aida Kasymalieva</b> , Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN