

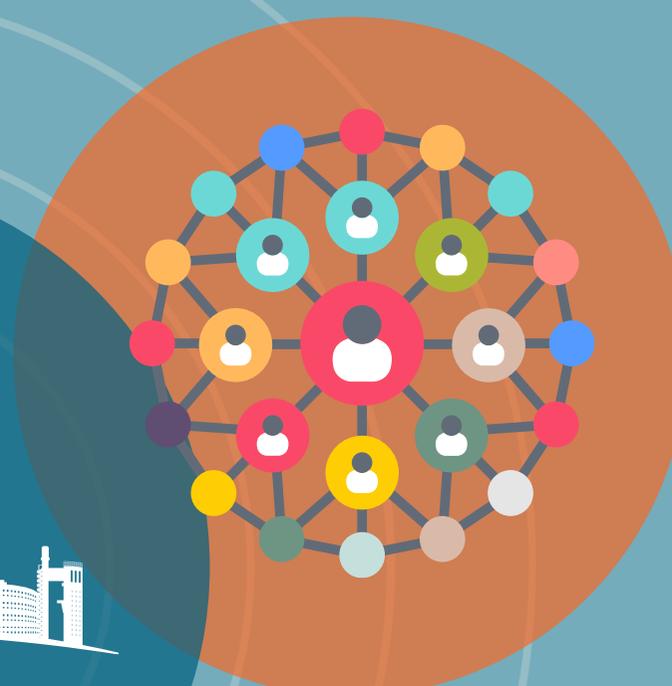


WORLD FORUM OF  
LOCAL  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

# INTERNATIONAL AND TERRITORIAL ALLIANCES TO PROMOTE A JUST, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION AND PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE

## REFLECTIONS ON SDG8: EMPLOYMENT, LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALISED COOPERATION

## INTERNATIONAL MEETING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROCESS OF THE WFLED



Seville, 18-19 October 2023

ORGANIZES



FINANCES



COLLABORATES



## 1. SUMMARY

The world community is facing a climate emergency that has as one of its main effects the increase of inequalities between the most vulnerable people and communities. Climate action urges to strengthen alliances between actors and territories to promote sustainable economic growth and decent and quality employment that contributes to promoting social justice. Alliances and shared commitments such as the 2030 Agenda, the ILO Declaration on Social Justice, or the Paris Agreement, drives contextualized local solutions.

There is a growing activity from international cooperation for development to impulse towards a just transition, in key aspects such as the promotion of decent work and the fight against inequalities.

Local and regional governments have also been implementing effective just transition plans that are materialized in actions to diversify local economies towards circular economy models and promoting alliances and social dialogue between all actors in the territory. Mechanisms such as the Pact for the Future, promoted by UCLG, demonstrate this action.

Extend and strengthen key processes such as social dialogue, multilevel institutional alliances, international cooperation, with the participation of all agents - companies, trade unions, social economy entities, academia and civil society - is crucial for the assumption of commitments adapted to each territorial context.

This process of dialogue, within the framework of both local and global partnerships, can contribute to the promotion of the 2030 Agenda and, in particular, to the achievement of the targets of SDG8 that urge the development of productive activities and creation of decent employment within the framework of efficient and sustainable production and consumption models.



### CLIMATE EMERGENCY

alliances and shared commitments for:  
**JUST TRANSITION**

Promote by:

- ▶▶▶ international cooperation for development
- ▶▶▶ local and regional governments

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**ODS 8**

- ▶▶▶ Productive activities and creation of decent employment within the framework of efficient and sustainable production and consumption models.



## 1. Summary



**In conclusion: the processes of transition towards more sustainable models entail profound structural changes, from the action of local and regional policies, aimed at social justice that guarantees a decent life for the most vulnerable communities and people, who are the ones who suffer most in the mechanisms of readaptation and transition.**

## 2. CONTEXT

The continuous transformations and the accelerated and continuous changes of the social, economic and environmental context require local and regional governments to seek solutions to challenges derived from globalization, climate crises, economic recessions, demographic movements, governance deficits or the development of information and communication technologies. Facing these processes of change to move towards sustainable and inclusive societies requires policies of adaptation, resilience, innovation, co-responsibility, as well as promoting new models of production and consumption.

As stated in the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization[1], the current context is characterized by:

**“ the diffusion of new technologies, the flow of ideas, the exchange of goods and services, the increase in capital and financial flows, the internationalization of business and business processes and dialogue as well as the movement of persons.**

**In this sense, it is stated that while these processes have contributed to economic growth and job creation and the promotion of innovation, on the one hand, they also lead to addressing major challenges in terms of income levels and poverty, especially in the most vulnerable groups. It is urgent to "respond to the universal aspiration for social justice, achieve full employment, ensure the sustainability of open societies and the global economy, achieve social cohesion and combat poverty and growing inequalities**

[1] [ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization](#)



## 2. CONTEXT

Among the most important processes, the global community is facing a climate emergency that impacts all areas of life, and its increasing inequalities among the most vulnerable people and communities. Climate action urges to strengthen alliances between actors and territories to promote sustainable economic growth and decent and quality employment that contributes to promoting social justice.

Some of these impacts can be solved with the application of simple measures, but many others, which affect sensitive issues such as the life of ecosystems or the health of people, require more complex solutions.



### ILO DECLARATION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR A FAIR GLOBALIZATION



**climate emergency:**  
is increasing  
inequalities among  
the most vulnerable  
people and  
communities.

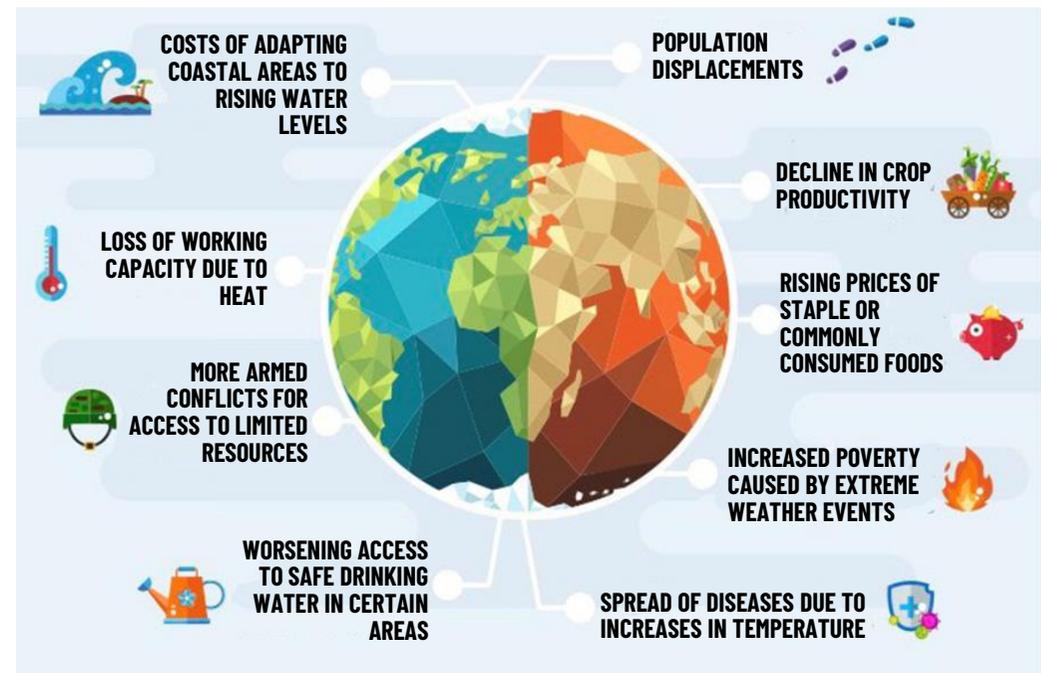
## 2. CONTEXT

The report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [2], sponsored by the United Nations, highlights the threat that climate change has to human well-being and the health of the planet and warns of the need to act to avoid the multiple effects that the environmental emergency has on all societies, especially the most vulnerable. In a scenario that, if there is no urgent remedy, will worsen with a greater number of negative impacts.

The processes of transition towards fairer and more sustainable economies and societies require a strong commitment on the part of institutions and public administrations, in all areas of government, and a co-responsibility of all actors that interact in institutional, environmental, social and economic areas. Along these lines, shared alliances and commitments such as the 2030 Agenda, the ILO Declaration on Social Justice, or the Paris Agreement, which promote contextualized local solutions, stand out.

The next climate summit, COP28, to be held in December in Dubai, will be a new opportunity to make firm commitments to strict compliance with the Paris Agreement. Similarly, dialogue processes, within the framework of both local and global alliances, find a framework for action in the promotion of the 2030 Agenda and in the localization of the targets of SDG8.

These goals require policies aimed at the development of productive activities and the creation of decent employment, within the framework of resource-efficient production and consumption models, seeking to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. It is especially important to promote resilient societies that the transition processes towards more sustainable models entail profound structural changes that are reflected both in local and regional policies, and in different communities, especially in those most vulnerable that are the ones that suffer most in the mechanisms of readaptation and transition.



[2] [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Full_Report.pdf)

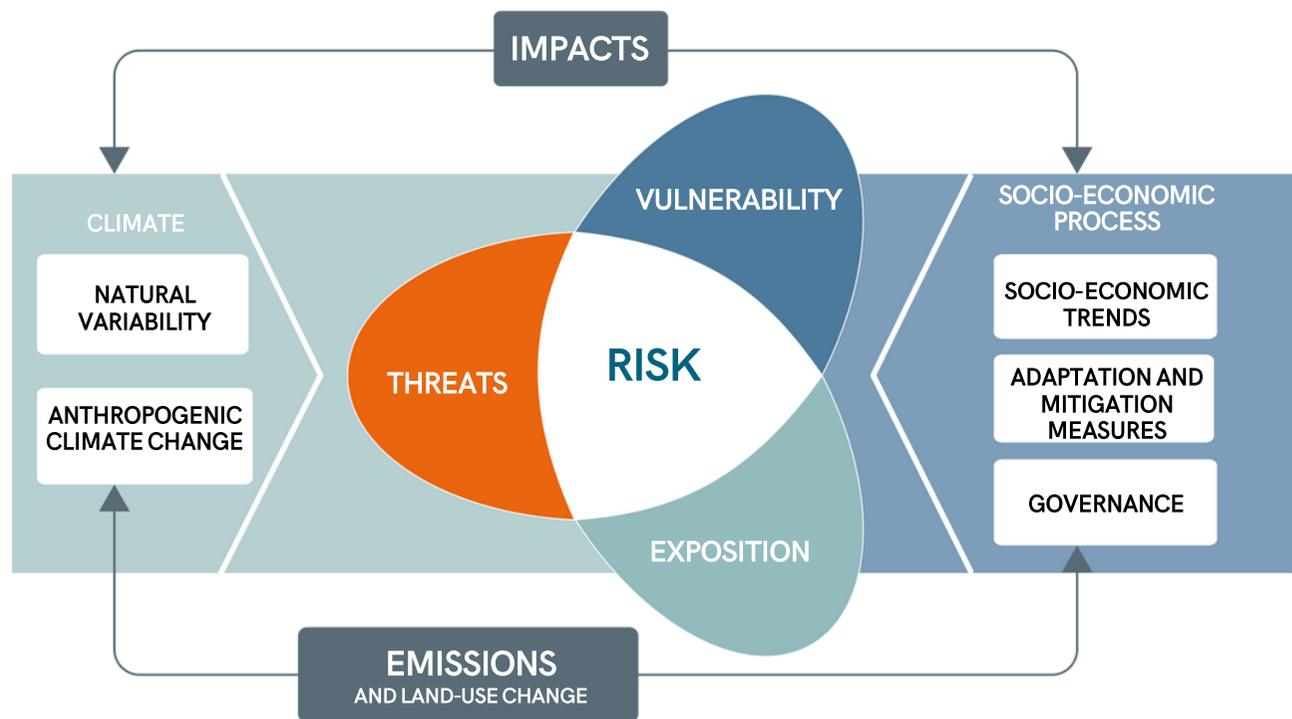
## 2. CONTEXT

The concern about a just transition has been gaining ground in the political and social debate and, currently, has a marked multilevel and multi-actor component.

At the international level, organizations such as the ILO have defined just transition as greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible for all affected people, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind; and UNDP has proposed specific ways in which a just transition can help achieve the Paris Agreement, such as increasing decision-making processes, supporting a green jobs revolution, laying the groundwork for a resilient net-zero emissions economy, driving contextualized local solutions, and consolidating the urgency of coordinated efforts.

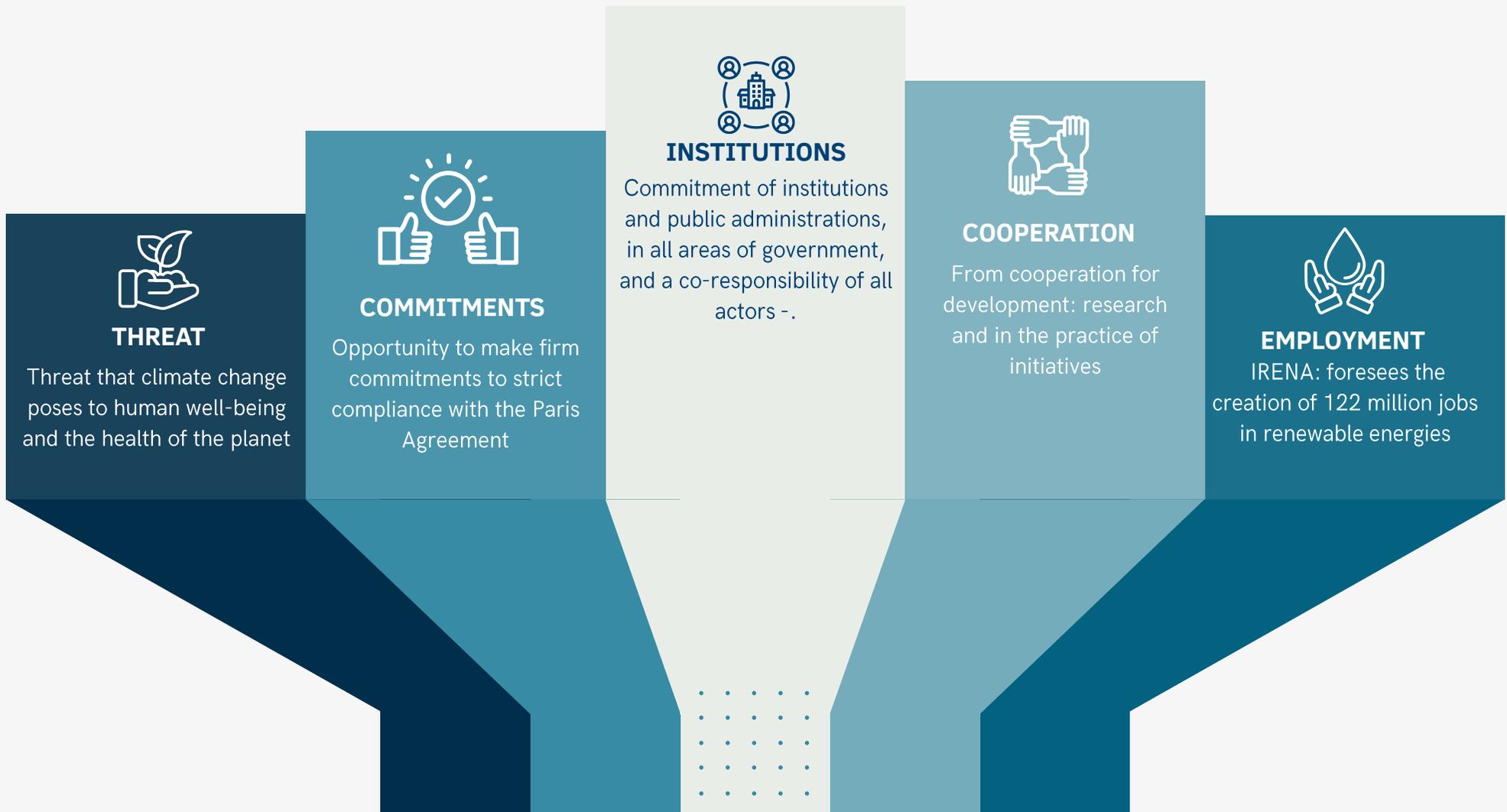
The strategies necessary to promote environmental sustainability have a direct impact on labour relations, considering that transition processes will modify, expand or limit the type of jobs. In certain areas, such as the circular economy, the efficient use of natural resources, renewable energies or the maintenance of ecosystems, jobs will increase significantly.

In this sense, according to data from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) it foresees the creation of 122 million jobs in renewable energies. Just transition plans should cover situations related to job losses such as new green jobs being quality jobs. The aim of just transition is therefore to address environmental, social and economic issues at the same time.



## TRANSITION PROCESSES WILL MODIFY, EXPAND OR LIMIT THE TYPE OF JOBS

ILO: greening the economy in a way that is fair and inclusive for all people with decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind.



## 2. CONTEXT

And the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has defined what it considers necessary elements for a just transition, including investments in low-emission and labour-intensive technologies and sectors, research, social dialogue, equity in the use of resources, and the promotion of international cooperation and coordinated multilateral actions.

From international cooperation for development, although the concept is still new, largely because international standards for just transition are relatively recent, there is a growing line of action on just transition, both in the field of research and in the practice of initiatives; and, in any case, its work has been extensive on directly related issues, such as poverty eradication, the promotion of decent work and the environment.

Local and regional governments, for their part, have a great responsibility in contributing to global challenges, for the role they play in the regulation and encouragement of citizen social practices and for the direct contact they maintain with the daily life of citizens.

This is a key position to create and implement transformative actions that respond to the immediate needs of local communities and territorial ecosystems. The work that local governments carry out in the implementation of effective just transition plans focus, fundamentally, on their ability to diversify local economies, promoting the local circular economy, the installation of green infrastructures and renewable energies, ensuring the sustainable management of local ecosystems and promoting alliances and social dialogue between all actors in the territory.

The municipalist movement has been strengthening in recent years, obtaining greater recognition as political actors of the multilateral system with transformative capacity at the local and global levels. Mechanisms such as the Pact for the Future, promoted by UCLG, demonstrate the power of collective action, co-creation and international cooperation and solidarity as cornerstones of just, harmonious, and sustainable societies. Hence the importance that local and regional governments have as relevant actors for a just transition.

The necessary ecological and transformative impulse requires, in short, political commitment and adequate financing; support for green infrastructures and circular economy policies; promotion of the sustainable energy transition and decarbonization of economic activity; and all this guaranteeing a just, inclusive, and sustainable transition to

• • • • • achieve social justice.



### 3. OBJECTIVES

The main general objective of the meeting is:

**To reflect and share ideas and experiences to promote a just transition process that promotes and guarantees social justice and the generation of inclusive and sustainable societies, from the action of alliances between local governments and international cooperation.**

The Specific Objectives are:

- **Strengthen partnerships between local and provincial governments for the promotion of a just transition within the framework of the global agenda and the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, including the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation.**
- **Identify key elements in the transition towards more sustainable, inclusive, and just communities.**
- **Share experiences and success stories in promoting more sustainable production and consumption models, as well as generators of new economic activities and employment (circular economy, renewable energies, green jobs)**
- **Strengthen social dialogue processes and co-responsibility among actors in the generation of decent and quality jobs.**
- **Promote the processes of localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 8, focused on economic development and quality employment.**
- **Advance in the WFLED process, obtaining inputs and proposals to incorporate into regional meetings such as the next WFLED, to be held in 2024.**
- **Promotion of coalition of local entities for social justice.**



## 4. FORMAT

The meeting has two spaces for reflection and exchange of knowledge, experiences, and innovative initiatives.

- 1. Open space for participation and exchange**, where international actors invited to the meeting can share ideas, experiences, and proposals for intervention with local and regional actors. The open space brings the forum process closer to the local environment where the events take place and facilitates greater interaction and impact between actors from different territorial areas.
- 2. Internal space to the Forum process** for reflection and exchange between people and international entities invited to the event. In this space, a group of about 40 people will address the key issues pointed out in the concept note, from their different areas of intervention, and based on experiences and practical cases, identifying challenges and solutions provided.



## 5. METHODOLOGY

The meeting is based on a highly participatory methodology and oriented to the collection of proposals, practices, and recommendations to boost economic growth and employment in local and regional environments to the achievement of the goals of SDG8.

The participatory methodology will facilitate the exchange between participants on how to address and promote a just transition towards green economies and quality jobs, from local solutions, that promotes social justice, leaving no one behind.

To focus the discussions, the meeting will focus on the following key points:

### 1 **Renew and promote alliances between actors and territories to address just transitions where international cooperation, south-south cooperation and decentralized cooperation play a fundamental role.**

It will address:

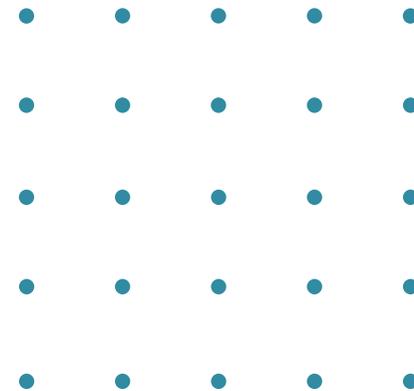
- How to increase participation and social dialogues to establish consensus on objectives, strategies, and lines of action for a just transition.
- How to guide and promote development cooperation policies in just transition processes to leave no one behind.
- How to promote sustainable forms of production and consumption in social and economic practices.

- How to boost the social and solidarity economy.
- How to drive a green jobs revolution.

### 2 **Improve the conditions for economic growth and employment in the new productive and consumption dynamics oriented towards more sustainable economic models, in line with SDG8.**

It will address:

- What are the socio-economic benefits of a just transition.
- How to increase technology transfer, especially in the area of green economies.
- How to improve financial support and investment to increase economic growth and employment.
- How to improve technical support for capacity building, especially in the area of international cooperation and partnerships.
- How the energy transition affects the situation of women in employment in activities related to it.



## 5. METHODOLOGY

All sessions and exchange spaces will be moderated by a technical team that will encourage participation around a previous work script that will be sent to the participants prior to the event, so that they can prepare their interventions based on these issues and facilitate the interventions.

Moderation and dynamization team will act as rapporteurs for the elaboration of conclusions and the systematization of all the information discussed in the meeting will also be carried out.

During the international meeting, a workspace of the WFLED International Executive Committee will be enabled to advance in the organization of the sixth edition of WFLED.



001

SESSION MODERATION



002

PARTICIPATION



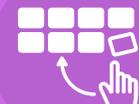
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RAPPORTEURSHIP



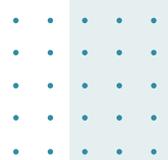
004

CONCLUSIONS



005

SYSTEMATIZATION



## 6. EXPECTED RESULTS

The international meeting hopes to achieve the following results:

- Report about conclusions and political effects
- Input document to the Forum process
- Elements for the elaboration of a strategic document on the subject

## 7. PARTICIPANTS

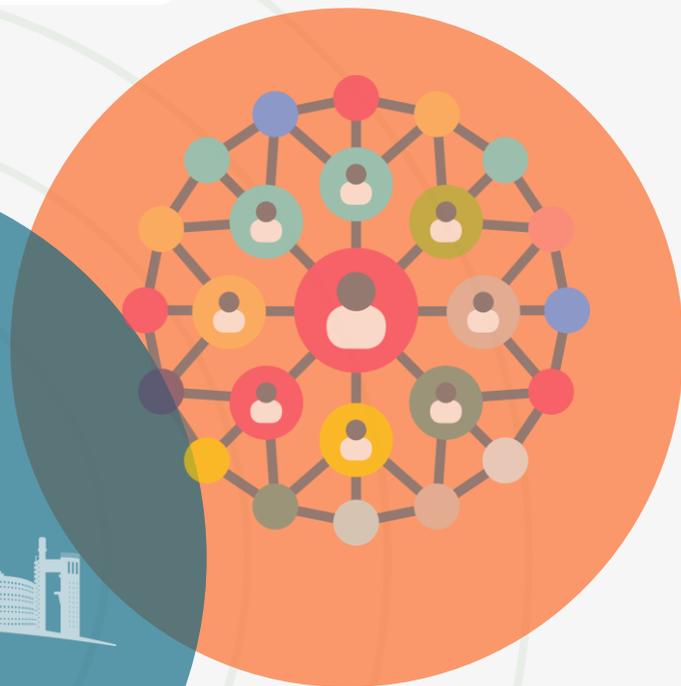
The meeting is attended by people and entities linked to local development, international cooperation, and local and regional politics, among whom are:

- Policy makers and representatives of public institutions
- Technical staff of administrations and public institutions
- Experts from AECID and other entities of decentralized development cooperation
- Representatives of the WFLED International Committee
- Representatives of academia, social and solidarity economy and companies
- Representatives of trade unions and employers' organizations
- Representatives of civil society organizations
- Experts





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Local Economic  
Development



FINANCES



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO  
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES  
Y DE COOPERACION



Cooperación  
Española

COLLABORATES



AYUNTAMIENTO DE SEVILLA