Green Growth Working Group (GG WG)

Online meeting 9 April 2026

Minutes

Participants

1. ITC, Co-Chair
2. World Bank, Co-Chair
3. GIZ
4. Sida
5. Netherlands MoFA
6. ILO
7. ILO
8. ILO
9. IKEA Foundation
10. OECD
11. GAC
12. SDC
13. Laudes Foundation

Ella Duffy; Melina Heinrich-Fernandes (DCED Secretariat)

Apologies:

Agenda Items

1. **Welcome, objectives and introductions**
2. **Benchmarking SME decarbonisation policies across selected (OECD) countries**
3. **Member agency updates**
4. **Updates on active workstreams**
5. **Discussion on 2026-27 work plan**
6. **Any other business**

1. Welcome, objectives and introductions

Mariem opened, invited anyone new to introduce themselves, and invited those who indicated they had to leave before the end of the call to input over email to the discussion on work item planning.

2. Benchmarking SME decarbonisation policies across selected (OECD) countries

See slides circulated over email for content of OECD's presentation.

Discussion followed. GIZ commented that it's encouraging to see tangible progress toward greener institutional infrastructure, especially given the current political climate. World Bank agreed and offered that it would be interesting to see an evaluation in 10 years to see which policies have reduced emissions and how these changes have impacted costs for SMEs. IKEA noted that while the focus is mainly on SMEs and decarbonisation, governments often take sector-wide approaches involving entire value chains. He questioned how this work aligns with government initiatives, particularly those involving larger companies within these chains. World Bank added that governments sometimes target high-emitting sectors regardless of company size, relying on large firms to certify SMEs in their supply chain, and wondered how this dynamic might evolve.

Netherlands raised questions about measuring emissions and why new indicators were developed, as well as how these indicators could be introduced to new governments. He pointed out the difficulty of getting such measures implemented, even when they're theoretically useful. ITC also expressed interest in measurement methodologies and practical issues at the government level, asking if there were any effective methods for collecting emission data and connecting it to NDCs and policy processes to close the policy loop.

OECD responded to all comments and discussion, highlighting the importance of identifying cost-effective programmes that demonstrate measurable outcomes, particularly regarding emissions measurement. He emphasised the need to communicate the benefits of such programmes to SMEs through targeted narratives. While sectoral approaches remain significant (especially within high-emitting industries where large companies are prevalent) many initiatives adopt cross-sector methods, reflecting the distribution of SMEs across all sectors. Major programmes often include numerous SMEs, with higher-budget R&D efforts focused on sectors with substantial emissions.

Regarding emissions measurement, the referenced study introduced a pilot dashboard that disaggregates data typically available at the sectoral level, covering large firms and SMEs, to estimate the SME contribution to GHG emissions and energy consumption. Jan-Philipp shared a paper: Assessing greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption in SMEs and a workshop summary report: The Green Transition of SMEs and Entrepreneurship in Portugal. **He also indicated he could provide further materials on these methodologies to those interested bilaterally**. He also identified the ongoing challenge of linking firm-level and aggregate decarbonisation data to national NDC processes, suggesting this as a key area for future work.

Finally, he shared some examples of best practices in measurement. The energy audit system in Portugal was cited as a successful example, supported by government technical assistance delivered through energy auditors to SMEs. Progress was tracked over time, and the resulting data informed improved, sector-specific guidance.

3. Member agency updates

Sida: Sweden will continue to support the Green Climate Fund with 8bn Swedish crones, so remains one of the largest donors to the fund despite other cuts across Sida.

NL MFA: With a new cabinet comes new priorities and they have requested a review focused on climate and green growth. A cross-departmental strategy is being developed, and this government will focus on environmental issues, aiming to make green policy central moving forward.

IKEA Foundation: Their recent strategy review puts increased emphasis on tackling global warming, starting with six countries, including Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Brazil. They are targeting land, food, forests, buildings, and construction, and have reorganized their teams regionally.

ITC: Last year, ITC helped organise the global SME ministerial in South Africa, bringing together over 60 countries to discuss digitalisation, finance, and the green transition. The event led to a call to action and the launch of a policy-sharing platform for governments, encouraging policymakers to document initiatives in these areas. They continue hosting regional dialogues—one recently held in Kenya—and are increasingly collaborating with the private sector, focusing on value chains and promoting south-south cooperation.

ILO: The ILO is convening experts to address workplace safety amid extreme heat and weather, aiming to produce practical guidelines for governments. These conclusions will be negotiated not only by governments but also by employers and employee associations, ensuring strong representation from enterprises.

SDC: Inclusive green development (just transition and green growth) remains central to Switzerland's development agenda, even amid global geopolitical changes. They are shifting from a "do no harm" approach to actively promoting green jobs and the circular economy, pushing for transformative changes in economic systems. SDC has commissioned green skills papers and a circular economy study and is finalizing guidance for staff on inclusive green economies across both financial and private sector development.

GIZ: University students have produced a paper for GIZ's sector project; **GAC requests that it be shared over email.**

GAC: There's little new information, but Canada's development support now aligns more closely with domestic interests, including green goods and services. The future of climate change and biodiversity efforts remains unclear. If work on Nature-Based Solutions proceeds, they may involve more Canadian companies, particularly around measurement and climate credits.

World Bank: WBG remains committed to green growth, particularly with a jobs lens, with partner countries still prioritizing climate action. Ninety Country Climate Development Reports have been published, highlighting national climate mitigation and adaptation priorities, as well as private sector roles; these will continue to be updated. Support continues for eco-industrial parks and greening industry, especially in SME-heavy regions like Zambia, Colombia, Morocco, and DRC – this connects to the OECD presentation and **Mariem indicated she would follow up on addressing whether park-level or firm-level initiatives are best for SMEs.** IFC is launching an eco-industrial park certification this year where efforts around SME decarbonisation align with loans, grants, and financial sector involvement.

4. 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:**

- **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 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. Work is expected to end soon – we have received drafts of the three policy briefs, and they are almost in a final state with lots of review from the task team of members. We're now moving towards a final format by the end of the month, and next steps are to think about disseminating the key messages.
- **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. Same stage as trade – we have drafts that have been reviewed by the task team and the consultancy is now working towards a final version and a shorter version with key messages to easily disseminate. We meet with the consultants again next week and hope to finish by end of April, with a webinar in May.

- **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 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.

5. Discussion on 2026-27 work plan

It was decided that the critical minerals item should be carried over and the scope broadened, also to include those from other WGs across the DCED interested in this work. The to be defined new scope of this item should include consideration not just of formal jobs but also of informal, artisanal and small scale mining, and should tie into discussions on export bans and global geopolitical changes.

Ella Duffy provided practical information on work item submission – work items must have the support of three DCED member agencies with one prepared to lead the item, and work items need to be defined by the end of April. World Bank flagged that procurement processes on the WBG side are changing.

ITC had suggested a new work item idea over email, and Ana described this. **Note that since this meeting ITC has decided they are not in a position to lead or join a task team to drive this idea forward, but the idea is welcome to be taken up and led by other members.**

The item would focus on "The role of philanthropic foundations in supporting green growth and private sector development": Recent shifts in the development cooperation landscape, including increasing pressure on development budgets and growing emphasis on mobilising private and blended finance, have led to an increased interest in non-traditional funders. Philanthropic foundations are becoming more active in areas such as climate action, green entrepreneurship and sustainable value chain development. However, there is still limited understanding of how foundations engage with approaches commonly used in private sector development. A proposed new research item for GGWG would be to explore how philanthropic foundations support green economic development in ways that intersect with private sector development and trade. The research could examine selected foundations' strategies, instruments, and partnership models, and identify opportunities and challenges for collaboration with development organisations working to support inclusive green growth and small businesses.

IKEA suggested that the focus could be flipped to ask the question "How do we bring more cooperation between philanthropy and other development actors?" There is a lot of push from bilateral donors on this topic within the EU, particularly on PSD, and he sees the added value in practically looking at how to build bridges between these different types of organisations, in partner countries.

The WG agreed that any other ideas should be sent over email for others to react to, within the next two weeks. It was also agreed that the original critical minerals task team plus others interested in the topic from across the DCED should meet soon to narrow down the idea.

6. Any other business

Ella Duffy indicated that she would send minutes and slides after the meeting.