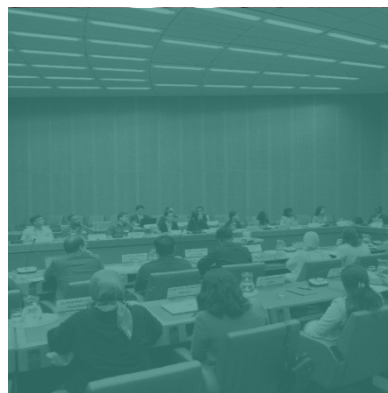




PAGE PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION
ON GREEN ECONOMY



Promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Green, Circular, Job-Rich Economies

A Compilation of PAGE-facilitated Case Studies



Copyright © UNDP 2026. All rights reserved.
 One United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

About the Publication

This report is published through the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) – an initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNDP, or the UN Member States.

Acknowledgement of Funding Partners

PAGE gratefully acknowledges the generous financial and technical support of its funding partners, including the European Union, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment of the Republic of Korea, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland (SECO).



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Acronyms and Abbreviations | 4 |
| Acknowledgements | 6 |
| I. PAGE and SSTC | 7 |
| About PAGE and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | 7 |
| Defining SSTC and Role of SSTC in PAGE..... | 7 |
| Report Objectives, Scope and Target Audiences..... | 8 |
| Key Messages..... | 8 |
| II. PAGE SSTC in Practice - Case Studies | 10 |
| Case Study 1: PAGE-DCO Training Series on Financing Just Transitions | 10 |
| Case Study 2: “New Frontiers for Resilient, Inclusive and Green Economic Transition”- 5 th Global Academy on Green Economy: A Platform for Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building | 12 |
| Case Study 3: PAGE Africa Regional Academy in Morocco: Financing a just transition to green and circular economies..... | 14 |
| Case Study 4: Advancing Circular Economy through South-South Cooperation – The 3rd PAGE Green Industry Summer School | 17 |
| Case Study 5: Central Asia-Mongolia Workshop on Green Finance for a Just Sustainable Transition | 19 |
| Case Study 6: Fiscal Knowledge Lab on Adaptation & Resilience Finance – Peer Learning among Asia-Pacific Ministries of Finance | 21 |
| Case Study 7: Peer-Learning Lab: Building Ministries of Finance Analytical Capability for Climate Action - Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action - Yogyakarta, Indonesia | 22 |
| Case Study 8: Indonesia–China Bilateral South-South Exchange on Green Finance and Circular Economy..... | 24 |
| Case Study 9: Building Circularity into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): Regional Exchange and Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Circular Economy Forum | 28 |
| Case Study 10: South Africa and Indonesia – A Shared Commitment to a Just Energy Transition. A Virtual Policy Dialogue Series on Just Energy Transition under PAGE to Foster and Leverage South-South Collaboration | 30 |
| III. Findings and Recommendations | 32 |

Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|----------|---|
| ADB | Asian Development Bank |
| AfDB | African Development Bank |
| AIIB | Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank |
| APAC | Asia-Pacific |
| ASEAN | Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| BAPPENAS | Ministry of National Development Planning (Indonesia) |
| BIOFIN | Biodiversity Finance Initiative |
| CFMCA | Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action |
| COVID-19 | Coronavirus Disease 2019 |
| CSIR | Council for Scientific and Industrial Research |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| DCO | United Nations Development Coordination Office |
| DRC | Democratic Republic of Congo |
| EMDEs | Emerging Market and Developing Economies |
| ESG | Environmental, Social and Governance |
| EU | European Union |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GIZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency) |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IFC | International Finance Corporation |
| INFF | Integrated National Financing Framework |
| ITC-ILO | International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization |
| LAC | Latin America and the Caribbean |
| LSE-GRI | Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics |
| MAFF | Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Cambodia) |
| MEESD | Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development (Morocco) |
| MoEF | Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Indonesia) |
| MoF(s) | Ministry/Ministries of Finance |
| MoU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MSMEs | Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises |
| NAPs | National Adaptation Plans |
| NBSAP | National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan |
| NDC | Nationally Determined Contribution |
| NDRC | National Development and Reform Commission (China) |
| NMD | New Development Model |
| ODA | Official Development Assistance |
| PAGE | Partnership for Action on Green Economy |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| RCO | Resident Coordinator Office |
| SCP-HAT | Sustainable Consumption and Production Hotspot Analysis Tool |
| SDG / SDGs | Sustainable Development Goal(s) |
| SIDS | Small Island Developing States |
| SIPA | Sustainable Infrastructure Programme in Asia |
| SSTC* | South-South and Triangular Cooperation* |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| UNITAR | United Nations Institute for Training and Research |
| UN SG Report | United Nations Secretary-General Report |

*NB: "SSTC" is not an officially designated UN acronym for South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Its use here is for ease of reference in this publication only.

Acknowledgements

This report has been made possible by the contributions of several individuals and institutions.

The drafting of case studies, findings, and recommendations was led by a team of experts from UNDP, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, and UNITAR representing the PAGE Technical Team and Secretariat.

The overall vision for the report and the innovative work reflected in it has been steered by the PAGE Management Board comprising senior officials from all five PAGE agencies.

The various examples of PAGE-facilitated South-South and Triangular Cooperation captured in the case studies of this report have been made possible and reflect the strong commitment, leadership, and technical expertise of the 23 PAGE partner country governments and stakeholders including: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Uruguay, and Uzbekistan.

Both the report and the successful South-South and Triangular Cooperation approaches that it highlights have been made possible by the generous technical guidance and financial support of PAGE funding partners including: the European Union, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment of the Republic of Korea, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and State Secretariat for Economic Affairs of Switzerland (SECO).

About PAGE and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) creates an enabling macroeconomic environment for achieving the global targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Climate Agreement and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with an integrated package of activities at country, regional and global levels. By leveraging the expertise and networks of five UN agencies - UNEP, UNDP, ILO, UNIDO and UNITAR – PAGE supports countries' transition toward more inclusive, greener economies.

The updated PAGE Strategy 2021-2030 emphasizes strengthening institutional capacities and multistakeholder engagement, and scaling policy approaches through regional and global networks. PAGE focuses on leveraging synergies, promoting cost-effective learning solutions, and fostering peer networks including regional leadership through mechanisms such as South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). The Strategy includes a focus on the following policy areas:

- **Advancing circular economy frameworks:** Supporting countries in designing and implementing systems that create sustainable growth, increase resource efficiency, and strengthen competitiveness.
- **Ensuring a just transition and green jobs strategies:** Facilitating the design and implementation of policies that promote inclusive, decent employment opportunities for a Nature-positive, low-carbon economy and just transition.
- **Policy reforms for sustainable finance:** Promoting fiscal instruments and budget reforms to align financial flows with sustainable development priorities.

Defining SSTC and Role of SSTC in PAGE

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is a collaborative model where countries—especially developing nations—share and exchange knowledge, experience, resources, and technologies to solve common development challenges. Triangular cooperation brings in developed countries or international organizations as facilitators to amplify these results. In the UN Pact for the Future, adopted in September 2024, Member States called for greater South-South and Triangular cooperation to build capacity; improve access to science, technology and innovation; and increase resources needed to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

SSTC is a core element of the PAGE Strategy. It helps to scale up and accelerate successful policy and programming initiatives led by PAGE and partner countries at all levels in ways that increase national ownership while generating impact and solutions tailored to national, regional, and global contexts. SSTC offers a platform for strengthening capabilities for inclusive green economy transitions. PAGE leverages SSTC

through peer learning, policy dialogues, study visits, bilateral exchanges, regional cooperation, training events, and its Country Ambassadors' Network.

Report Objectives, Scope and Target Audiences

Objectives:

This PAGE report is designed to document and promote the role of SSTC in advancing green and circular economy policy solutions for a just and inclusive transition. It presents examples of transformative practices and policy innovations supported by PAGE that exemplify how peer collaboration can scale up and accelerate just and sustainable transitions. The report aims to inspire learning, inform action, and enhance regional and global alignment in green economy implementation. The goal is to enable broader adoption of SSTC approaches, equipping countries and stakeholders with practical tools to scale up and accelerate green solutions. The findings from this Report will also be used to strengthen future green and circular economy programming in both PAGE countries and in complementary initiatives led by PAGE partners.

Scope:

This Report highlights lessons and good practices from ten PAGE-facilitated SSTC case studies. These case studies highlight:

- successful SSTC-facilitated policies, such as green finance and circular economy roadmaps;
- peer learning modalities and co-creation approaches within and across regions;
- outcomes from institutional capacity building and leadership strengthening; and
- findings and recommendations for scaling up PAGE-supported SSTC approaches.

Target Audiences:

The publication serves three primary audiences:

- National PAGE counterparts including policymakers and practitioners from government institutions who are leading inclusive green economy transitions;
- Development partners, regional platforms, and technical agencies who are responsible for investing in SSTC approaches as part of global, regional, and national programming; and
- The PAGE Secretariat and Technical Team who will continue to apply SSTC approaches to catalyze green and circular economic transformations in line with the PAGE 2030 Strategy.

Key Messages

- PAGE facilitated SSTC approaches are fostering demand-driven learning and exchange that is scaling up and accelerating inclusive green and circular economy transitions.
- Opportunities to embed SSTC approaches across PAGE programming cycles should be more systematically leveraged by integrating SSTC planning into country workplans, budgets, and the curation of SSTC mentors, facilitators, and technical experts.

- National ownership is essential. SSTC is most effective when applied to countries' specific policy frameworks, institutions, and initiatives on green and circular economy transitions.
- To ensure greater impact, exchanges should not be one-off events, but steppingstones toward joint initiatives and broader collaboration supported by PAGE and partners.
- Structured peer learning formats should be scaled and regionally tailored to country needs.

In line with findings from the UNSG's 2025 Report on the State of South-South Cooperation, there is room to further embed SSTC, including PAGE insights, into UN Country Teams' work.

PAGE SSTC in Practice - Case Studies

Case Study 1: PAGE-DCO Training Series on Financing Just Transitions

Background: In collaboration with DCO, PAGE organized a six-week online training series on *Financing Just Transitions* in March and April 2025. The series was attended by public and private sector actors from eight countries, selected by open application: Cambodia, Iran, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, and Tunisia. It was designed to strengthen the capacity of national stakeholders to identify and scale finance for financing a just transition, leveraging PAGE and partner tools and expertise. It also was used to facilitate knowledge exchange and strengthen peer-to-peer learning across the participating countries.

Stakeholders: The training series was attended by approximately 75 mid- to senior-level representatives. Public sector participants came from ministries of economy, finance, labour and social protection, environment, mining, and energy, as well as national planning bodies, treasuries, and parliamentary and budget offices. Financial sector participants came from central banks and financial regulators, commercial and development banks, loan guarantee corporations, finance associations, and banking sector bodies. UN Resident Coordinator Offices from each participating country also provided support, with UN agencies including UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, UNICEF, and UNCDF. It also involved a range of important global initiatives and institutions. A smaller number of participants joined from academic and research institutions, private sector and consulting firms, and civil society organizations.

Key Actions: The innovative training combined peer learning, expert coaching, and the convening power of RCO Economists. It featured a mix of keynote presentations, country case studies, interactive exercises, and facilitated working groups. Participants engaged in discussions on a range of public and private finance topics, including budgeting for a just transition, fiscal reforms, debt instruments, de-risking private investment and the role of financial institutions. Each country was invited to deliver a short country presentation on one of these themes – highlighting areas where they made notable progress or faced challenges – to promote the exchange of ideas, experiences and lessons learned across the participating countries.

Results and Impact: The training series enhanced the capacity of national stakeholders to mobilize finance for a just transition by leveraging a range of public and private finance tools, mechanisms, and partnerships. Participants identified projects for their countries to pursue and received tailored support through individual coaching sessions held alongside the main training sessions. These projects included integrating just transition principles into the NDC 3.0 process, exploring options for establishing a national Just Transition Fund, and developing a roadmap for issuing a commercial just transition bond. A finance proposal for Papua New Guinea's first large-scale offshore wind farm was presented at the UN SDG Investment Fair at the Finance for Development 4 Conference.

The training and coaching promoted collaboration across sectors, while also breaking down institutional silos within participating countries.

Lessons Learned: The training series demonstrated the strong value of peer-to-peer learning within and across regions. Participants found that meaningful exchange was possible between countries with different development contexts. While language barriers occasionally posed challenges, the use of real-world case studies from participating countries helped overcome these, providing a common reference point for reflection and discussion during the facilitated working groups. The series also reinforced the importance of public-private sector collaboration in mobilizing finance and designing scalable solutions. Bringing together stakeholders from both sectors helped build a shared understanding and created new opportunities for cooperation.

Replication and Solutions: The training series format – blending online training and coaching sessions – has proven effective and was replicated in a second edition of the series for countries from Africa, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean in September 2025. Follow-up training series, tailored to country contexts and/or focusing on thematic priorities or financing mechanisms, are being explored for countries and policymakers expressing interest.

“Through the training and coaching, we were able to identify the Association of Banks in Jordan as a key partner. An MoU has since been signed with UNDP, and we are now preparing training for private banks on how to move from green bonds towards just transition financing... the sessions gave us concrete outputs we can build on and helped establish long-term partnerships that can continue beyond the training.”

- Cengiz Cihan, UN RCO Senior Economist, Jordan

“Serbia is only at the beginning of its energy transition. For us in the Ministry, just transition offers opportunities for large-scale job creation and new investment, but also the risk that workers are left behind. From the training, we most certainly acquired new knowledge – on how financial institutions can enable just transition, on new financial instruments such as green, orange, sustainable and transition bonds, and on how the financial sector has a major influence on sustainable outcomes in promoting a just transition.”

- Boško Latković, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Serbia

For more information:

- [From Knowledge to Action: Building Capacity for Just Transition Finance](#)
- [Financing Sustainable Food Systems for SDG Acceleration](#)

Case Study 2: “New Frontiers for Resilient, Inclusive and Green Economic Transition” - 5th Global Academy on Green Economy: A Platform for Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building

Background: The Global Academy on Green Economy offers a platform to build capacity, foster dialogue, and enable knowledge-sharing for inclusive green economy transitions. The 5th edition of the Academy, held in Turin, Italy from October 9-13, 2023, was organized against the backdrop of pressing global sustainability challenges and growing demand for practical tools to support green economic transformation, particularly in the post-COVID-19 recovery phase.

Stakeholders: The International Training Centre (ITC-ILO) with UNITAR, UNEP, UNDP and UNIDO, the ILO and PAGE Secretariat, government representatives. It brought together over 90 policymakers, policy advisors and stakeholders from 22 PAGE countries, including from workers and employers’ organizations, development partners, civil society organizations, and academic institutions, fostering a multi-stakeholder dialogue on green economy transitions.

Key Actions: This Global Academy adopted a blended format combining two weeks of online training and self-paced modules with a one-week in-person segment at the ILO Training Centre in Turin. The in-person segment included a workshop for PAGE National Coordinators and UN focal points, fostering dialogue on country implementation and coordination. The Academy concluded with South-South Day, including a Knowledge Fair, showcasing expertise, case studies, and tools co-developed by PAGE partners and UNRCO economists. Through expert-led workshops, peer clinics, and plenary sessions, participants exchanged experiences on circular economy, green finance, just energy transition, industrial policy, and nature-based solutions. The format aligned with PAGE’s Strategy 2021–2030, reinforcing SSTC, institutional learning, and interregional collaboration for inclusive green economic transformation.

Results and Impact: The Academy strengthened participants’ knowledge, peer learning, and institutional capacity to design and implement integrated policy frameworks for inclusive green economies. Over 90% of participants indicated their intention to apply and replicate elements of the training within their national contexts, signaling strong uptake and potential for long-term impact. The event fostered lasting connections among policymakers, practitioners, and partners, prompting follow-up exchanges and requests for country-specific support. The dedicated SSTC working session provided valuable reflections and strategies to deepen SSTC within PAGE, including many outlined elsewhere in this note. By facilitating peer learning and cross-country fertilization of ideas, the Academy contributed meaningfully to PAGE’s global learning ecosystem, advancing interregional collaboration and institutional learning across partner countries.

Lessons Learned: The Academy highlighted the importance of structured dialogue, real-time collaboration, and inclusive facilitation in promoting peer learning. The multi-stakeholder format proved to be a success factor, enabling rich, cross-sectoral

discussions and shared understanding among diverse actors on policy coherence. Time constraints, however, limited the depth of country-specific support, indicating a need for follow-up sessions or regional spin-off events. Language barriers and varying national contexts presented challenges, but these were addressed through simultaneous interpretation and adaptive facilitation by ITC-ILO. The Global Academy also underscored the urgent need for policy strategies that deliver not only on environmental goals but also advance social justice, equality, and resilience amidst ongoing global crises.

Replication and Solutions: The Academy model is highly replicable, demanded by partnering countries, and adaptable. It can be in-person or virtual, with content tailored to specific policy challenges. Success depends on institutional commitment, skilled facilitation, and strong participant engagement. Future replications will integrate a follow-up mechanism to track implementation of lessons. Several countries have expressed interest in organizing Regional Academies in Africa, Latin America, and Asia aligned with national and regional priorities.

For more information:

- [Policymakers from over 20 countries explored new frontiers at Global Academy on the Green Economy](#)
- [Global Academy on the Green Economy by ITC and PAGE](#)
- [Information note on the 5th edition Global Academy on the Green Economy](#)



Photo: ITC-ILO

Case Study 3: PAGE Africa Regional Academy in Morocco: Financing a just transition to green and circular economies

Background: Held from 21–23 May 2025 in Rabat, Morocco, the first PAGE Regional Academy for Africa marked a strategic milestone in PAGE’s South-South and Triangular Cooperation efforts. Building on the momentum of the Green Crossroads Conferences, the Academy was launched in response to growing demand for regionally focused capacity building. It aligned with Morocco’s revised National Sustainable Development Strategy (SNDD), the New Development Model (NMD), and PAGE’s final implementation phase in the country. The Academy aimed to strengthen peer learning and accelerate national green economy strategies across the African continent.

Stakeholders: The Academy brought together 70 representatives from seven PAGE countries from Africa (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritius, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa) and non-PAGE countries ((Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Djibouti)), including policymakers, practitioners, and experts from ministries of finance, labour, energy, economy, environment, and planning, as well as workers and employers’ representatives and business owners. It was supported by PAGE agencies and designed and facilitated by the ITC-ILO. The Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco played a central role in supporting, hosting and facilitating the event. Additional support came from the European Union, as well as Moroccan public institutions, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector.

Key Actions: The Academy was structured as a three-day in-person program following a preparatory online phase. It featured masterclasses, elective sessions, and workshops on financing just transitions, integrating climate action into macroeconomic and budgetary policies, and aligning national strategies with sustainability goals. The sessions emphasized the importance of long-term planning, sustainable budgeting, and the reform of fossil fuel subsidies. Participants explored the harmonization of green finance taxonomies across African countries and discussed the role of private finance and banks in mobilizing climate funds. The ILO also launched and presented the Guidance Note titled, [Unlocking more and better jobs: Integrating sustainable enterprises for a just transition in Nationally Determined Contributions](#), highlighting the need to embed just transition in national climate plans, as well as linking climate and just transition goals with financing strategies that mobilize public and private finance and facilitate access to capital for all enterprises. UNDP and ILO also highlighted the growing importance of carbon markets and addressing the social and economic dimensions of just transitions. The Academy launched the PAGE Country Ambassadors’ Network, designed to enhance SSTC and to promote the exchange of experiences and solutions among African countries. This initiative gave a strong voice to PAGE alumni and national representatives in regional and global events.

Results and Impact: The Regional Academy provided tools and strategies for integrating green finance, just transition and circular economy into national policies and budgets. The event strengthened institutional capacities and fostered collaboration between

ministries, financial institutions, and civil society. Their collective contribution established the Academy as a genuinely regional and collaborative endeavor, highlighting the essence of SSTC. The Academy took place back-to-back with Morocco's Green Nexus Week and the national Green Crossroads Conference. The launch of the PAGE Ambassadors Network marked a significant step in institutionalizing peer learning and regional leadership. The Academy also contributed to aligning Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and national budgets, reinforcing policy coherence, just transition principles and social dimensions in climate action across the region. Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn, connect, and co-create a shared understanding of just transition finance, laying out the foundation for future regional cooperation. The Academy also explored: public and private finance, national and cross-boundary funding mechanisms, the critical role of policymakers and social dialogue, embedding social inclusion at the core of environmental finance.

Lessons Learned: The Academy demonstrated that strong political commitment, multi-stakeholder engagement, and regional ownership are essential for SSTC. Peer learning across diverse African contexts proved highly effective, even in the face of logistical challenges and time constraints. The Academy highlighted the need for harmonized green finance frameworks, stakeholder consultation, tailored training and capacity building, and ensuring SSTC preparatory and follow-up phases to ensure continuity and impact. The PAGE Ambassadors initiative was recognized as a scalable model for sustaining momentum and expanding the reach of SSTC.

Replication and Solutions: The Regional Academy model is highly replicable across other regions. Its success depends on strong national leadership, inter-agency coordination, and the integration of preparatory and post-event activities. The format's adaptability to different regional contexts and thematic priorities makes it a valuable tool for advancing inclusive green economic transformation. Several countries have expressed interest in replicating the Academy in other regions. The PAGE Ambassadors initiative is expected to expand across Africa, reinforcing the role of SSTC, as well as other regions including Latin America and Caribbean, Asia and Pacific, etc.

"This unique partnership brings together five agencies: UNEP, UNDP, ILO, UNITAR, and UNIDO, which is coordinating it in Morocco. Together, we are working towards a common goal: integrating the green economy into public policies, strengthening national capacities, and supporting innovation for a more sustainable future."

- **Sanae Lahlou, UNIDO Representative Morocco**

For more information:

- [ILO: PAGE Regional Academy for Africa: Harnessing the power of green finance for a just transition](#)
- [Financing a just transition to green and circular economies](#)

- [First PAGE Regional Academy for Africa](#)
- [ITCILO: PAGE Regional Academy](#)

Key documents:

- ILO, 2015, [Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all](#)
- ILO, 2023, [Resolution concerning a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all](#)
- ILO, 2023, [Just Transition Finance - Pathways for banking and insurance](#)
- ILO, 2024, [ILO's offer on strengthening NDCs for a just transition and decent work](#)
- ILO, 2025, [Unlocking more and better jobs: Integrating sustainable enterprises for a just transition in Nationally Determined Contributions](#)



Photo: UNIDO



Group photo of the participants of the PAGE Regional Academy for Africa

Case Study 4: Advancing Circular Economy through South-South Cooperation – The 3rd PAGE Green Industry Summer School

Background: From July 30 to August 2, 2024, UNIDO hosted the 3rd PAGE Green Industry Summer School in Vienna, Austria. This initiative aimed to equip policymakers and industry professionals from developing countries with the knowledge, tools, and skills necessary to advance the circular economy within the context of sustainable industrial development. The Summer School addressed the critical role of circular economy principles in driving systemic transformation and provided a platform for sharing best practices and policy frameworks to facilitate this transition.

Stakeholders: The event brought together 60 participants from more than 30 countries, including representatives from government ministries, academia, research institutions, and the private sector. Key stakeholders included: European Union Delegation, Circular Economy Forum Austria, Vienna University of Technology, Climate Lab, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, startups such as Hempstatic, Reploid Group, and Alchemia-Nova, Austria, and national representatives from 29 countries including Small Island Developing States: Samoa, Barbados and Mauritius.

Key Actions: The Summer School delivered an integrated learning experience that combined theoretical insights with practical application, advancing SSTC in green industrial development. From May 15 to June 30, 2024, participants completed a self-paced online course on Green Industrial Policy to build foundational knowledge ahead of the in-person segment. The on-site portion featured interactive workshops, policy simulations, and case-based exercises. High-level keynote speakers, including Professor Jeffrey Sachs, offered insights on systemic transformation for inclusive green economies. Participants joined field visits to the Schneider Electric Power Drives, providing direct exposure to circular economy practices. Throughout the Summer School, dynamic peer exchange enabled participants to share experiences, tools, and institutional approaches, reinforcing SSTC approaches across diverse country contexts and regions.

Results and Impact: The Summer School significantly enhanced the capacity of policymakers and professionals to integrate circular economy principles into national strategies and sectoral policies. Participants gained practical insights into the industrial application of circular approaches, equipping them with tools to support sustainable industrial transformation. The event also strengthened intra- and inter-regional peer-to-peer networks for long-term collaboration. This included triangular cooperation through the involvement of the EU delegation and Austrian institutions. Participants reported increased confidence and readiness to address pressing environmental and employment challenges within their respective contexts. In a post-course evaluation survey, 54% responded that the knowledge/skills acquired in the event were very important to their job success and 46% responded that they were important. In addition, 73% responded that they will apply fully and 23% mostly some of what they have learned.

Lessons Learned: The Summer School demonstrated that interdisciplinary learning significantly strengthens knowledge retention and supports the practical application of circular economy principles across sectors. The inclusion of diverse stakeholders—ranging from policymakers and academics to private sector representatives—proved essential in fostering a more comprehensive and systemic understanding of sustainable industrial transformation. The emphasis on South-South Collaboration enabled participants to share regionally relevant experiences, address common challenges, and co-develop innovative solutions. Lastly, the establishment of alumni networks and continued engagement beyond the event is critical to sustaining momentum, reinforcing peer-to-peer exchange, and ensuring longer-term impact.

Replication and Solutions: The Summer School model offers strong potential for replication across other regions. Its success hinges on institutional backing from global organizations, active engagement of diverse stakeholders, and the establishment of follow-up mechanisms such as alumni networks. These elements collectively ensure knowledge continuity, foster peer learning, and support the adaptation of circular economy practices to local development needs.

For more information:

- [UNIDO: The Partnership for Action on Green Economy \(PAGE\) Summer School](#)
- [Transforming Industries through Circular Economy](#)



Photo: UNIDO

Case Study 5: Central Asia-Mongolia Workshop on Green Finance for a Just Sustainable Transition

Background: In September 2024, PAGE and BIOFIN jointly organized a South-South regional workshop in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, bringing together policymakers and experts from Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. The three-day event, titled *Green Finance for a Just Sustainable Transition*, aimed to strengthen regional collaboration, facilitate knowledge exchange, and accelerate the integration of green finance strategies across national development plans, and fiscal and financial sector strategies. Participating countries shared common goals for greener, more inclusive economies, while facing similar policy and implementation challenges.

The workshop provided a platform to explore tools and approaches that support their ambitions: for subsidy reform, green taxonomies that support financing climate and social dimensions of a just transition, sustainable finance instruments and mechanisms, and approaches for leveraging private sector finance. [These tools](#) directly link to broader national strategies such as NDCs, NBSAPs, and frameworks such as Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs).

Stakeholders: The workshop convened over 30 senior representatives from ministries of economy, finance, environment, climate, and development, as well as agencies responsible for state budgets and biodiversity. Institutions such as State Development Banks, Sustainable Finance Associations, the Cabinet Secretariat of Mongolia, and others also participated. The event was supported technically by UNDP, PAGE national coordinators, and ILO representatives.

Key Actions: The workshop featured a mix of presentations, peer-to-peer exchanges, and facilitated working groups. Participants engaged in deep dives on subsidy reform, green and social bonds, climate and just transition finance, and sustainability taxonomies promoting positive climate and social outcomes. A unique element of the workshop was its regional lens—enabling countries to compare approaches, identify shared challenges, and learn from one another. Each country's team also had space to reflect on their national context and formulate short- and medium-term priorities for green finance anchored in national policy processes.

Results and Impacts: The workshop significantly strengthened regional and bilateral cooperation. Participants identified actionable priorities ranging from subsidy alignment with sustainability goals to expanding biodiversity finance mechanisms and integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into public finance. Increased understanding of international frameworks and tools—such as carbon markets, trust funds, and ESG safeguards—helped ground discussions around practical solutions. The workshop also facilitated the sharing of concrete instruments, such as concessional loans and standards for biodiversity finance, as well as private finance approaches, that can be scaled further across the region.

Lessons Learned: The event validated the power of regional peer learning to inspire practical policy shifts and to foster political momentum. Participants noted that while countries are at different stages of implementation, the commonalities in challenges created a strong foundation for collaboration. The inclusion of multiple ministries and national stakeholders highlighted the importance of cross-sector coordination for green finance reforms. Challenges included institutional and technical capacity constraints of stakeholders and the need for more robust mechanisms to monitor and evaluate progress in areas such as subsidy reform. Clarity in roles, long-term commitment, and political leadership are essential to responding to these challenges.

Replication and Solutions: This regional workshop format, including technical exchange, peer learning, and national action planning, can be easily adapted to other PAGE countries. Its success stemmed from a balance between technical inputs and participatory dialogue. The focus on real-time strategy settings allowed countries to identify actionable next steps.

For more information:

- [Workshop on Green Finance for a Just Sustainable Transition in Central Asia](#)
- [Advancing South-South Cooperation on Green Finance in Central Asia](#)



Photo: UNDP Kyrgyzstan

Case Study 6: Fiscal Knowledge Lab on Adaptation & Resilience Finance – Peer Learning among Asia-Pacific Ministries of Finance

Background: The Asia-Pacific region faces nearly ten weather, climate, and water-related disasters every month, placing heavy fiscal pressure on Ministries of Finance (MoFs). According to UNESCAP’s *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2025*, future climate disasters could cause annual economic losses equivalent to at least 6 percent of GDP in one-third of Asia-Pacific countries. To support MoFs in mainstreaming climate risk and adaptation into fiscal policy, the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action (CFMCA) convened a two-day regional meeting in Manila in August 2024. One side event, a Fiscal Knowledge Lab on Adaptation & Resilience Finance, was designed to enable SSTC among 17 APAC CFMCA member countries, complementing an ADB-led ASEAM Climate Finance Policy Platform launched at the same time.

Stakeholders: At the national level, participants included Deputy and Director-level officials from Ministries of Finance across 17 APAC countries, such as the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Bangladesh, and the Kyrgyz Republic. International and regional stakeholders included UNEP, UNDP, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, and the NDC Partnership, with strategic guidance from the CFMCA Co-Chairs—Indonesia and the Netherlands.

Key Actions: The session adopted an interactive Knowledge-Lab format, using four concise, region-specific case studies—including one on “Strengthening Fiscal Preparedness for Climate-Related Disasters”—to spark discussion. ADB and UNEP moderated a roundtable on “Mobilizing Finance for Adaptation & Resilience,” while the peer learning exchange was facilitated by UNEP. Participants engaged in group and plenary work to analyze fiscal challenges, explore financing instruments such as green and resilience bonds and contingency funds.

Results and Impact: Over 60 government officials exchanged concrete fiscal tools for climate adaptation, with summary notes disseminated within 48 hours to maintain engagement. In the short to medium term (September 2024 to March 2025), key insights informed CFMCA deliverables under Helsinki Principle 2 and contributed to the early design of the ASEAN Climate Finance Policy Platform, supporting broader regional collaboration on adaptation finance.

Lessons Learned: Key enablers included the use of scenario-based micro-case studies, which kept discussions grounded in real-world challenges, and the inclusion of Ministry of Finance peers as panelists, which fostered trust and open exchange. Challenges emerged around the limited availability of quantitative data on adaptation expenditures, making cross-country benchmarking difficult. Tight time constraints also limited deeper discussion during breakout sessions. Policy signals alone are insufficient to attract private capital—participants emphasized the importance of clearly defined risk-sharing mechanisms to enable investment.

Replication and Solutions: The Knowledge-Lab format is a low-cost, adaptable model that can be replicated across future CFMCA regional meetings. Successful replication depends on a few essential conditions: the use of concise, context-specific case materials; skilled facilitation to guide dialogue and capture insights; and a clear commitment to share session outputs within one week to sustain momentum and support follow-up action.

For more information:

- [CFMCA Regional Convening for Asia-Pacific](#)
- [Advancing Climate Resilience and Economic Growth at the Asian Regional Meeting of Finance Ministers](#)



Photo: UNEP

Case Study 7: Peer-Learning Lab: Building Ministries of Finance Analytical Capability for Climate Action - Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action - Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Background: Many Ministries of Finance (MoFs) lack the data, models and skills to translate their NDCs into macro-fiscal strategies. The Lab responded to this gap by helping over 30 Global-South MoFs understand how integrated transition modelling and climate-budget analytics can inform policies and investments for NDC design, planning, and implementation.

Stakeholders: Senior officials from Ministries of Finance of 30 Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs) participated, including Uganda (incoming developing country co-chair), Colombia, Congo, Togo, and Indonesia. International partners included UNEP, the London School of Economics Grantham Research Institute (LSE-GRI), the NDC

Partnership, Uganda's Ministry of Finance, and the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action Secretariat.

Key Actions: The session opened with a keynote on strengthening Finance Ministry capabilities for climate action. Country teams participated in a case-based exercise to identify national data needs, appropriate modelling tools, and institutional arrangements. This was followed by three roundtables exploring: 1) adaptation financing approaches, 2) the use of macroeconomic models versus rapid appraisal tools, and 3) methods extending beyond traditional budget tagging.

Results and Impact: Over 30 Ministries of Finance jointly identified analytical gaps and articulated priority areas requiring support from development partners for future action, reinforcing PAGE's role as an effective facilitator of peer-to-peer exchange on common challenges and opportunities. The exercise generated country-driven inputs to guide tailored support through the NDC Partnership, catalyzing requests for technical assistance and SSTC. The discussion reaffirmed the importance of the Coalition's and PAGE's joint role in enabling Ministries of Finance to operationalize climate action through fiscal and macroeconomic policy, providing a foundation for future coordinated support and learning initiatives. Participants expressed an interest in organizing additional case study-based SSTC sessions.

Lessons Learned: The case-study method helped translate abstract technical issues into tangible policy challenges, fostering practical discussion. Major barriers include fragmented data systems and limited coordination between Ministries of Finance and national statistical offices. Participants emphasized the need to scale up tailored technical assistance through a regional pool of modelling and budgeting mentors.

Replication and Solutions: The Lab can be replicated at regional Coalition events by pairing one local case study with a simple scenario toolkit and a facilitated gap-analysis worksheet. Key enablers include pre-circulated data templates, mixed MoF-academic facilitation, and rapid feedback loops for technical assistance matchmaking.

For more information:

[Building Bridges for Climate Action: Key Highlights from 2025 Climate Finance Meeting in Yogyakarta](#)



Photo: UNDP Indonesia

Case Study 8: Indonesia–China Bilateral South-South Exchange on Green Finance and Circular Economy

Background: In 2025, Indonesia and China undertook a series of bilateral South-South and Triangular exchanges to accelerate collaboration and peer learning on green finance and circular economy. The first exchange, held in Indonesia in May focused on strengthening regional collaboration and drew on China’s circular economy practices. Building on this momentum, a second exchange took place in Guiyang, Libo, and Shanghai, China in July deepening technical cooperation and showcasing innovative approaches to nature-based solutions, fiscal planning, and private sector engagement. Both exchanges were facilitated by UNDP, PAGE, BIOFIN, and SIPA, with strong institutional support from BAPPENAS (Indonesia) and NDRC (China).

Stakeholders:

Indonesia counterparts included: BAPPENAS, Ministry of Finance, Coordinating Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Investment, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, local governments, academia, and civil society.

China counterparts included: NDRC, Tsinghua University, Jiangsu circular economy parks, Suzhou Industrial Park, local governments, private sector (NIO, Trina Solar)

International partners included: UNDP Indonesia and China country offices, UNDP BIOFIN and other UN Agencies, SIPA, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, AIIB, Brazil Federal High Court, international NGOs, youth representatives, and the Guiyang Global Eco Forum.

Key Actions: The exchanges combined field visits with multi-stakeholder national and sectoral dialogues, focusing on financing mechanisms, public-private cooperation, and policy frameworks.

In Indonesia, delegates visited an integrated waste management site and participated in knowledge-sharing sessions on China's green finance innovations, such as the green taxonomy, performance evaluation, and recycling park models. These sessions helped identify practical entry points for integrating circular economy and green finance into Indonesia's policy and budget planning at both national and local levels.

In China, delegates engaged in targeted policy dialogues and technical exchanges, complemented by site visits to the GEF Land Degradation Project in Libo County, Shanghai Chongming Dongtan National Nature Reserve, and Shanghai Laogang Garbage Treatment Plant. These demonstrations provided tangible models for combating land degradation, protecting biodiversity, and advancing circular waste management. Indonesian delegates also presented their national strategy and financing perspectives at the Global Guiyang Eco Forum, enriching the dialogue and laying groundwork for future South-South Cooperation.

Results and Impact: The exchanges served as catalysts for concrete technical collaboration between China and Indonesia. The initial exchange sparked interest in organizing a follow-up learning visit to China, which took place in July 2025, deepening bilateral engagement and exploring practical applications. Participants gained valuable insights into China's industrial park ecosystem and innovative approaches to waste-to-resource conversion, which informed their perspectives on advancing circular economy initiatives.

The initiatives fostered stronger inter-ministerial coordination in Indonesia, evidenced by the development of a joint green economy policy brief. Dialogue between PAGE and BIOFIN counterparts, as well as between subnational governments was strengthened, advancing efforts to incorporate circular economy principles into green budgeting frameworks.

Preliminary discussions are underway with the Government of Indonesia to explore: 1) implementing end-to-end waste management practices inspired by Shanghai's model; and 2) leveraging climate and biodiversity finance mechanisms to accelerate circular economy approaches. A member of the Shanghai SME Association has facilitated follow-up business delegations to Indonesia, signaling growing private-sector cooperation and knowledge transfer.

Lessons Learned: The success of the exchanges was enabled by strong institutional backing from both BAPPENAS and the NDRC, high-level government commitment, and a hands-on agenda rooted in real-world case studies. The combination of practical site visits and in-depth policy dialogue proved highly effective in facilitating peer learning and practical problem-solving. Adapting some shared practices, however, proved challenging due to differences in governance structures and policy implementation approaches between the two countries.

Bilateral exchanges can yield greater impact when they integrate site visits with policy dialogues. To translate learning into action, sustained follow-up and continued technical engagement are essential. Logistical complexity, though, required extensive coordination, suggesting that future exchanges could consider simplifying exchange structures. Embedding post-exchange activities in existing platforms helped extend learning and foster institutional continuity.

Replication and Solutions: The model of combining policy learning with site visits is easily transferable to other PAGE countries. Key enablers include strong national leadership, multilateral coordination, and alignment with existing initiatives. Back-to-back exchanges between China and Indonesia reflect a shared commitment to SSTC and offer a clear pathway for replication in other countries seeking to adapt this model. Using education-based platforms to host follow-up reflections presents a low-cost, high-impact model for extending the reach and legacy of bilateral exchanges. The identification of clear priorities provides a basis for future collaboration. These can serve as pilot themes for further SSTC between Indonesia and China and potentially be adapted by other PAGE countries exploring similar solutions.

For More Information:

- [Event Report: Indonesia-China Bilateral Government-to-Government South-South Exchanges](#)
- [Indonesia–China 2025 South-South Exchange: Advancing Green Finance, Biodiversity, and Circular Economy](#)
- [Day 1 Indonesia-China Bilateral Government-to-Government South-South Exchanges: Policy Dialogue](#)
- [Day 2 Indonesia-China Bilateral Government-to-Government South-South Exchanges: Site Visit](#)
- [Day 3 Indonesia-China Bilateral Government-to-Government South-South Exchanges: Strategic Partners Meeting and Visit to Bogor Botanical Gardens](#)
- [Indonesia-China Bilateral Exchange on Green Finance and Circular Economy](#)



Photo: UNDP Indonesia



Photo: UNDP Indonesia

Case Study 9: Building Circularity into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs): Regional Exchange and Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Circular Economy Forum

Background: The transition to nature-positive, low-carbon, circular economies is central to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework. Recognizing the need for practical tools and peer exchange, UNDP, UNEP's One Planet Network and the UNFCCC secretariat organized the SSTC workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean on the sidelines of the World Circular Economy Forum in São Paulo, Brazil, in May 2025. The workshop focused on how to use the "Building Circularity into NDCs – A Practical Toolbox" to integrate circular economy measures into NDCs.

Stakeholders: Government representatives from 14 countries (e.g. Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Peru, Viet Nam, and others); UNDP; UNEP (10YFP Secretariat); UNFCCC; African Development Bank; IFC/World Bank; GIZ; Ellen MacArthur Foundation; ILO; Toyota Foundation; Shifting Paradigms; and the Government of the Netherlands.

Key Actions: The two-day workshop followed the structure of the Building Circularity into NDCs Toolbox, guiding participants through four key stages: 1) assessing hotspots of material use and associated GHG emissions; 2) identifying circular economy interventions in priority sectors/sub-sectors; 3) exploring means of implementation, including policy instruments and finance; and 4) assessing the tracking and reporting of circular interventions in NDCs. Participants engaged in practical exercises using tools such as the Sustainable Consumption and Production Hotspot Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT). Ecuador and Viet Nam shared results from applying the toolbox. Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and Peru shared applications of circular economy measures in NDC processes. The second day featured private sector voices on the importance of enabling environments and strengthening circular economy public-private partnerships.

Results and Impact: Participants gained first-hand exposure to practical tools for integrating circularity into national climate policies. Several countries expressed their intent to apply the toolbox in their 2025 NDC updates and requested support for this from UN partners. The workshop also helped to identify and inform potential technical follow-up at the country level, as well as interest in replicating similar events regionally.

Lessons Learned: Combining toolbox demonstrations with country showcases and innovative interactive sessions creates a strong peer learning environment. Private sector involvement added realism and scalability perspectives. Technical assistance, financial resources, capacity-building, and regional mentorship are key to moving from policy intent to implementation.

Replication and Solutions: This workshop model is replicable in other PAGE-supported regions, including through World Circular Economy Forums. Key enablers for a successful workshop include a well-structured curriculum, skilled facilitation, cross-agency collaboration, and private sector inclusion. Future iterations could include tailored technical clinics, online modules, and country-specific implementation labs. Two-day "introductory expert sessions" were held for countries from Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific in February and March 2025. These sessions helped to build participants' capacities to support governments with the insights, data analysis, and knowledge needed to integrate circularity into the new NDC preparation phase and implementation. Organizers highlighted the importance of linking circular economy and climate agendas and covered the four stages of the toolbox through interactive quizzes, live demonstrations of tools, and real-life scenario exercises. Countries shared their experiences using the toolbox including through peer exchange and Q&As. A follow-up training for Indonesia is planned to maintain momentum among champion countries.

For more information:

- [Building Circularity into Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\) - A Practical Toolbox](#)
- [Regional Capacity-Building and South-South Exchange Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean](#)



Photo: UNDP Alana Craigen

Case Study 10: South Africa and Indonesia – A Shared Commitment to a Just Energy Transition. A Virtual Policy Dialogue Series on Just Energy Transition under PAGE to Foster and Leverage South-South Collaboration

Background: In the context of rising urgency for equitable energy transitions, the governments of South Africa and Indonesia agreed to partner through a virtual PAGE-supported Policy Dialogue Series on Just Energy Transition. This SSTC exchange platform aligned with South Africa’s G20 Presidency themes of Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability. It was conducted from July to November 2025 to deepen policy learning, strengthen collaboration, and support capacity building for countries transitioning away from coal while ensuring social inclusion and economic opportunity. The idea for the Series emerged from country discussions held during the 2023 PAGE Global Green Economy Academy in Turin, hosted by ITC-ILO. The series also drew on Indonesia’s ILO-led “Innovation Regions for a Just Energy Transition (IKI-JET)” project, as well as PAGE’s ongoing support to advance South Africa’s Just Energy Transition pathway.

Stakeholders: The series engaged key institutions across both countries, including:

- National and provincial policymakers;
- Workers’ and employers’ organizations;
- Energy transition experts and practitioners; and
- Partners included representatives from the G20 Energy Transitions Working Group.

Key Actions: The series consisted of five thematic online dialogues:

- **July – G20 Side Event and Launch: “Just Transition in Coal Mining Regions in Indonesia and South Africa”** - Introduced context-specific just transition pathways and aligned with G20 ETWG priorities. The Session informed the G20 Outcome Document on Socio-economic Safeguards for Fossil Fuel-Dependent Regions.
- **August – Social Dialogue for a Just Transition** - Shared models of effective social dialogue and strategies for inclusive stakeholder engagement from both countries.
- **September – Skills Development in Coal Mining Regions** - Focused on reskilling and upskilling strategies, workplace dynamics, and fostering emerging green enterprises.
- **October – Financing the Just Energy Transition** - Examined financial instruments, public-private models, and lessons from national funding strategies.
- **November – G20 Progress Session on Just Transition in Coal-Dependent Economies** - Reflected on policy progress, gaps, and future cooperation opportunities.

Results and Impact: The five-session dialogue series produced several cross-cutting results:

- **Strengthened South-South Learning:** Indonesia and South Africa exchanged institutional innovations and lessons on coal transition strategies.

- **Social Dialogue as a Cornerstone:** All sessions reinforced that inclusive dialogue with governments, workers' and employers' organizations, and communities is crucial for building locally owned transition pathways.
- **Skills Development:** The sessions emphasized the need to improve labor-market data, anticipate green job demand, and adapt training programs accordingly.
- **Financing Constraints:** Both countries identified structural financing challenges, highlighting the importance of stable policy environments and integrated social goals.
- **Coordinated Governance:** The PCC in South Africa and JETP Secretariat in Indonesia demonstrated the value of clear institutional leadership in long-term transition planning.

Lessons Learned

- **Just Transition Must Be Inclusive:** Protecting livelihoods and fostering decent jobs is non-negotiable in energy transitions.
- **Social Dialogue is Foundational:** Early and sustained engagement of employers and workers ensures legitimacy and smoother implementation.
- **Skills Are the Bridge:** A green transition is only viable with active reskilling and upskilling strategies tailored to regional realities.
- **Finance as an Enabler:** Adequate and innovative financial mechanisms are essential for successful implementation.
- **South-South Collaboration Works:** SSTC can accelerate change by connecting shared experiences and practical solutions.

Replication and Solutions: This dialogue series offers a replicable model for PAGE and partners aiming to promote regional collaboration on transition themes. Key success factors included strong political buy-in, shared technical content, stakeholder diversity, and alignment with global platforms such as the G20. Future efforts could expand to include other coal-reliant PAGE countries, embed results into national policy cycles, and establish follow-up peer learning tracks.

For more information:

- [South Africa and Indonesia – A Shared Commitment to a Just Energy Transition](#)
- [First Dialogue: South Africa and Indonesia – A Shared Commitment to a Just Energy Transition](#)
- [Second Dialogue: South Africa and Indonesia – A Shared Commitment to a Just Energy Transition](#)
- [Third Dialogue: South Africa and Indonesia – A Shared Commitment to a Just Energy Transition](#)

Findings and Recommendations

This review has found that the rationale underpinning the updated PAGE Strategy 2021-2030 and its emphasis on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) remains valid. SSTC represents an essential means for scaling up and accelerating inclusive, green, circular economy approaches by fostering mutual learning, practical problem-solving, and country-led innovation.

The 80th [UN General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/80/156](#), reaffirmed South-South and triangular cooperation as vital, solidarity-based drivers for SDG achievement.

In line with findings from the UNSG's 2025 Report on the State of South-South Cooperation, **PAGE and its partner countries remain committed to leveraging SSTC** to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and other Multilateral Environment Agreements.

There is growing demand from PAGE countries to prioritize collaborative, innovative, and context-specific solutions. Efforts to integrate SSTC approaches into the policies, plans, country programmes, institutional structures, and budgets of United Nations entities, including through initiatives such as PAGE, can help generate greater returns on linked ODA investments.

The insights and experience captured through the examples outlined above - ranging from global academies to regional workshops and targeted bilateral exchanges - underscore that when applied to specific contexts, **SSTC can be a modality for demand-driven peer-to-peer learning, as well as a strong catalyst for transformative policy change grounded in country ownership.**

Findings and Lessons from Applying Different SSTC Formats:

The case studies in this report show that PAGE has used a wide range of SSTC formats to advance inclusive green and circular economies. Each format – global, regional, bilateral, thematic – has been designed to respond to a particular policy need, priority, and context. **By looking across these experiences, it is possible to see what has worked better in different settings, what results can be expected, and what conditions tend to make SSTC approaches more effective.**

Global initiatives, such as the Global Academy on Green Economy held in Turin (2023) and the Green Industry Summer School in Vienna (2024), work better as platforms for vision-building and connection. They bring together policymakers and practitioners from many regions to explore shared challenges and policy tools. The Academy gathered policymakers from 22 PAGE partnering countries with 90 policymakers and policy advisors to exchange knowledge on just transition, circular economy, and green finance. The Summer School brought together 60 participants from more than 30 countries for a practice-oriented learning experience on circularity and green industrial development. Both events inspired collaboration, peer learning and strengthened international

communities of practice. Greater impact is catalyzed when they are linked to national policy processes that translate ideas into action.

Regional activities strengthen and bring added value to SSTC approaches. The 1st Regional Academy for Africa, organized in Morocco in 2025, demonstrated how regional peers facing similar issues – such as the need to integrate climate action into macroeconomic and budgetary policies - can move quickly from discussion to collective action. For example, the event led to the launch of the PAGE Ambassadors Network to further promote the exchange of experiences and solutions among African countries. Similarly, the Central Asia–Mongolia Workshop on Green Finance helped four neighboring countries identify and advance concrete priorities for subsidy reform and green finance, showing that regional exchange can leverage the power of sustained peer learning to inspire policy shifts that can be scaled further across the region.

Bilateral exchanges, such as the one between Indonesia and China, illustrate the value of focused cooperation over time between countries with complementary experience. Combining policy learning with onsite visits, the exchanges helped to catalyze demand-driven technical collaboration on green finance and circular economy. These types of bilateral exchanges yield the greatest impact when they integrate practical field visits with in-depth policy dialogue.

At the same time, **knowledge and peer learning labs have proven effective in helping finance ministries and other institutions tackle very specific policy challenges.** The Fiscal Knowledge Lab on Adaptation and Resilience Finance in Manila, for example, enabled Ministries of Finance from 17 Asia-Pacific countries to exchange concrete fiscal tools for mitigating climate risks. Similarly, the Peer-Learning Lab in Yogyakarta helped more than 30 ministries of finance identify data and analytical needs for integrating climate action into macroeconomic and fiscal policy. These formats help policymakers translate abstract technical issues into tangible policy solutions.

Online and blended formats have also expanded the impact of PAGE-facilitated SSTC. The PAGE–DCO Training Series on Financing Just Transitions, conducted virtually for participants from 8 countries, combined expert lectures with coaching and country case studies. This format allowed for broad participation and cost-effective learning, while producing practical applied outputs –such as proposals for integrating just transition principles into the NDC 3.0 process, establishing Just Transition Funds, and developing roadmaps for issuing just transition bonds.

PAGE-facilitated thematic and tool-based workshops also offer a cost-effective and practical approach to promoting SSTC. The Latin America and Caribbean workshop on integrating circularity into NDCs, held during the World Circular Economy Forum in 2025, gave countries the chance to gain first-hand knowledge of a practical tool for integrating circularity into climate policy, i.e. the NDC Circularity Toolbox. Several countries reported plans to use the tool in their NDC updates, showing how these types of exchange can lead to direct policy application.

Three overall lessons can be gained from these various SSTC formats. First, **SSTC is most effective when participant countries already have policy frameworks and institutions in place to guide their green and circular economy transitions**, as is the case with PAGE countries. Rather than building from zero, they seek concrete ways to refine and expand their existing efforts, looking for instruments and experiences that can be adapted to their own contexts. Second, **continuity matters: successful initiatives build on longer-term collaboration and peer-to-peer networks to sustain learning**. Third, **national ownership is essential**. When host countries take the lead in shaping the policy learning agenda, SSTC becomes more relevant, visible and transformative.

These lessons help explain why PAGE's SSTC efforts have been so effective: it adapts cooperation formats to purpose, fosters applied learning, and ensures that countries are not just recipients of knowledge but are also active co-creators of green and circular economy solutions.

Recommendations:

Based on the above case studies and findings, this Note offers a set of short- and medium-term recommendations. These include recommendations for ongoing and future PAGE activities, as well as recommendations that apply more broadly to other initiatives led by PAGE Agencies, funding partners, and other stakeholders keen on advancing a just circular transition.

PAGE is well-positioned to champion SSTC as a vehicle for advancing inclusive green economy transitions. As the examples outlined above demonstrate, PAGE facilitated SSTC approaches can foster a vibrant, demand-driven ecosystem of peers focused on transformative change.

To strengthen this SSTC work, **PAGE needs to continue leveraging its unique added value in the circular economy, finance, green jobs, and just transition space.** By drawing on its networks, country experience, and thought leadership, PAGE can scale up and accelerate change in ways that deliver greater return on investments made by PAGE agencies and funding partners, while also ensuring that its results are sustained and generate a greater ripple effect across countries.

Opportunities to embed SSTC approaches across PAGE programming cycles should be more systematically leveraged. Where possible, this means integrating SSTC planning into country workplans, budgeting for peer missions and regional dialogues, and the curation of a pool of mentors, facilitators, and technical experts who can support SSTC and ensure strong follow-up.

SSTC follow-up in PAGE countries is essential. Learning exchanges should not be one-off events, but steppingstones toward joint initiatives, pilot projects, and broader forms of bilateral collaboration. The expansion of PAGE Country Ambassadors' Network and community-of-practice platforms can help maintain momentum and strengthen PAGE

cross-country collaboration. For this expansion to succeed, sustained financing and clear mandates are essential. Ideally, peer exchanges need to respond to specific, time-bound initiatives that can be informed by the experience of other countries. In addition to country

ownership, and full engagement from other country stakeholders is key including from resident UN agencies, and UN RCOs.

Structured peer learning formats - including government to government exchanges, regional academies, knowledge labs, and scenario-based clinics - **should be scaled and regionally tailored**. For example, the Mongolia–Central Asia workshop responded to strong interest in aligning green economy strategies, while the Indonesia–China exchange demonstrated how practical pathways for circular economy can be unlocked, especially when complemented by technical follow-up.

With respect to other complementary green and sustainable development initiatives advanced by the UN and partners, and in line with recommendations from the 2025 Report of the UN Secretary-General, **there is a strong case for PAGE agencies and other UN entities and funding partners to continue to facilitate initiatives which replicate successful solutions that maximize the potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation**. At the same time, the UN and partners can invest even more to strengthen their own SSTC capacities learning from the PAGE experience.

In line with evolving UN reforms designed to achieve greater impact and efficiency, **there is room to further embed SSTC approaches, including PAGE innovation and good practices, within the work of UN country teams**. This includes the integration of SSTC into Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and the country programmes of individual UN entities. In parallel, SSTC approaches can be further strengthened at the regional level through Issue-based Coalitions and at global level in line with efforts led by UNDCO and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation.