

Green Growth Community of Practice (GG CoP)

Online meeting 1 October 2026

Minutes

Participants

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. ITC, Co-Chair | 8. GAC |
| 2. World Bank, Co-Chair | 9. Gatsby Africa |
| 3. OECD | 10. SDC |
| 4. FCDO | 11. OECD |
| 5. GIZ | |
| 6. ILO | Ella Duffy – DCED Secretariat |
| 7. OECD | |

Apologies: Netherlands MoFA; Sida

Agenda Items

1. Welcome, objectives and introductions
2. Member agency updates
3. Discussion on CoP aims and themes for this financial year
4. Updates on active workstreams
5. Any other business

1. Welcome, objectives and introductions

World Bank welcomed everyone to this first call of the new financial year (DCED runs with IFC's July-June pattern), introduced the agenda and set out the objectives of the meeting.

2. Member agency updates

ILO: shared two recent studies on SMEs and the low-carbon transition in Japan. [The first](#) examines public policy and the enabling environment for a low-carbon future, drawing on six SMEs across different industries. [The second](#) looks at the Just Transition in the automotive sector, covering implications for both enterprises and workers and how they can be supported through the transition. Together, the two studies offer complementary perspectives, both focused on Japan. ILO also shared [a paper on successful just transition policy mix for SMEs](#).

OECD: Reacting to the ILO Japan studies, there was interest in SME greening as an ongoing OECD priority, building on previous work funded by Japan and presented to this group before. **Jan-Phillip would be**

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interested in connecting on this. He shared the previously presented OECD report on [benchmarking SME decarbonisation policies](#).

Three colleagues from different OECD teams shared an update:

1. From the SMEs team: A project funded with the Inter-American Development Bank is currently looking at bioeconomy, blue economy, and circular economy approaches in Colombia and Brazil. The [2026 Green Growth and Sustainable Development Conference](#) also covered the economics of climate adaptation, investment in resilient infrastructure, and the role of business in these areas. Thanks were given to World Bank for the previous link with Morocco colleagues, with a **Morocco report including an SME greening chapter due out in December, which will be shared then.**
2. From the mining regions team, who join the CoP for the first time: Work focuses on policy advice for mining regions, covering environmental and human rights dimensions. A new wellbeing toolkit sets out guidelines and practical policy implications for mining communities across environmental, social, and economic dimensions, linking economic mining development with social wellbeing. An upcoming [conference in Antofagasta, Chile](#), at the end of October, will bring together regional and local government, indigenous groups, and the private sector to discuss best practice and share peer learning through workshops.
3. From the Development Centre, also joining for the first time: [A report on the bioeconomy in the Amazon](#), focused on Brazil, has recently been published and sets out the concept and areas of consensus on its meaning, alongside guidance on pursuing it in a sustainable and inclusive way for indigenous peoples. It highlights potential new value chains from this approach, how existing value chains can add value for communities, and how innovation can help reduce environmental impact. The work is led by the OECD Development Centre, which is currently undergoing a restructure, with the sustainability division being reshuffled to be mainstreamed across the centre rather than remaining a standalone unit.

ECDO: Major restructuring has been underway for the past months, with new roles and organograms. Andy is moving into a new role, and a new green growth lead will be appointed but is not yet in place; he will cover this on a light-touch basis in the meantime. A [three-day conference on "good growth"](#) has just concluded, attended by many organisations in this group, aiming to define what good growth means, with green growth as a significant component applied across five areas, including labour markets and value chains. **A summary report will be available in three weeks and will be shared then.**

SDC: As part of the preparation for the proposed next bill for Switzerland's International Cooperation 2029-2032, the Swiss government has given SDC and SECO a mandate for: 1) The reallocation of CHF 330 million per year from development cooperation to humanitarian aid; 2) A sharper focus on priority countries, themes and partner organisations. In terms of green growth, this will likely imply the closure of green growth support programs in countries where SDC country programs will be closed.

GAC: CAD 100 million has been secured for nature-based solutions in Sub-Saharan Africa, covering alternative livelihoods and climate-related business. Specific focus areas for Canada's climate finance can't yet be shared, pending a policy document on geographic and internal restructuring changes.

The development department has seen a 30% overall cut, with 80% of staff gone from the partnering for climate team – this team was previously split between partnerships and climate and is now combined under climate finance, with colleagues also working across various funds including the GCF and other finance areas. Current priorities include food security and the effects of El Niño, and resilience to climate shocks. Oceans leadership is also on the agenda. There's a more deliberate push toward mutually beneficial aid-for-trade

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partnerships, despite evidence questioning their effectiveness, including a Canadian paper citing a return of two cents per trade dollar. Given reduced staff and budgets, he expects regional cuts focused on areas not suited to trade relationships, but the economic growth unit represented elsewhere in DCED will have more information on this.

ITC: ITC is preparing for its participation in COP31, building on its engagement in previous COPs. Its contribution will focus on bringing the perspectives of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) into climate discussions, particularly on resilience, competitiveness and opportunities arising from the green transition. The dedicated Trade Day will provide an opportunity to amplify the voice of SMEs in these discussions. ITC will also host the [2027 Global SME Ministerial Meeting](#) in Geneva, bringing together policymakers and stakeholders to advance the global SME agenda. “Green trade and growth” will be one of the thematic pillars, **offering opportunities for DCED members to engage and contribute; members should get in touch if they are interested in attending.** ITC has also launched a [free e-learning course on trade and climate](#), which Ella offered to include in the DCED website’s training resources.

World Bank: A new report on governance and climate reform compiles global-level policy, knowledge, and practice through a stocktake, with findings to be presented at COP. In the trade and competitiveness unit, eco-industrial parks remain a key channel for supporting firms’ green transition and market access. A new knowledge hub in Riyadh and e-learning platform support this work. The World Bank is developing a three-level certification for eco-industrial parks, with independent audits assessing sophistication, though questions remain on how to handle parks that fall in between levels or don’t yet qualify.

Overall, World Bank is now organised by sector theme (e.g. mining, tourism), with ‘more and better jobs’ and ‘mobilising private investment’ as the core strategic focuses across all sectors, including those like mining where this marks a real shift in strategy from a traditional focus on increasing exploration. A new SME strategy is also coming soon, focused on growth, investment, and job creation. Other areas of interest include energy companies and the green transition, for example working with SMEs in Morocco. Metals and mining remain a priority, including EV battery value chains and identifying value-add opportunities across regions. Interest in rare earths is growing, despite high capital intensity, while interest in solar PV has decreased, likely reflecting its relative maturity in many countries.

DCED Secretariat: Ella shared a summary of the DCED Global Seminar which took place in Nairobi in June alongside the Annual Meeting. The Seminar drew over 220 participants from 40+ countries, with 98% of feedback rating it excellent or very good. One thematic stream at the Seminar covered green private sector development topics, over three sessions. One discussing why we are not seeing more strong green PSD programmes, pointing to the need for fewer, clearer objectives and market-led approaches; one on honest trade-offs between green and employment goals, proposing new language and an upfront ranking of objectives, tested across five sectoral cases; and one on green measurement, highlighting the lack of clear guidance leading to unwieldy indicator lists, and the need for closer collaboration between programmes, evaluators, funders and researchers.

3. Discussion on CoP aims and themes for this financial year

ITC introduced the discussion, setting out the objective of members feeding into decision making on what should be discussed/presented at these quarterly CoP meetings, and explained the process the Co-Chairs went through to distil the topics set out in the online survey circulated over email (obtained from a review of member updates from meeting minutes). Members were then given a few minutes to fill out the survey.

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Discussion turned to next steps on prioritisation, including whether to keep the survey open for a few more weeks to allow those members not present to complete it, and whether to invite an expert presentation on green finance for the next meeting as a starting point, given that is the most popular theme so far.

OECD suggested that green finance and investment colleagues in another team might be available to present on some of their work. For the OECD SMEs team, they find green value chains and industrialisation, including SME-ready manufacturing and how CBAM affects market access for SMEs in exporting economies, most interesting. GAC raised whether covering three themes this year is too many, suggesting one or two might be more manageable, and also offered to connect to FinDev Canada colleagues who may be able to share perspectives on climate finance. World Bank suggested that we organise another meeting in this calendar year, e.g. in November, rather than waiting until January.

Action: There was broad consensus that the survey should be kept open for a few more weeks, and that a presentation on green finance should be organised for the next meeting. Ella and the Co-Chairs will share the results of the survey when closed, and follow up on a presentation from FinDev Canada, OECD or other organisations.

4. Updates on active workstreams

ITC provided an update on the status of work items from the last financial year and the new work item on collaboration between traditional development actors and philanthropies; Ella provided an update on the critical minerals item in World Bank's absence for this section of the meeting.

Ella re-iterated that **any CoP member is welcome to join any workstream by emailing Ella/Ana/Mariem:**

- **Trade & MSME development for a just transition** – The three policy briefs on trade and just transition are in final review and publication stage, and will be published soon. They look at the cases of the impact of EUDR preparations in the rubber sector in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, export bans on critical raw materials in Indonesia, and single-use plastic bans in East Africa.
- **Enabling policy frameworks for circular economy** – Two case studies focused on circular economy policy frameworks: one examines textiles in Colombia, and the other looks at agrifood systems in Rwanda. This work item is now finished, with the 4 documents (long and short case studies on Colombia and Rwanda) currently being released by the DCED as a LinkedIn mini-series. Members were encouraged to share the case studies with their networks.
- **Job creation in critical minerals for the green transition** – The task team met this week to share experience on how their agency supports critical minerals for the green transition. The meeting mainly focussed on this experience sharing, with many new task team members present; a second meeting will be scheduled in due course to distil in more detail where an entry point for DCED work could be.
- **Collaboration between traditional development actors and philanthropies on green growth** – The task team met earlier this week to have an early discussion on directions for this work item; it was decided that the output should be very practical. Ella is compiling notes from this meeting and will share with the task team, including those not present at the meeting.

5. Any other business

Ella indicated that she would send minutes after the meeting. ITC thanked all participants.

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