



Highlights

Side Event of the 1st G20 Development Working Group Meeting “Navigating Challenges and Optimizing Opportunities in Green and Blue Economy Implementation in Developing Countries, LDCs, and SIDS”

The Side Event of the 1st G20 Development Working Group Meeting on “*Navigating Challenges and Optimizing Opportunities in Green and Blue Economy Implementation in Developing Countries, LDCs, and SIDS*” was held on February 23rd in Jakarta in a hybrid manner. Moderated by Verania Andria, the Senior Adviser of Renewable Energy Strategy Programme of UNDP Indonesia; the seminar provided country experiences from Indonesia (Dr. Medrilzam, Director for Environmental Affairs at the Ministry of National Development Planning) and Sweden (Jakob Granit, Director-General of Swedish Water and Marine Agency); as well as experts from International Organizations/Partnerships such as the Partnership for Action in Green Economy (PAGE) represented by Mr. Asad Naqvi; the OECD represented by Mr. Jorge Moreira da Silva; and the ILO represented by Dr. Cristina Martinez.

The Seminar was an opportunity to exchange experiences, lessons learnt and good practices on green and blue economy implementation. It also provided a space to provide additional background on the substance of the key focus area ‘Green Economy and Blue Economy through Low Carbon Development’ as the Priority 1 of the G20 Development Working Group.

This document aims to highlight the key takeaways of the Seminar based on the understanding of the Presidency.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

KEY CONCEPTS

1. Climate change, deteriorated terrestrial and marine ecosystems are economic development issues and should not be considered as mere environmental issues.
2. There are many definitions of Green Economy, but essentially it is a development model that synergizes economic growth and improving environmental quality; balances growth with environmental benefits, and considers carrying capacity in the terrestrial sphere and coastal and marine-based sphere (Blue Economy). Green economy can be understood as an economy in which growth of income and creation of jobs is driven by policies and investments that address sustainability and social challenges.
3. The Blue Economy concept is under the umbrella of the Green Economy concept. However, more emphasis on Blue Economy is needed as sustainable production and consumption in coastal and marine-based economies is often overlooked. The intersection between terrestrial economy and the coastal and marine spheres is a value-added economy, based on





renewable energy and low-carbon and resource efficient supply and demand value chains.

4. Reframing national economic and development planning aligned with the 2030 Agenda is essential in implementing a Green Economy.
5. Low Carbon Development is the backbone and the vehicle to transition towards a green economy. This is achieved, first and foremost, by integrating low carbon development within mid-and long-term national development frameworks.
6. Just Transition can be understood as a process and a goal to undertake climate change actions that equally advances job creation, social justice, and fair transitions to everyone concerned and leaves no one behind.
7. Build Forward Better: The COVID-19 recovery offers an unprecedented opportunity to “reset” and structurally transform economic and social systems, so that they become low-emission, climate-resilient, resource-efficient, and more socially inclusive.

NAVIGATING CHALLENGES

1. Amongst the challenges the world is facing right now, there are accelerated inequality caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, accelerated biodiversity loss and species extinction, climate crisis, and unsustainable ocean management.
2. Developing countries and SIDS are relying on the ocean economy. However, they are least benefited from it. They also pay increasing costs from unsustainable trends. Thus, it is required to create market mechanisms able to value natural capital; and to generate and harness sustainable ocean-based opportunities.
3. Blue economy implementation is challenged because the oceans globally are affected by anthropogenic activities. It is imperative to restore ecosystem services by using ecosystem-based approaches; optimizing its value addition opportunities; and to invest in natural capitals.
4. In implementing a green and blue economy, the developing countries, LDCs, and SIDS are faced by challenges such as lack of technical and institutional capacity, limited at-scale low carbon technology and infrastructure, constrained fiscal space, and the need of strong political will.

OPTIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES

1. Through proper implementation, the green economy provides the tools needed to transform economic activities in a more sustainable path (SDG pathway). The growth of income and jobs in the green economy is driven by policies and investments, the acknowledgment of sustainability and social challenges, and creating income and jobs.
2. As the scope of the blue economy is cross-sectoral, the blue economy may provide potentials to uplift the domestic-value chain and promote regional value chain; boost GDP growth while also achieving the SDGs by promoting sustainable production, sustainable industrialization, environmental and biodiversity preservation through poverty reduction and job creation.
3. Policy coherence is required to ensure a just transition that creates jobs, serves social justice, and income gain.





4. Planning and pathways for just transition for different countries should be dependent on their individual contexts. Social dialogue where governments, industry, and workers can share their views is important for just transition.

LESSONS LEARNT AND KEY SUCCESS FACTORS

1. Collaboration between stakeholders (ministries/institutions, development partners, local governments, academics, philanthropies, media, and community) is key for a successful green economy and blue economy implementation.
2. Private sector and consumers are driven by policy as well as drivers for green economy implementation. Thus, engagement of private sector and consumers education is pivotal.
3. Women play an important role in green economy implementation through contribution in technical knowledge, and employment. But this requires investment in gender equality actions so everyone can have equal access to tap the benefits and opportunities that the green economy brings.
4. Youth engagement plays a key role in green economy implementation. Youth can be engaged in policy making; in skill development programmes; in awareness programmes to become responsible consumers (youth are consumers of tomorrow, they concern more about the products); and youth are the new and future investors for green economy actions.

IDEAS ON G20 ACTIONS

1. The G20 2022 should produce strategic decisions on Green Economy and Blue Economy, followed by clear scenarios and roadmaps, including funding, technology deployment and green investment.
2. The G20 can foster a global action for a blue recovery to galvanise international recovery support and foster co-ordinated and coherent approaches to provide countries support for: [i] Assessing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on their ocean economies; [ii] Devising integrated recovery plans and actions to 'Build Forward Blue', and [iii] Mobilising and aligning resources from development co-operation, investors and other actors around their implementation.
3. The G20 shall share a common interest to achieve the needed transformative action at the least cost and engage in solidarity for a truly global, fair and sustainable recovery.
4. The G20 shall expand mutual understanding and build consensus on what constitutes a just transition and how to achieve it in different country contexts.

