

Green Growth Working Group (GG WG)

Online meeting 27 January 2026

Minutes

Participants

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. ITC, Co-Chair | 9. GAC |
| 2. World Bank, Co-Chair | 10. ITC |
| 3. UK FCDO | 11. Laudes Foundation |
| 4. GIZ | 12. Laudes Foundation |
| 5. Sida | 13. ITC |
| 6. NL MoFA | |
| 7. GGKP Presenter | Ella Duffy; Melina Heinrich-Fernandes (DCED Secretariat) |
| 8. OECD | |

Apologies: Sida, JICA, ILO, ILO

Agenda Items

1. **Welcome, objectives and introductions**
2. **Updates on active workstreams**
3. **Member agency updates**
4. **Aligning Small Business and Trade with Nationally Determined Contributions - ITC**
5. **Creation of a searchable database of green PSD programme data - GGKP**
6. **Any other business**

1. Welcome, objectives and introductions

Ella Duffy introduced Ana Batalhone, who has volunteered to step up as Co-Chair. Following the introduction, Mariem Malouche expressed her appreciation for Ana's contributions to date and stated that she looks forward to collaborating with her.

2. Updates on active workstreams

Task Team leads updated the group on the three active workstreams and re-iterated that **any WG member is welcome to join any workstream by emailing Ella/Ana/Mariem:**

1. **Trade & MSME development for a just transition** – Ana provided an update: three policy briefs are being drafted on trade and just transition, each tailored to specific contexts. Specifically, they will look

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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. After discussions on value chains and regions, the team is reviewing two drafts while awaiting the third.

- 2. Enabling policy frameworks for circular economy** – Ana provided an update on behalf of the IKEA Foundation, who are leading this work item. Consultants are currently conducting desk research for two case studies focused on circular economy policy frameworks: one examines textiles in Colombia, and the other looks at agrifood systems in Rwanda. The consultants recently submitted a revised inception report along with their research hypotheses.
- 3. Job creation in clean energy technologies value chains** – Mariem's team at World Bank (leading this work item) has secured \$200K from another source for research, so the World Bank will proceed with their preferred data collection on jobs in batteries and solar energy. WG funds can now support a broader review of DCED member activities in critical raw materials (CRMs) and PSD, as suggested by others in task team meetings over the past 6 months. Ella noted strong interest among other DCED members in CRMs, presenting an opportunity to involve members of other WGs. Melina Heinrich-Fernandes mentioned that CRMs will be discussed at the [DCED Global Seminar](#) in Nairobi in June.

1. Member agency updates

UK FCDO – FCDO is shifting towards a centres of expertise model. While they are still researching the detail of how this may function, Green Growth will largely sit under a Jobs and Inclusive Growth Centre of Expertise, which will also include several of their major green growth related projects. Growth Gateway is a major programme delivered with the Department for Business and Trade to help partner countries strengthen their trade and investment links with the UK. It supports the development of productive, resilient value chains and integrates green priorities, including work on green and sustainable businesses, clean energy, and climate finance. Examples include support for adaptation-focused investment in Southeast Asia and efforts to accelerate investment into sustainable businesses in Africa. On CRM, the FCDO engages through the GCPA Power Alliance. The fourth pillar of the GCPA focuses on supporting developing countries to upgrade and diversify their clean-energy-related value chains, aligning with shared objectives to help producer nations capture more value and expand opportunities across their economies.

A branch off from FCDO's [Manufacturing Africa programme](#) is a new green manufacturing platform, to be known as Forge Africa. This is a proposed \$150–200M sustainable industrialisation platform designed to accelerate the growth of high-impact industrial SMEs starting in Kenya and then expanding to Pan Africa through a combined investment fund and catalytic technical assistance facility. The platform targets the large SME financing gap in the region and aims to provide flexible, long-term capital—alongside deep operational support—to help SMEs scale, strengthen value chains, and drive climate-aligned industrial development. Forge Africa aspires to grow into a \$1B pan-African platform, leveraging FCDO anchor capital and partnerships with DFIs, donors, and local investors, with an initial launch planned for 2026.

FCDO also shared links to [publications with the International Growth Centre](#), and new evidence documents from the [CASA programme](#). Many of the reports and studies are highly relevant to green growth and topics mentioned by other group members, such as circular economy. **FCDO invited other members to reach out for a conversation on any of the above.**

Sida - recently received a new reform plan for 2026 that introduces major budget cuts, including closing embassies and ending development programmes in Mozambique, Tanzania, and Bolivia within 6–12 months.

Other budgets are also reduced, with funds reprioritized for Ukraine reconstruction. The green growth and transformation strategy faces a 50% cut, leading to wide-reaching implications.

BMZ/GIZ – like Sida, Germany is undergoing [reforms](#) that include budget reductions for both BMZ and GIZ. The new operational framework now prioritizes: 1) Economic Cooperation for Sustainable and Equitable Growth: private sector partnerships, improving conditions for foreign investment, blended finance, fair procurement, and targeted support for funding, trade facilitation, and risk mitigation; 2) Hunger, Poverty, and Inequality (with a focus on children and youth); 3) Peace and Stability; and 4) Multilateral Partnerships for Global Solutions. BMZ will focus more on specific regions and themes rather than individual countries, leading to the complete closure of some programmes. For instance, food security efforts will be consolidated into one region, with all other regional programmes being discontinued. Least developed countries will continue receiving grants, while middle-income nations will get repayable loans and initiatives to mobilize investment. There will be increased collaboration with multilateral organisations and partnerships. Additionally, there is an effort to connect development aid with national security, particularly within CRM. Overall, economic cooperation is being reinforced, including efforts towards growing the green economy.

NL MoFA - is reducing its overall green growth budget, but PSD will maintain a similar funding level. There is a strong focus on achieving mutual benefits for both NL and partner countries, and all new NL programmes will still integrate green objectives.

GAC – provided an update from the Partnering for Climate initiative's perspective. Green and climate change adaptation priorities remain unclear due to pending domestic reform efforts. There will likely be a shift to focus more on Canadian interests, including exports. Efforts are underway to position the green growth sector with involvement from the Canadian private sector and CSOs in anticipation of this. Many are participating in green goods, services, and technologies, presenting numerous opportunities.

World Bank – The World Bank has created a knowledge bank to unite IFC and global teams in supporting country operations by translating research into scalable solutions. The focus is on improving alignment across regions, job creation, and global investment, with sectoral priorities including energy, mining, health, agriculture, advanced manufacturing, and digital sectors. Over the next six months, changes will be phased in, with tighter budgets limiting new hiring. Efforts centre on consolidating expertise for greater impact, especially around jobs and private investment, while considering both job quantity and quality. Climate and green growth now receive less emphasis than before, though they remain relevant depending on partner countries' interests, such as CRM and clean energy, along with adaptation to climate shocks.

OECD - has recently focused on country reviews on [SME decarbonisation in OECD economies](#) such as Portugal and Korea. Past works also included an [assessments of GHG emissions and energy consumption of SMEs](#), and a comparative analysis of SME decarbonisation across seven OECD economies with the financial support from Japan. In parallel, the [OECD Platform on Financing SMEs for Sustainability](#) facilitates a stakeholder dialogue to improve SMEs' access to sustainable finance. Upcoming OECD work includes country reviews of SME greening in Colombia and Brazil in partnership with the IDB. **OECD offered that the past work on benchmarking SME decarbonisation policies across seven OECD economies could be presented at a future WG meeting.** Mariem noted a recent joint World Bank–OECD event on CRM, offering to share links from it, and mentioned the G7-funded RISE initiative presented there.

Laudes Foundation – introduced themselves as this is their first GGWG meeting as they observe the DCED's work. Laudes is a mid-sized private family foundation from the Netherlands, mainly active in Europe and Asia. Their philanthropic funding supports green growth across finance, food processing, retail, construction, and fashion/textiles, with a focus similar to donor agencies but without using the terminology of 'green growth' or

'market systems development'. They collaborate with other donors on just transition and knowledge sharing, aiming to complement donor agency work, especially as they are not facing budget cuts. In textiles, their priorities are supporting innovation and climate-smart agriculture, fostering circularity through recycling and policy, and aiding SMEs in high-emission sectors lacking resources for decarbonization, mainly in India and Bangladesh. They also partner with GIZ in Vietnam and Tanzania, emphasizing reskilling for green jobs. **They emphasized that they would be open to any bilateral conversations about their work.**

ITC - is engaged in an ongoing reform process. Current thematic focus areas include CRM, with the ITC mandate enabling work on value chains in the industry. A pilot initiative in the DRC, coordinated with both the local private sector and government, will provide a foundation for future support to enhance value addition and connect local actors to responsible investment opportunities. They are also seeing an emphasis on aligning domestic interests with development priorities. On the climate front, all institutions have recently returned from COP, and the team is actively working on CCC processes. Post-COP, efforts include integrating trade-related stakeholders into these processes, with ITC continuing to support COP initiatives moving forward. This engagement reflects years of ITC advocacy promoting the inclusion of SMEs and trade topics at COP. On trade and environment, ITC is advancing work on deforestation-free global value chains, particularly regarding SME compliance. A [digital platform](#) has been developed to enable businesses and supply chain stakeholders to verify that their products are not associated with deforestation. This platform allows companies and producers to share traceability data in a standardized manner, retaining ownership of their information and assisting buyers in complying with relevant regulations.

a. DCED Global Seminar and Annual Meeting, 15-19 June 2026 in Nairobi

Melina Heinrich-Fernandes provided information about the DCED's event in June in Nairobi: PSD at a crossroads: Navigating a shared way forward. The week-long event will combine elements of a traditional DCED Annual Meeting for members-only on Monday 15 June and Friday 19 June, with 16-18 June reserved for the Seminar. Side events from external organisations will also be available on 19 June. The Seminar will strategically convene up to 200 participants from DCED members, potential members (including foundations and DFIs) and experienced practitioners for an exchange on practical implications of the changing global aid context for PSD, on the following themes:

1. A changing funder landscape and implications for PSD	2. Synergies between PSD, resource access and trade for donor countries	3. Creating markets for SME finance – from shared language to shared practice	4. Advances in MSD	5. Navigating green PSD and a just transition	6. Markets in FCAS – what's next after the funding collapse	7. The (continued) importance of PSD evidence	8. Protecting and deepening WEE and inclusion
Unpacking the variety of new funders, practical implications for projects and support for systemic approaches	Effective PSD at the nexus of domestic trade/ resource access agendas and development/ sustainable sourcing objectives	Concrete examples on creating systems through which finance can reach SMEs, and in which SMEs can develop to attract finance	New MSD guidelines and taking stock of new context for MSD programs and team leader responses (25 years after 'blue book')	Moving from adaptation in agriculture towards a new generation of green PSD programming	Implications of the humanitarian funding collapse for market systems around protracted displacement settings	Launch of updated DCED PSD evidence framework and discussion of good practice in measuring results/ systemic change	Policy-, HR- and program-level shifts required to effectively champion and promote WEE as an increasingly complex and contested area

The Secretariat are actively having discussions with members on trends and priorities they would like to see featured in the Seminar agenda; please reach out to schedule a call.

See also slides available via email for further information, and the [Global Seminar webpage](#).

Questions followed on logistics of the week, and Melina confirmed that remote joining may be possible for Working Group meetings on Monday 15 June but not for the Seminar. Melina also provided some more information on the kind of participants expected to take part.

2. Aligning Small Business and Trade with Nationally Determined Contributions

ITC colleagues presented the recent ITC work, [full report available online](#) – see slides available by email for presentation content – **Lorenzo Formenti can be contacted for any follow-up questions or further information.**

Discussion followed ITC's presentation:

The OECD, which has been working on SME decarbonisation, inquired about how case study sectors were selected, considering factors like carbon intensity, noting similarities to previous OECD work (for example, ministries often do not collaborate effectively). ITC expanded that key enablers in this integration included gradual sensitization of Iraq's government about the interconnectedness of climate and trade, taking into account the country's fragile context. Rather than overreaching, sector selection was pragmatic and based on local priorities: in Iraq, oil is highly politicised, so agriculture, food, and construction sectors, areas prioritized by the government, were chosen instead. With high demand for housing due to a young population, energy-efficient housing capable of adapting to future climate changes was also highlighted. The approach balanced broader intervention objectives with the Iraqi government's practical wants.

ITC also commented that indeed ministries typically operated in silos, but the trade department welcomed ITC's advice on coordinating with environmental agencies. A crucial factor for success was ITC's established trust within the country. Collaboration was only possible with local NGOs, not international ones, to access rural regions and overcome language barriers. Among businesses, there was openness to innovation and new solutions, but funding remained a major obstacle. Water scarcity and rising water temperatures are primary concerns, environmentally.

Sida noted that ITC has clearly conducted extensive market analysis for selecting sectors. This could help others in the field avoid duplicating similar efforts. ITC explained their approach, saying they used market intelligence from across the organization and the Iraq local office partnered with UN agencies such as ILO and IOM. Sida suggested there may be opportunities to work with the World Bank as well. Since ITC's analyses are publicly available, there is hope these insights will inform other projects, even without formal partnership.

3. Enhancing Donor Collaboration for Green and Circular Economy Support in Developing Countries– GGKP

See slides available by email for presentation content. GGKP have build an AI and API-powered system to create a searchable database of donor-funded green growth programmes. This would allow donors to collaborate more effectively, as the information on what organisations are doing what, where, would be more easily available.

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GGKP asked the WG for their views on whether this is an initiative they would actually see real added value in and offered follow-up conversations.

FCDO commented that this is interesting and timely. Each year, the London School of Economic asks FCDO for master's project topics; this year, students are doing something similar to map actors in Kenya and Nigeria working on just transition. **Andy Gartside will share results with Hannes in March and connect him with the students, which Hannes welcomed.**

Sida supported the initiative but cautioned against duplicating existing reporting, as their programmes already submit data to the IATA database. Sida clarified that they could not contribute any funding.

The World Bank congratulated the effort, noting donor coordination remains a challenge due to overlapping activities from multiple funders in one country or region, and a lack of incentives for sharing information. They raised questions about accessing data across programmes funded from multiple funders and budget envelopes, and clarified no funding is available from their technical team though there may be interest within their corporate knowledge team.

Hannes explained that GGKP's platform differs from reporting by centrally listing data from various sources via an API, without judging product quality. World Bank, a GGKP steering committee member, has actually already contributed over 10,000 publications which are in the platform alongside knowledge products from GGKP's 90 partners. Many organisations, like World Bank and UNIDO, have open project data that is matched with related knowledge products.

Hannes suggested WG members discuss further, suggesting a workshop alongside other funders in the GGKP network.

4. Any other business

Ella Duffy indicated that JICA had sent a written member update alongside their apologies, which she will include in a follow-up email along with draft meeting minutes and a copy of all slides shared.

Mariem and Ana thanked all participants.