



Special Session: Energy Transition and Energy Poverty

Outline

1. The Need for a Global Energy Transformation
2. What is a Just Transition? Approaches and Importance
3. Just Transition and Beyond

Energy Transformation needed to reach goals of Paris Agreement and the SDGs



Source: <http://images.huffingtonpost.com/2015-12-15-1450217701-4796923-COP21finale.jpg>



Source: <http://iogt.org/>

„The world takes action to mitigate climate change.“

- positives signs: 2015 record year for renewable energies; share of renewables in creating energy worldwide 2015 23,7%
- some countries have increased their share in renewables significantly:

	Installierte Leistung erneuerbare Energien (ohne Wasserkraft)	Installierte Leistung erneuerbare Energien pro Kopf (ohne Wasserkraft)	Neuinvestition in erneuerbare Energien	Neuinvestition in erneuerbare Energien pro Kopf
1	China	Dänemark	China	Mauretanien
2	USA	Deutschland	USA	Honduras
3	Deutschland	Schweden	Japan	Uruguay
4	Japan	Spanien	Großbritannien	Marokko
5	Indien	Portugal	Indien	Jamaika

Vgl. REN21, Renewables 2016 - Global Status Report, S. 21, Stand Juni 2016

- need for a global energy transformation: phasing out of fossil fuels and nuclear energy, we need high investments in renewable energies, higher efficiency and reduction of absolute consumption



- priorities for countries of the Global South:
 - overcoming energy poverty
 - development of efficient, safe and affordable energy
 - developing modern energy infrastructure
 - creating energy policy regulatory frameworks

- 6 key requirements for an energy transformation:
 - advantageous and reliable political framework conditions for RE
 - reduction subsidies for fossil fuels
 - involvement of private sector
 - social acceptance on introducing RE
 - social innovation and willingness to change
 - technical cooperation and technology transfer

- Justice component in the energy transition debate:
 - Who gets access to clean energy?
 - Who suffers from dirty energy in form of health hazards and environmental problems?
 - How can we shape the transition from dirty to clean energy sources in order to make it just for everybody (includes fossil fuel workers etc.)?



Source: <https://www.odi.org/coal-and-poverty-faq-energy-access>

- Climate change effects many sectors, also employment sector → Mitigation policies will have enormous effect on employment
- Sharan Burrow: “There are no jobs on a dead planet.” → taking no action on climate change will result in disaster, also for workers and jobs!



Source: <http://www.industrial-union.org/a-just-transition-to-sustainability>

- At its core: trade union understanding of a range of social interventions needed to secure workers' jobs and livelihoods when economies are shifting to sustainable production
- key stakeholder: governments must provide sustainable industrial policies for workers
→ moving towards low-carbon economy requires planning, not luck
- conditions for successful JT policies (ITUC) or steps to take: investment in low-emission and job-rich sectors and technologies, research and early assessment of social and employment impact of climate policies, social dialogue, training of workers, social protection schemes, economic diversification plans according to needs of the regions, new jobs = decent jobs

- Just Transition not supposed to be used to oppose climate action, means to address the climate crisis and to enhance climate action!



Source: <http://www.climatejusticeaotearoa.org>

- Just transition discourse originates in trade union environment, but justice discourse around climate change is much broader. Different groups express partly overlapping and partly contradicting justice claims, e.g. justice to the most climate vulnerable, justice to expelled workers and their families, just burden or opportunity sharing in the energy transition, justice to nature or justice to future generations
- Key question: How can we unite the different approaches to justice – from trade unions that rightfully ask to respect workers’ rights, to development groups that rightfully underline the importance of quick poverty eradication to environmental groups that rightfully underline the importance of staying within planetary boundaries?
- Key answer: Transition: social impacts are extremely important! Every structural process needs to incorporate justices claims of all groups involved and needs to develop a common approach

Thank you very much for your attention!

Manuela Mattheß, Coordinator International Energy and Climate Policy, Department of Global Policy and Development, FES Berlin, manuela.matthess@fes.de