

Green Growth Working Group (GGWG)

Online meeting 11 April 2025

Minutes

Participants

1. Mariem Malouche (World Bank, Chair)
 2. Abu Saieed (UNIDO)
 3. Anne Terheggen (BMZ/GIZ)
 4. Dominik Biesalski (ILO)
 5. Florian Güldner (BMZ/GIZ)
 6. Ingela Juthberg (Sida)
 7. Karen Suassuna (ITC)
 8. Kerry Max (GAC)
 9. Marlen de la Chaux (ILO)
 10. Philip Ischer (SECO)
- Ella Duffy; Melina Heinrich-Fernandes (DCED Secretariat)

Apologies: Patrick Obonyo (IKEA Foundation), Ana Batalhone (ITC)

Agenda Items

1. **Welcome, objectives and introductions of any new members**
2. **Updates from the DCED Secretariat**
3. **GGWG work planning**
4. **Planning for the DCED Annual Meeting**
5. **Member agency updates**
6. **Any other business**

1. Welcome, objectives and introductions of any new members

Mariem Malouche opened the meeting and welcomed members.

2. Updates from the DCED Secretariat

Ella Duffy reminded members that the 2025 DCED Annual Meeting will take place in Geneva, 16-19 June, including an in-person meeting of the GGWG on 17 June and a thematic day on 18 June on the theme of *PSD in a changing global aid context: Navigating fragility, trade and reconstruction*. **Members intending to join us in person should confirm their attendance by emailing the Secretariat.**

Ella then outlined the DCED process for work planning leading up to the Annual Meeting: WG work plans need to be submitted to the Secretariat in draft form by 24 April to then be presented at a meeting of the DCED Executive Committee and all WG Chairs on 29 April. She reminded members about the new guidance

v. 25 April 2025

from the ExCo presented at the last meeting that sets a US \$45K budget ceiling per WG per year. The finalised whole-DCED work plan will then be submitted to the Business Session of the Annual Meeting in Geneva for approval by the membership (19 June).

3. GGWG Work planning

Updates on current workstreams:

Ella Duffy provided updates on the pending 2024/25 workstreams on behalf of the task team leads who were not present (Patrick Obonyo, IKEA Foundation, on the enabling policy frameworks for circular economy research; Ana Batalhone, ITC, on the green trade and MSMEs research). Both task teams have identified suitable consultancies to work with; Mariem Malouche commented on the procurement process for the Green Growth Trust Fund, which sits with IFC/World Bank and has been delayed due to changes in leadership. Mariem hopes to provide an update within the next weeks. **The WG agreed that both items should be carried over to the 2025/26 work plan.**

On 2023/24 items that are still being finalized, Ella mentioned that the Nature-based Solutions (NBS) Toolkit is ready to be published - she is working on a dissemination plan and arranging a date with the consultants for a launch webinar. Kerry Max, task team lead for the NBS workstream, added that the task team are also seeking additional presentation opportunities. **Anne Terheggen offered to connect Kerry with a potential venue for presenting the toolbox at GIZ.** Kerry also mentioned that GAC are **seeking partners or donors for a \$350 million nature-based solutions portfolio across sub-Saharan Africa and urged members to get in touch.**

Florian Güldner updated members on the status of the Green Industrial Policy report; the content is finalized, and the report is now being professionally designed, to be published by June. The conversation ended with a farewell from Florian, who was handing over his responsibilities to Anne Terheggen.

Discussion of 2025/26 priorities:

Mariem Malouche then shifted the discussion to the work plan for new activities.

Abu Saieed proposed research on the challenges of green finance for SMEs in developing countries, including capacity issues, understanding, and policy issues. A focus on innovative financing mechanisms would be interesting to Kerry Max at GAC. Mariem Malouche suggested that there is work already happening in this area, and that members would benefit from sharing publications on financing for SMEs for decarbonization. Karen Suassuna shared that ITC have a global campaign on "Greening SMEs" and a playbook on finance targeting SMEs and climate finance, which could be of interest to the group.

Mariem Malouche opened discussion on interest in clean energy and critical minerals, particularly in the context of the G7 chairmanship by Canada. Anne Terheggen shared insights from her work on the commodity boom, highlighting the need for a mix of policies to make value addition work for countries. She also mentioned the importance of employment data, particularly at the firm level, which is often lacking in developing countries. Marlen de la Chaux (ILO) expressed interest in the topic and offered to share their work on job quality in the mining sector. Mariem provided some information on the Rise Initiative, a trust-funded World Bank program with Japan, Canada, and Germany that aims to increase investment and jobs in developing countries by diversifying minerals value chains, and is currently concentrated on East Asia. Mariem highlighted that they have also found a lack of data on jobs and employment in the manufacturing

and processing parts of the value chain, and suggested the possibility of collaborating in this WG to collect this data or do a scoping of data collection methodologies being used by different agencies.

Mariem agreed to provide a possible proposal for a work item on decent jobs in critical minerals value chains by early next week. Kerry Max commented that GAC may also be interested in joining this workstream but cannot confirm until after Canadian elections.

Discussion turned to whether members are experiencing a need to tweak language of programmes to include greening components without triggering any filters around climate-related messaging, in the context of anti-climate backlash. Mariem Malouche raised concerns about whether countries will change their priorities if there's less pressure from the US and EU on climate-related policies. Anne Terheggen noted that in Germany, there's a growing emphasis on making EU companies more competitive and aligning aid with German interests. The group agrees that while the overall direction towards environmental responsibility may continue, the pace might slow down. It was suggested that this could be an item for conversation at a future WG meeting.

4. Planning for GGWG meeting, 17 June, at Annual Meeting in Geneva

Members were in agreement that ILO lead a session discussing the work they mentioned at the last WG meeting on Promoting Just Transitions for SMEs. Mariem Malouche also offered to present World Bank work on critical minerals, though noted she can only join virtually. **Ella Duffy indicated that she would circulate a draft agenda to members for comment.**

5. Member agency updates

ITC: Karen Suassuna shared information about the upcoming SME Ministerial that ITC have organised in South Africa in July, which will focus on green finance and digitalization. She also shared that ITC are producing guidelines for involving SMEs in national development plans.

UNIDO: Abu Saieed shared updates on UNIDO's work in India and Cambodia, particularly in the textile sector, and their plans for a technology innovation roadmap.

World Bank: Mariem Malouche provided updates on the World Bank's work on green industrial policy, climate adaptation, and a new toolkit for value chain analysis.

Sida: Ingela Juthberg shared the priorities of the new Swedish government's global development cooperation, which focuses on sustainability in value chains and collaboration with the private sector.

6. Any other business

Ella Duffy reiterated that she would share the minutes of this meeting over email. She reminded members to **share any proposals for new GGWG workstreams as soon as possible** so that other members have time to reflect on them before the draft workplan is produced. Ella and Mariem Malouche (Chair) will then follow up with a draft workplan.