



GLOBAL  
ACCELERATOR

# THE GLOBAL ACCELERATOR ON JOBS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR JUST TRANSITIONS

## What is Global Accelerator?

The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions is an **initiative of the UN Secretary-General** launched in September 2021 to help countries address multiple crises, accelerate economic recovery while investing in social development and green transition, and prepare for current and future challenges (formalization, youth employment, gender equality, green transition, digital economy, etc.).

The Global Accelerator aims to support the creation of **400 million** decent jobs<sup>1</sup>, the extension of social protection to the **4 billion people** who are currently excluded, and to facilitate "just" transitions for all. By placing decent work and universal social protection at the heart of recovery, the Global Accelerator aims to usher in a new era of shared prosperity, sustainable peace, and social justice.

This multi-stakeholder initiative is also a means to achieve a **more effective and coordinated form of multilateral cooperation** - an imperative for addressing current and future crises. The Global Accelerator is supported by the UN system, the G7 and G20, the UN Joint SDG Fund, public development banks, and UN member states. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is coordinating its operationalization with the participation of UNDP, UNICEF, and other agencies.

### Three pillars to accelerate action:

#### 1. Integrated national strategies

The Global Accelerator supports countries as they develop and implement integrated policies to create productive jobs and achieve universal social protection to foster just transitions and a virtuous circle of economic growth, public revenue generation and reinvestment in key sectors.

#### 2. Integrated national financing strategies

Support is provided to develop and operate financing strategies using the full range of available funding sources (tax revenues, social security contributions, official development assistance, debt reduction/restructuring, private investment).

#### 3. Enhanced multilateral cooperation

A coalition of countries (governments, social partners and civil society) and other stakeholders (including the United Nations and international financial institutions) harmonise their actions and join forces to implement the Accelerator and advance social justice.

A Technical Support Facility (TSF) that facilitates the implementation of the Global Accelerator

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<sup>1</sup> Including the formalisation of existing jobs.



## How does the Accelerator work in the countries?

- The Global Accelerator is **relevant in countries that are committed to decent work, universal social protection**, formalisation of enterprises and employment, green transition, and reducing inequalities and gender gaps, but **face significant challenges** such as the persistence of the informal economy, unemployment, and underemployment, including of youth and women, insufficient financing for social protection and low coverage rates, poverty, and social inequalities.
- The implementation of the Accelerator is based on a **national roadmap** led by governments and co-created by relevant ministries, social partners, civil society, relevant public institutions, bilateral and multilateral cooperation, UN agencies, IFIs, DFIs, and multilateral and national development banks.
- This roadmap **identifies sectors of the economy that create decent jobs**, such as renewable energies, the care and digital sector, agro-industry, handicrafts, environmental preservation, waste management, sustainable infrastructure, or transport.
- It also identifies investments needed in **social protection** to achieve universal social protection coverage and adequacy of benefits across the lifecycle, through robust, shock responsive and sustainable social protection systems.
- It aims to support the formulation or improvement, implementation and financing of **state investment projects** and the development of value chains, enabling the creation of formal jobs and the formalisation of existing informal jobs, while implementing national policies on formalisation, access to social protection for all, youth employment and vocational training, gender equality and green transition.
- A **national financing strategy** for the Global Accelerator may be based on the realignment of existing investments, projects, and programmes to ensure that they also prioritize decent job creation, universal social protection and just transitions. It may also require new resources mobilized by repurposing existing budgets, improving public finance management, and exploring new public revenues from tax and social security contributions. International and domestic resources (public and private) can be supplemented by technical and financial support from the United Nations and development

partners, public development banks and private investors. The national financing strategy should be based on or reflected in the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF).



- The design, implementation, and financing of the Accelerator **require coordination of actors**: the ministries in charge of the economy, planning, finance, labour and employment, vocational training, social protection, environment, handicrafts, transformation of the informal economy, agriculture, industry, and trade; employers' and workers' organisations, and more broadly civil society; public development banks, bilateral cooperation, and United Nations agencies.
- The establishment and success of the Accelerator also require a **strong commitment from the State** at the highest level, which will also facilitate the coordination of actors. The national roadmap should be presented by the Head of State or the Head of Government to international bodies (United Nations General Assembly, ECOSOC, Conference of the Parties, International Labour Conference, IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings and Annual Meetings, Global Coalition for Social Justice).

## How does the UN system support the Accelerator?

- The UN (in collaboration with other partnering agencies) provides technical support on all **three pillars to accelerate action**.
- The UN has established a **Technical Support Facility (TSF)** that accompanies countries in the design, implementation, and financing of the national roadmap for the Accelerator.
- The **TSF is currently coordinated by the ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, FAO, and UN Women** and



includes other partner agencies. It develops technical tools, mobilises political support and financial resources for the implementation of the Global Accelerator. Building fully on existing mechanisms, the TSF will also develop a network of system-wide experts to support country-level implementation as needed.

- The **heart of the TSF is at the country level**, where UN agencies and other partners support governments under national leadership to accelerate progress on jobs and social protection. The great majority of resources will support work at this level.
- Based on existing national policies and ongoing programmes, the TSF supports countries in identifying sectoral or thematic challenges and **entry points** on which to anchor the Accelerator. Under government's leadership with the participation of social partners and civil society, it supports the **co-creation of a national roadmap** that serves as a basis for the development of a joint programme bringing together the relevant ministries, social partners, civil society, public institutions, UN agencies, bilateral cooperation, development banks, and private investors.
- Based on the INFFs, the TSF supports countries to **increase public and private resources and investments** to implement their national roadmap. It also promotes a better alignment of current financial flows with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and social justice.
- The global coordination body of the TSF will also play a role in **measuring the impact of the Accelerator** and will report to a **governance body** (Global Coalition) through an annual review of the situation in terms of employment, social protection, and just transitions, including financing needs.

### Why should development partners invest in the Global Accelerator?

- The Global Accelerator enables technical and financial partners to invest in government-led policies and programmes with an economic, social, and environmental **return on investment**, thus contributing to the SDGs and the implementation of the Paris Agreement commitments and the reduction of systemic risks. Thus, it contributes to structural changes with a ratchet effect that forces the way forward.
- The Global Accelerator enables partners to **increase their aid effectiveness** by avoiding

dispersion and redundancy, through a common roadmap that structures a coherent national demand.

- The Global Accelerator allows partners to **prioritise their technical and financial contributions** according to their strategic objectives. For example, the Accelerator contributes in many countries to several priorities and sectors of the European Union's NDICIs.
- The Global Accelerator **relies on the simultaneous contribution** of several UN agencies, technical partners, and development banks, thus reducing risks and increasing synergies.
- The Global Accelerator **requires high-level national political commitment**, which both facilitates the coordination of partner institutions and motivates the achievement of tangible results.
- The Accelerator is **based on a common results framework** that allows for the alignment of many development projects and investments to the Accelerator's objectives, in line with national priorities, and the consolidation of results. Partners who align with the Accelerator can gain visibility through the Global Coalition for Social Justice which will meet regularly.
- The Accelerator promotes **sustainable financing strategies** based mainly on the mobilisation of domestic resources. International financial support is therefore only temporary and allows to activate the necessary investments to achieve social justice.



### What Is the required investment?

- Partners are invited to support the country's priority investments, which can amount to **hundreds of millions of dollars** depending on the sectors chosen and the country's ambition.



Priority investments should therefore be included in the cooperation agreements between the state and partners, whether it be the EU NDICIs, or loan agreements with public development banks.

- In addition, partners are invited to support the implementation of the TSF. The total budget of the TSF is estimated at **USD 600 million** to support the implementation of the Accelerator in some 30 countries. This budget covers the coordination needs of the Global Accelerator, the development of common tools, the monitoring and evaluation of the initiative, the dissemination of good practices, and supporting a network of cross-system expertise building on and strengthening existing structures (about 10% of the total budget). It also covers the UN teams deployed in countries and regional offices to support the implementation of the Accelerator for the next four years (around 90% of the total budget).
- At the country level, the TSF will play a **catalytic role** in mobilising public and private funding. In addition, it will guide and complement major development cooperation programmes, including budget support and debt relief initiatives, and maximise their effectiveness.
- Funding for the TSF can be done through a contribution to the **UN Joint SDG Fund** which will open a funding window on the Accelerator at the ECOSOC summit in April 2023. Funding for the TSF can also be done through UN projects in countries or at regional and global levels.
- Finally, partners are invited to **promote the Global Accelerator** in the G7, G20, UN General Assembly, Boards of Directors of International Financial Institutions and UN agencies, the Finance in Common Summit, and other fora.

### What are the criteria, process, and responsibilities of becoming a pathfinder country of the Global Accelerator?

- Countries can join the Global Accelerator as “pathfinders”, which requires a **high-level commitment from the government**. Indeed, the large-scale creation of decent jobs, the extension of social protection to all those currently excluded, and the structural transformation of the economy (green and digital transition, formalisation) while ensuring just transitions for all, requires joint work, a holistic approach and coordination of many ministries, public institutions, private

companies, social partners, and civil society. Only the head of state or government can instigate reforms of this magnitude. Countries wishing to become members of the Accelerator must secure political support at the highest level. This commitment can be made through **an official letter to the UN Secretary-General**.

- In addition, participating countries in the Global Accelerator should commit to promote or support its implementation based on the Strategy developed by the United Nations. This includes the development and implementation, through national tripartite social dialogue, of **integrated strategies, policies, and programmes for just transitions**, enabling the creation of a large number of green and decent jobs, the extension of social protection to all those not yet covered, the implementation of scaled up vocational training actions, support for the creation and transformation of production units into sustainable enterprises, and the promotion of the organisation of workers and employers, as well as the inclusion of vulnerable people.
- Participating countries should aim at the **systematic addition of social and environmental dimensions** to their national investment plans and programmes (agriculture, crafts, industry, transport, energy, etc.), such as access to social protection, ecological transition, digital transformation, gender equality, which are sometimes missing from the initial formulation.
- Participating countries should commit to mobilise **domestic resources** for social protection, formalisation, and decent job creation, unless such an effort is already underway.
- They should also ensure there is in place or create, if necessary, a **dedicated coordination mechanism** including relevant ministries, social partners, and civil society, and placed at an appropriate political level to drive change (e.g., government cabinet).
- Participating countries should also be ready to **advocate for the ideas at the heart of the Accelerator** in global fora such as the UN General Assembly, Boards of Directors of International Financial Institutions and UN agencies, the G7, BRICS, and other fora.
- And they should be ready to promote their country experience on the Accelerator themes such as integrated policies, financing, and coordination of actors through **South-South cooperation**.

Find out more:

<https://www.unglobalaccelerator.org/>

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