



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

Green Growth Working Group (GGWG)

Minutes of Meeting, teleconference, 3 June 2020

24 June 2020

Participants

- Steffen Felix (GIZ/BMZ) – Co-chair
- Ozunimi Iti (UNIDO) – Co-chair
- Amy Rice (DCED Secretariat)
- Ana Batalhone (ITC)
- Anaëlle Martini (EY Belgium)
- Annegret Brauss (ITC)
- Benjamin Simmons (GGKP)
- Bouba Housseini (IDRC)
- Daniel Taras (GIZ/BMZ)
- Dario Quaranta (World Bank Group)
- Edward Sims (EY Belgium)
- Elena Aguirre Martin (Factor)
- Elisabet Montgomery (Sida)
- Enrico Botta (OECD)
- Etienne Kechichian (World Bank Group)
- Iker Larrea (Factor)
- Jim Tanburn (DCED Secretariat)
- Kerry Max (Global Affairs Canada)
- Maryam Rezaei (FAO)
- Mike Reddaway (DFID)
- Moustapha Kamal Gueye (ILO)
- Nidal Mahmoud (World Bank Group)
- Paul Simister (DFID)
- Philipp Ischer (SECO)
- Simon Ruf (BMZ)
- Sophie von Wartburg (SDC)
- Tim Scott (UNDP)
- Tobias Lechtenfeld (BMZ)
- Yara van Heugten (NL MoFA)

Apologies

- Arjan de Haan (IDRC)
- Claudia Linke Heep (UNIDO)
- Lisbeth Jespersen (Danish MoFA)

Agency Updates

BMZ has launched the reform strategy [BMZ 2030](#). It sets out five focal topics for the work of German Development Cooperation going forward, one of which is “technical and vocational training as well as sustainable growth for good jobs”. Within this focal topic, the area of Private Sector Development, which includes green growth, is a key action area. Besides other changes, the strategy foresees a reduction in the number of direct bilateral cooperation countries from 85 to 60. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, BMZ has reallocated over €1 billion from within its budget to fund a [COVID-19 Support Programme](#). BMZ is also expecting to publish a

position paper on green hydrogen and power-to-X soon. Further, GIZ is working on several strands to conceptualise 'green recovery' and is cooperating with UNIDO and IFC on updating the 'International Framework for Eco-Industrial Parks'. Finally, in Uzbekistan, BMZ/GIZ is developing a new phase of its [sustainable economic development programme](#) in which green growth approaches are likely to be a part of the mix.

ITC is currently finalizing a corporate strategy on "Green Competitiveness & Trade". This is in line with ITC's previously introduced work on "Mainstreaming Sustainable and Inclusive Trade", which also covers green growth-related aspects. In effect, the strategy will support the operationalisation to incorporate green growth approaches into everything ITC does. ITC also has an initiative to mainstream Sustainable Investment across four African countries and scale up the social impact of investment facilitation related projects.

IDRC has commissioned and completed an external review of its Triple Impact Economy Project Portfolio; a programming line of about 12 projects worth CA \$6.3 million, with geographic focus on Latin America (mainly), Africa and Asia. Bouba Housseini suggested that this could be presented to the GGWG via webinar anytime soon. IDRC is also currently working with other Canadian organisations (Equality Fund, GAC, CAFIID and Convergence) to develop a research agenda on development finance and explore collaboration opportunities with southern partners. Finally, the Centre also launched recently a new research initiative on [economic and social policy responses to COVID19 in low-income countries](#). The program supports, among other things, policy research on measures in the public and private sectors to support vulnerable groups, while addressing disparities and promoting gender equality. Further details will be shared with the group as lessons and opportunities will emerge from the program.

World Bank Group is supporting investment in green economic zones and is developing guidelines on sustainable resilient zones in Bangladesh, as well as working on the Eco-Industrial Parks Framework with GIZ and UNIDO. It has a forthcoming paper on industrial resilience. The circular economy (CE) is a large focus for the World Bank; it has published an article on [CE and COVID-19](#), is working on the GGWG's CE and PSD report, is holding internal discussions on its position on CE, and has work in the pipeline (technical advisory) to support the development of CE strategies in Sierra Leone and Mozambique.

OECD has a number of ongoing projects that are likely to be relevant for the current activities of the working group. This includes the ongoing work in [EECCA region](#) where this is a strong focus on SMEs and green growth; several studies on [trade and the circular economy](#); the work on [green finance and taxonomies](#), and a forthcoming paper on the links between green growth and inclusivity. [This brochure](#) outlines all OECD current green growth work.

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs has recently obtained a [study on the circular economy featuring case studies on jeans and mobile phones](#), and has launched a pilot in two (potentially three) embassies integrating circular economy approaches into their PSD portfolio.

Global Affairs Canada: Canada is about to launch consultations on what future climate finance should look like.

FAO is preparing for the [UN Food Systems Summit 2021](#). Recently, FAO has published [The State of the World's Forests 2020](#) and the [FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across Agricultural Sectors](#).

ILO has published a report on [Skills for a greener future: a global view](#) looking at the employment implications of the 'green transition'. A replication of the report for Latin America and the Caribbean is due to be launched in July. In response to COVID-19, the ILO has produced a regularly updated [Monitor](#) on the employment impact and a [Policy framework](#) for tackling both the economic and social impacts of the pandemic.

UNIDO, through PAGE and in cooperation with Central European University, is offering an online course on [Green Industrialization: Pathways towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development](#) in July. A new directorate has been formed within UNIDO, combining the Department of Environment and Department of Energy. Ozunimi Iti presented on PAGE's Economic Empowerment of Women in Green Industry programme later in the meeting.

DFID has seen green growth become a higher priority over the past year due to the UK Prime Minister's commitment to climate finance and to the UK's hosting of [COP26](#) in November 2021. DFID has dedicated lots of resources to the near-term emergency response to COVID-19, but will need to do pivoting of programmes as time passes.

SDC is very busy reprogramming and engaging with social enterprises on the ground in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. PSE guidelines are being finalised for use within SDC.

UNDP is focused on many green growth topics, such as de-risking energy markets, trade, circular economy, public-private partnerships, and more. In response to COVID-19, the UN has an [overall strategy](#) and UNDP also has its own [strategy](#) for in-country implementation.

Circular Economy Study

The Circular Economy (CE) study is one of the work items of the GGWG this year. Its main objectives are to explore the role of different country contexts when it comes to supporting inclusive green growth through PSD programmes, and to focus on how inclusive and green growth can be supported through strengthened value chains and CE approaches.

Edward Sims (EY Belgium) presented the scoping exercise that was conducted to select the countries and sectors of focus for the study (Section B of the report). The Group discussed the assessment of existing regulatory and policy frameworks; it was noted that Section C will contain an assessment of policy instruments that can enhance circular economy practices and

that the consultants are working on a regulatory gap analysis for South Africa. The Group also discussed the importance of considering the employment potential of specific sectors and business models. The Group noted the importance of the section that will consider how PSD programmes can promote CE approaches at all levels (such as economic policy but also private sector engagement through Business Development Service providers).

2020/21 Work Plan

Steffen Felix (GIZ/BMZ) recapped the GGWG's new Work Plan. Volunteers are still sought to form task teams for the work items on the webinar series and the overview of green growth approaches. Interested organisations should get in touch with Steffen Felix. It was decided that, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the latter work item would not start until later in the year. Etienne Kechichian (World Bank Group) suggested that the circular economy study could be presented as a webinar to spark interest in the topic before the publication of the final report. The DCED's Business Environment Working Group has proposed a joint work item on Business Environment Reform and Climate Change, but more scoping work needs to be done to understand what this will entail.

Green Growth Knowledge Partnership (GGKP)

Benjamin Simmons (GGKP) presented an overview of the GGKP, noting that the biggest value GGKP can add to the GGWG is its large audience reach. The GGKP is running a series of [COVID-19 webinars](#) and it was agreed that someone from the GGWG could participate in an upcoming one to promote the Group's [guidance paper](#). There is also potential for GGWG members to participate more in the GGKP's [expert working groups](#), and for the GGWG to utilise the GGKP's 'Green Forum Space'.

COVID-19 discussion

The Group shared reflections on how their agencies have been affected by, and are responding to, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Programme on Economic Empowerment of Women in Green Industry

Ozunimi Iti (UNIDO) presented an overview of PAGE's Economic Empowerment of Women in Green Industry programme.

AOB

- The next GGWG meeting is planned to take place adjacent to the OECD's [Green Growth and Sustainable Development \(GGSD\) Forum](#) (25-26 November 2020) in Paris. It will be a

physical meeting (with the option to join virtually) if the GGSD Forum takes place, otherwise it will be a virtual meeting.

- Annegret Brauss (ITC) announced that she is going on maternity leave shortly, but Ana Batalhone will maintain ITC's presence in the Group.