



8TH GLOBAL COMMODITIES FORUM

BUILDING SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

23–24 APRIL 2018

Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland



MONDAY, 23 APRIL

10–11.30 a.m. **Opening Ceremony**

Chairperson:

H.E. Mr. Christopher Onyanga Aparr, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, former President of UNCTAD Trade and Development Board

Opening Statement:

Mr. Paul Akiwumi, Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, Office-in-Charge of UNCTAD

Inaugural Remarks:

Ms. Arancha González, Executive Director, International Trade Center

Mr. Edwini Kessie, Director of Agriculture and Commodities, World Trade Organization

Dr. Sangheon Lee, Director of Employment Policy, International Labour Organization





11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. **Skills for trade and economic diversification**

With the International Labour Organization (ILO)

Diversification away from a dependence on commodities offers opportunities to increase productivity, improve economic resilience, achieve more equal income distribution and generate more and better jobs. Diversification strategies include: developing higher-value non-commodity sectors, such as manufacturing or services; adding more value to existing commodities; or diversifying the commodity export basket, for example by broadening the range of export crops. Under its Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification (STED) Programme, the ILO works collaboratively with partner countries to anticipate, identify and respond to the skills needed for countries to succeed in priority tradable sectors.

This session will draw on experience from the STED Programme to demonstrate the role of skills in export and diversification strategies, and the role of institutional mechanisms and policies in aligning skills with labour market needs. Panellists will focus on export diversification strategies, especially in agro-processing value chains.

Targeted outcome:

Recommendations on the role of human capital in economic diversification, and on the collaborative institutional arrangements required.

Moderator: Mr. Srinivas B. Reddy, Branch Chief, Skills and Employability Branch, Employment Policy Department, ILO

Speakers:

- Mr. Cornelius Gregg, Senior Technical Specialist, Skills and Employability, ILO: “Skills and Economic Diversification”
- Mr. Beyani Munthali, Employers Consultation Association of Malawi: “Skills for trade and economic diversification in Malawi”

1–3 p.m. **Lunch break**

3–4.30 p.m. **Sustainable job creation in extractive industries and beyond**

Skill profiles of jobs in the extractive industries range from low to highly specialized. The creation of these jobs is often challenging, often due to a shortage of qualified personnel. Although some jobs created in the extractive sector provide poverty-reduction opportunities, the environmental and social costs of extraction may outweigh its economic benefits. Addressing these environmental and social concerns could stimulate other jobs including “greener” jobs created in technical fields such as environmental engineering and risk management. In addition, as the countries embark on the path of transition to greener economies and mitigating climate change, extractive industries are subject to structural change with negative impacts on direct employment. Balancing the negative environmental impacts as well as tapping on opportunities of new green job creation also largely depends on transitional measures including skills development.

In this session, panellists will explore ways for policy makers to promote sustainable job creation through targeted skill development.

Targeted outcome:

Recommended policies to stimulate sustainable job creation in extractive industries

Moderator:

H.E. Ms. Maria Teresa T. Almojuela, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva

Speakers:

- Mr. Tony Addison, Chief Economist, UNU-WIDER: “Effective management of natural resource wealth”
- Mr. Rachid Amui, Economic Affairs Officer, Commodities Branch-DITC, UNCTAD: “Sustainable job creation in extractive industries”
- Prof. William Baah-Boateng, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Ghana Legon

MONDAY, 23 APRIL *(cont.)*

4.30–6 p.m. **Multi-skill training in agricultural value chains**

In developing countries, adding value to agricultural raw materials is often complicated by a lack of investment, with potential investors citing a shortage of trained local workers as a common deterrent. Meanwhile, existing technical training programmes tend to focus on a specific value added activity, for example ginning cotton or milling coffee beans. Due to relatively small production volumes of raw material in many developing countries, value added processors can typically only employ technicians for a few months of the year. This reduces the attractiveness of these vocations and, thus, enrolment in local training programmes.

In this session, panellists will debate the feasibility of establishing a multi-skill training programme that would train students on a sequence of processing activities in selected agricultural value chains. Such a programme could increase the local availability of trained technicians at each of the targeted activity steps, without having to drastically increase enrolment. It could also extend technicians' average annual term of employment, increasing their income and making these vocations more attractive.

Targeted outcome:

- Identify best practice approaches and systems for delivering multi-skill training in agricultural value chains.
- Identify feasible clusters of activities in a specific agricultural value chain to include in a project proposal to develop a multi-skill technical training programme

Moderator:

Ms. Selloua Chakri, Managing Director, SCL Advisory Limited

Speakers:

- Dr. Penny Bamber, Senior Researcher, Center on Globalization, Governance and Competitiveness, Duke University: "Skills for upgrading in agricultural value chains"
- Ms. Veronika Kling, African Farmer Business School Advisory Facility, Sustainable Smallholder Agri-business Programme, GIZ
- Mr. Francis Baganzi, Group Corporate Manager, Nile Agro Group, Uganda: "The skills gap in Uganda's cotton processing activities"
- Dr. Ildephonse Nibikora, Senior Lecturer, Head of Textiles and Ginning, Busitema University, Uganda: "Challenges in placing industrial engineering graduates in the cotton sector"

6–7.30 p.m. **Networking Session (by invitation)**



TUESDAY, 24 APRIL

10 a.m.–1 p.m. **Special Session: Energy transition and natural gas**

With the World Energy Council-Global Gas Centre

SDG 7 aims to “Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All.” The Paris Agreement emphasized the need to employing sustainable energy sources in expanding access to clean energy. Much work remains to implement the energy transition necessary to fulfil these commitments. At the leading end of the transition, renewable energy technologies have continued to progress in affordability, as well as exceeding expectations in sectors previously considered too demanding for renewables, such as baseload electricity supply and transportation. Bolstering the transition, since 2016, major coal-consuming countries have cancelled a host of coal-fired power plant projects, replacing them with natural gas-fired plants and renewables. This ongoing energy transition requires new strategies and approaches from governments, companies and entrepreneurs.

In this session, panellists will review the prospects for energy transition from the uneven ground of recent developments for the different available energy sources, in particular natural gas. Through regional, country and firm-level examples, the session will outline policy and investment gaps that must be spanned for an energy transition capable of delivering on SDG 7.

Targeted outcome:

Recommended policies and investments for governments, companies and entrepreneurs to propel the energy transition already underway

Moderator:

Mr. Ashutosh Shastri, Director, EnerStrat Consulting, United Kingdom

Introductory Remarks:

- Ms. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary-General, UNCTAD

Speakers:

- Mr. Rolf Traeger, Chief, LDC Section, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, UNCTAD
- Dr. Xunpeng (Roc) Shi, Australia-China Relations Institute, University of Technology of Sydney: “Natural Gas in East Asia’s Energy Transition”
- Ms. Alexandra Laurent, Statistician, UNCTAD: “Shale gas and the energy mix”
- Mr. Alvaro Ríos, Partner and Director, Gas Energy Latin America: “The important role of abundant, more flexible and competitive natural gas in Latin America”
- Mr. Pascal De Buck, Managing Director and CEO, Fluxys S.A.: “Natural gas and its infrastructure key in Europe’s energy transition”

1–3 p.m. **Lunch break**



3–5.30 p.m. **Changing skill requirements in the mining sector**

Over recent years, many mining companies have changed their operating models, as well as their approaches to public relations. On the operating side, these changes respond to technological advancements and evolving norms related to, for example, environmental stewardship, climate change, water consumption, local content and labour standards. On the public relations side, programmes such as shared value creation, CSR and community development agreements respond to heightened expectations about mining projects' contributions to the long-term development of host communities. In both of these transitions – operations and community development – skills play a central role.

To implement their strategies, companies require new skills from their managers, employees and contractors. On their side, host governments and communities must adapt their human capital development plans, as a main channel for industrial and economic development. At a practical level, all parties must collaborate on updating training programmes to meet changing skill requirements and ensure a maximum participation of local workers in mining projects.

Targeted outcome:

For host governments, policy recommendations for human capital development strategies related to mining projects. For all parties, guidelines and best practices for responsive technical training programmes.

Moderator:

Dr. Nicky Black, Director of Environmental Stewardship and Social Progress, International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM)

Speakers:

- Ms. Isabelle Ramdoo, Senior Associate and Development Economist, IGF/ IISD: “Local content strategies for skill development in the mining sector”
- Dr. Jane Korinek, Economist, Trade Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): “Best practices in skill-related local content policies in mineral exporting countries”
- Ms. Claudine Sigam, Head of Human and Institutional Capacities, African Minerals Development Centre: “The skills component of value creation strategies in Ghana’s gold sector”
- Mr. Elite Leonard Mhone, Senior Mining Engineer, Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development, Zambia: “Skills for a competitive mining sector in Zambia”
- Mr. Horacio Miguel Jurado, Director of Mineral Value Chain, Ministry of Energy and Mining, Argentina: “Building skills to support the development of Argentina’s mining sector”
- Dr. Peter Vossen, Associate Professor of Raw Materials and Process Engineering, German-Mongolian Institute for Resources and Technology: “Positioning the GMT as a responsive mineral engineering programme in Mongolia”

5.30–6 p.m. **Closing Session**

Chairperson:

Ms. Yanchun Zhang, Chief, Commodity Policy and Implementation Section, Commodities Branch-DITC, UNCTAD

Closing Statement

Mr. Lucas Assuncao, Head of Branch, Officer in Charge of Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD





REGISTRATION

<https://reg.unog.ch/event/23005>

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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