

Resilience Learning Week Special Event

A JUST TRANSITION TO A LOW-CARBON AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

2 December 2020, Wednesday

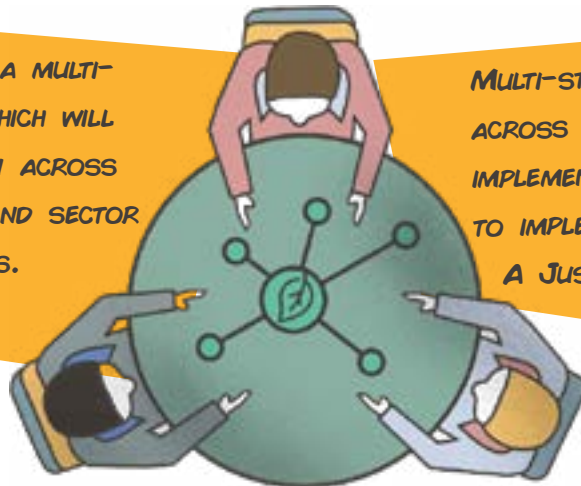


ADB'S STRATEGY 2030 VISION OF ACHIEVING A PROSPEROUS, INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ALIGNS WITH THE JUST TRANSITION APPROACH.



ADB CAN INCORPORATE JUST TRANSITION AT A STRATEGIC LEVEL AND IN PROJECT DESIGN

JUST TRANSITION IS A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL ISSUE WHICH WILL REQUIRE COOPERATION ACROSS ADB DEPARTMENTS AND SECTOR AND THEMATIC GROUPS.



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER INCLUSION ACROSS ALL LEVELS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION IS CRITICAL TO IMPLEMENTING A JUST TRANSITION.

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The just transition initiative calls for collaboration, as a single institution cannot solve and tackle these challenges alone. EBRD enjoys and learns a lot from discussion with other MDBs. However, collaboration must go beyond MDBs to concrete engagement in specific countries and regions.

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Russell Bishop
Principal Economist, Economics, Policy
and Governance Department
EBRD

Moderator
Kate Hughes
Senior Climate Change Specialist
ADB

Speaker
Janet Arlene Amponin
Associate Climate Change Officer
ADB

Speaker
Hinako Maruyama
Urban Development Specialist
ADB

Speaker
Sanath Ranawana
Principal Water Resources Specialist
ADB

Speaker
Nasheeba Selim
Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender)
ADB

Speaker
Russell Bishop
Principal Economist
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Speaker
Sian Bradley
Consultant
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Speaker
Mike Ward
Senior Evaluation and Sustainability Consultant
Climate Investment Funds

The Paris Agreement on climate change commits Parties to “take into account the imperatives of a Just Transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities.”

Just Transition recognizes the impact of a transition towards net zero emissions on people and provides a bridge to a future where all jobs are green and decent, poverty is eradicated, and communities are thriving and resilient. This session discussed broad issues of Just Transition; potential opportunities for ADB; joint MDB efforts on development of a common framework for Just Transition interventions; and the work agenda for Just Transition on the development of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Climate Investment Funds (CIF).

At the start of the session Janet Arlene Amponin gave a brief overview of Just Transition and its relevance for ADB. This was followed by discussions on two ADB projects with Just Transition elements. Hinako Maruyama presented the Chongqing Innovation and Human Capital Development Project. Sanath Ranawana then shared the Climate Resilient Livelihood Improvement and Watershed Management in Chittagong Hills Tracts Sector Project in Bangladesh.

During a second panel discussion, Russell Bishop and Sian Bradley of EBRD discussed the Green Economy Transition (GET) approach, which will accelerate the transition to green, low-carbon, and resilient economies, and the development of EBRD’s Just Transition Initiative. Mike Ward of CIF presented on the Just Transition framework being developed by CIF and Just Transition case studies in India and South Africa.

During breakout groups, participants were asked to brainstorm how Just Transition applies to their work and identify key opportunities for ADB.

Preety Bhandari, Chief of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Thematic Group concurrently Director, SDCD of ADB, shared her final remarks to conclude the session, highlighting the importance of continuous narrative on Just Transition operationalization, diagnostic pathways, and an integrated approach to move forward.

Key Messages

- ADB already incorporates many of the issues associated with a Just Transition at a strategic level and in the design of support to DMCs. ADB’s Strategy 2030 vision of achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific reflects and aligns with the Just Transition approach. ADB is now considering how to further develop its support for Just Transition in a coherent and targeted way to support its DMCs to meet the challenges of shifting to low-carbon and resilient development pathways. Examples from ADB’s current portfolio include:
 - The Chongqing Innovation and Human Capital Development Project, which will create an inclusive innovation ecosystem that builds a diversified, efficient, and green economy through human capital development and the creation of an enabling inclusive innovation ecosystem extending support to students, teachers, researchers, technicians, including local workers, returning migrants, farmers, and women; and
 - The Climate Resilient Livelihood Improvement and Watershed Management in Chittagong Hills Tracts Sector Project, which is taking a holistic approach to improve livelihoods and sustainable use of natural resources utilizing the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach Framework.
- Multi-stakeholder inclusion across all levels of project implementation is critical to implementing Just Transition. Active participation of communities supports identification of needs and priorities, empowers community members, and helps to build long-term ownership.
- EBRD’s Just Transition Initiative seeks to build the focus of its existing policy and financing activities on the Just Transition thematic areas, such as the green economy transition, supporting impacted workers, and regional economic diversification.
- CIF’s Just Transition framework has been developed to help understand the broad range of definitions and perspectives on just transitions informed by case studies in South Africa and India. It can be used to assess current Just Transition principles and processes and help inform transformative practices including procedural justice and distributional justice.
- Key challenges for Just Transition planning and implementation include building a shared understanding of what Just Transition entails, and determining how MDBs can deliver Just Transition in different country and operational contexts. Collaboration within and beyond MDBs is key to help identify solutions, share lessons learned, and bring Just Transition to scale.

Further Information

[Event presentation and video recording](#)

CSIS & CIF. 2020. [Just Transition Concepts and Relevance for Climate Action: A Preliminary Framework](#).

EBRD. 2020. [The EBRD Just Transition Initiative](#). London.

