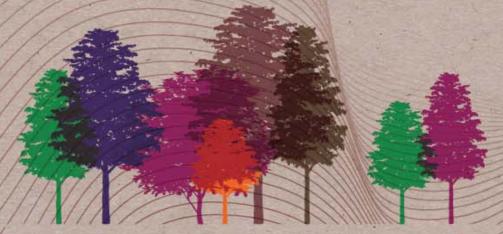


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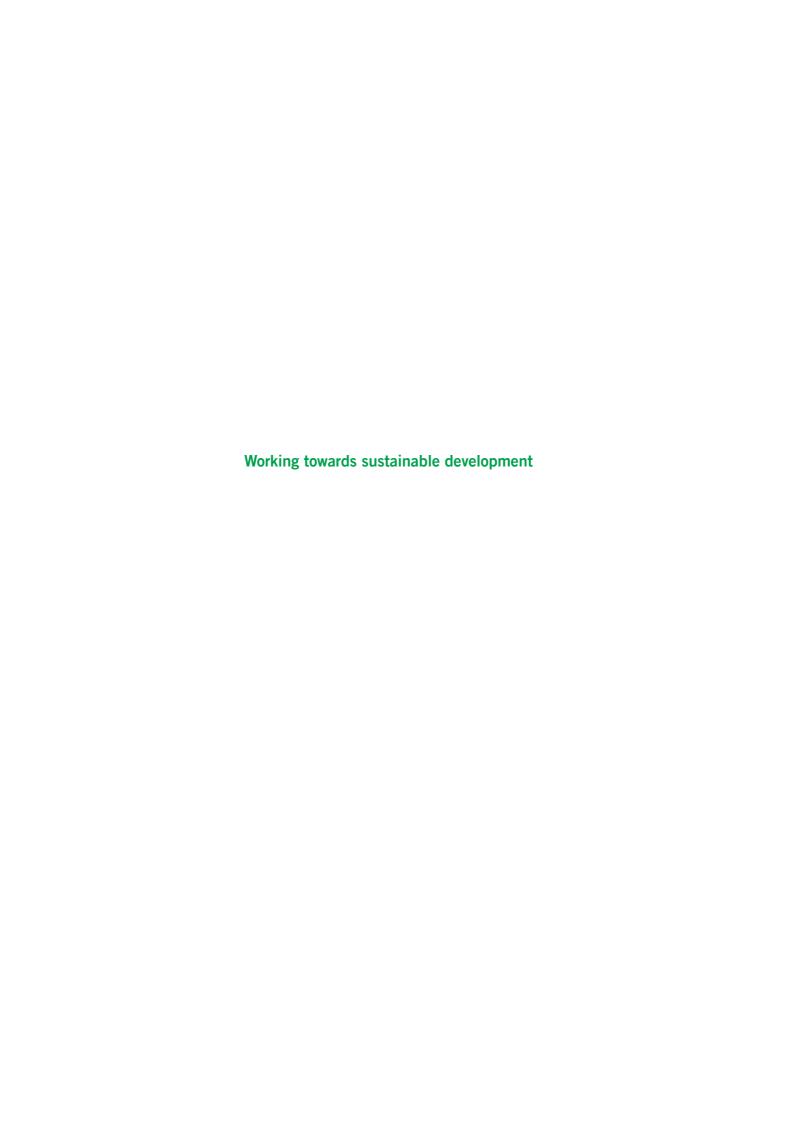
WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Opportunities for decent work and social inclusion in a green economy



In collaboration with the International Institute for Labour Studies





Working towards sustainable development

Opportunities for decent work and social inclusion in a green economy











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Working towards sustainable development: Opportunities for decent work and social inclusion in a green economy

This report is the result of the collaborative efforts of the Green Jobs Initiative (which includes UNEP, ILO, IOE and ITUC) and the International Institute for Labour Studies of ILO.

It has been prepared by: Peter Poschen, Ana Lucía Iturriza and Xinxing Li (Employment Sector); Steven Tobin, Elodie Dessors and Daniel Samaan (International Institute for Labour Studies); and Michael Renner (external collaborator) with contributions from Cornis Van Der Lugt (external collaborator). The drafting team benefited from the valuable comments and suggestions from members of the Initiative, notably Janet Asherson (IOE), Anabella Rosemberg (ITUC) and Steven Stone (UNEP).

The report has been coordinated by Peter Poschen and Steven Tobin. The coordinators are grateful for the guidance and direction given by José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs (Executive Director of the Employment Sector) and Raymond Torres (Director of the International Institute for Labour Studies).

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Executive Summary

The current development model is unsustainable, not only environmentally, but also from economic, employment and social perspectives...

The resource-intensive development model of the past will lead to rising costs, loss of productivity and disruption of economic activity. Estimates based on the ILO Global Economic Linkages (GEL) model suggest that in a business-as-usual scenario, productivity levels in 2030 would be 2.4 per cent lower than today and 7.2 per cent lower by 2050. This is in line with the findings of a number of studies assessing economic damages due to environmental degradation and loss of basic ecosystem services (see Chapter 1).

The current development model is also inefficient as regards productive employment and decent work. It has failed to create sufficient decent work opportunities and a significant and disproportionate share of income on energy and food and related items. These trends will impose massive social and economic costs.

... whereas a greener economy and more sustainable enterprises is creating tens of millions of green jobs...

The report documents evidence that for countries at all levels of development the drive towards environmental sustainability and greener economies is gaining momentum. Already, tens of millions of green jobs have been created. For example, employment in environmental goods and services in the United States in 2010 was 3.1 million (2.4 per cent) and growing. Similar levels and dynamics are seen in other countries, such as in Brazil, where

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