

**Geneva Dialogue on Environment,
Climate, Conflict, and Peace:
Meeting 44**

11 April, Zoom
8 participants

Meeting participants were invited to introduce themselves, their work, and to share how their institution, if at all, is working on or thinking about just transitions.

Introductions

- Universalia
 - Focus on monitoring, evaluation, and learning in environmental peacebuilding
 - Working with the ECCP to conduct an evaluation on the CoP
- CEOBS
 - UK-based org that looks at the way war and military impact the environment
 - One area of focus is the impact of military emissions on the climate crisis
 - <https://ceobs.org/the-ipccs-missing-military-emissions/>
- DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
 - Stocktaking studies on how the security sector interacts with the environmental sphere, hoping to launch those soon
- United States Institute of Peace
 - Portfolio with US Africa Command
 - Research in East and West Africa
 - Work has grown quite a lot since early 2022
 - Meeting in Botswana in early May
 - Security implications of climate change
- Wasafiri
 - Systems change consulting institute with a strong focus in East Africa on inclusion, peace, food, climate change, and nature
 - Has done a lot of work on this ECCP nexus
- World Bank
 - Environment support to conflict and violence-affected states
 - Work hard on the strategy and rationale for this kind of work, as well as operations, accountability to do no harm
 - Second phase of work now - conflict sensitivity and MEL
 - <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099520010272224660/p1771510b38fda01e0afec01edd810d8cd>
- WILPF - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
 - Feminist peace organization
 - Addressing the root causes of the climate and ecological crisis, especially militarization, both individually and through a number of advocacy networks

How, if at all, does your institution work on the idea of a just, green transition?

- Reference documents on just transitions from the [ILO linked here](#) and from [Native Movement linked here](#).
- Many of the institutions present do not formally work on just transitions or include them in their strategic planning.
- Participants highlighted a number of clear links between just transitions and environmental peacebuilding.
 - For example, calls for demilitarization need to be able to address the fact that the military is a massive employer. Demilitarization should account for a just, green economic transition and livelihoods.
 - As another example, a department working on environmental crime or business and security may regularly address sustainability, the green transition, and livelihoods.
 - One organization works on an initiative engaging young people in the workplace, and are hoping to continue it by finding employment opportunities for youth to contribute to environmental priorities in their community.
 - Another organization researches the conflict potential of the green transition, especially for renewable energy materials, minerals, and production.
 - Identifying examples where a green transition is *not* just - record human rights violations, pollution, destruction of biodiversity, and conflict potential.
- Organizations may not work on just transitions because:
 - Many individuals have not heard of just transitions, or have heard of it but do not have a clear, institutional definition of it.
 - They use other, similar terms like “transformation” instead.
 - It seems tangential or unrelated to the mission of the organization.
 - “Just transitions” may have negative connotations
 - Some people may be turned off by the implication of large-scale overhaul of society and our economic structure
 - Instead, it can be a process of creating more justice
 - Definition similar to conflict sensitivity
 - “Just transitions” as a title also implies that there is a starting and ending point to one singular transition, while rather is an ongoing process of creating more justice in the world.
- Ideas for organizations to address just transitions:
 - Look at energy reduction, or degrowth. Degrowth can link with conflict prevention.
 - Beyond Growth conference in May : <https://www.beyond-growth-2023.eu/>
 - Join the Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty: <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/>
 - In case you missed it, the ECCP hosted a briefing on the Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty together with WILPF at the beginning of March: <https://youtu.be/05fVmDgIkKo>
 - Emphasize the role of labor and trade unions in dialogues between governments, employers, and workers in the just transition
 - Labor unions can be excellent problem solvers, agents of change, and agents for peace.
 - They have procedural mechanisms through which transitions can flow and help avoid violent confrontations.

- They can be excellent information brokers, helping to educate workers about climate change
- It's a complex issue, and we need more work to build bridges between different siloes for common understanding
 - For example, if there is a indigenous protest to shut down a mining site and a labor protest to keep it open, what is the final solution? What does justice mean in this situation?
 - Effective social dialogue, protection of human rights in that dialogue, and access to information in that dialogue (Escazu agreement: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=IND&mtdsg_no=XXVII-18&chapter=27&clang=en) and the protection of environmental defenders (<https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/environment-geneva/organizations/geneva-roadmap-for-environmental-human-rights-defenders/>)
 - The challenge of knowledge sharing and information flows is also a massive one – how do we get labor and trade unions in fossil fuel sectors to make peace with the idea that their sector has contributed to climate change? There's a deep-seated guilt factor that creates rejection and adversarial views on climate change / planet stewardship.