

Being a good steward of the land Towards maximising the local benefits from the solar industry

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Context matters

What does “being a good steward of the land” mean for the renewable energy industry?

- ▶ What is the local context within which the renewable energy industry is developing?
- ▶ What is its contribution to the economy, society and the environment?

- ▶ **How local is local?**
 - Employment
 - Industrial development
 - Ownership
- ▶ **How ‘inclusive’ is ‘green’?**
 - Inclusive development
 - Work conditions; quality of employment
 - Participatory processes
- ▶ **How ‘green’ is ‘green’?**
 - Full lifecycle

Context matters

A transition is under way: climate change + 4IR

- ▶ Like every transition
...it is disruptive
- ▶ Like every transition
... it brings risks and opportunities.
- ▶ Everyone is set to be impacted, either positively or negatively.

- ▶ While the end goal is paramount, the prevailing dichotomy between the existing present and the aspired future means that the **journey matters as much as the destination.**
 - People, communities, companies and countries have different abilities to respond and adapt to the disruption.

- ▶ A **just transition** aims to ensure that vulnerable stakeholders are better off through the transition process, or at least not negatively impacted by it.

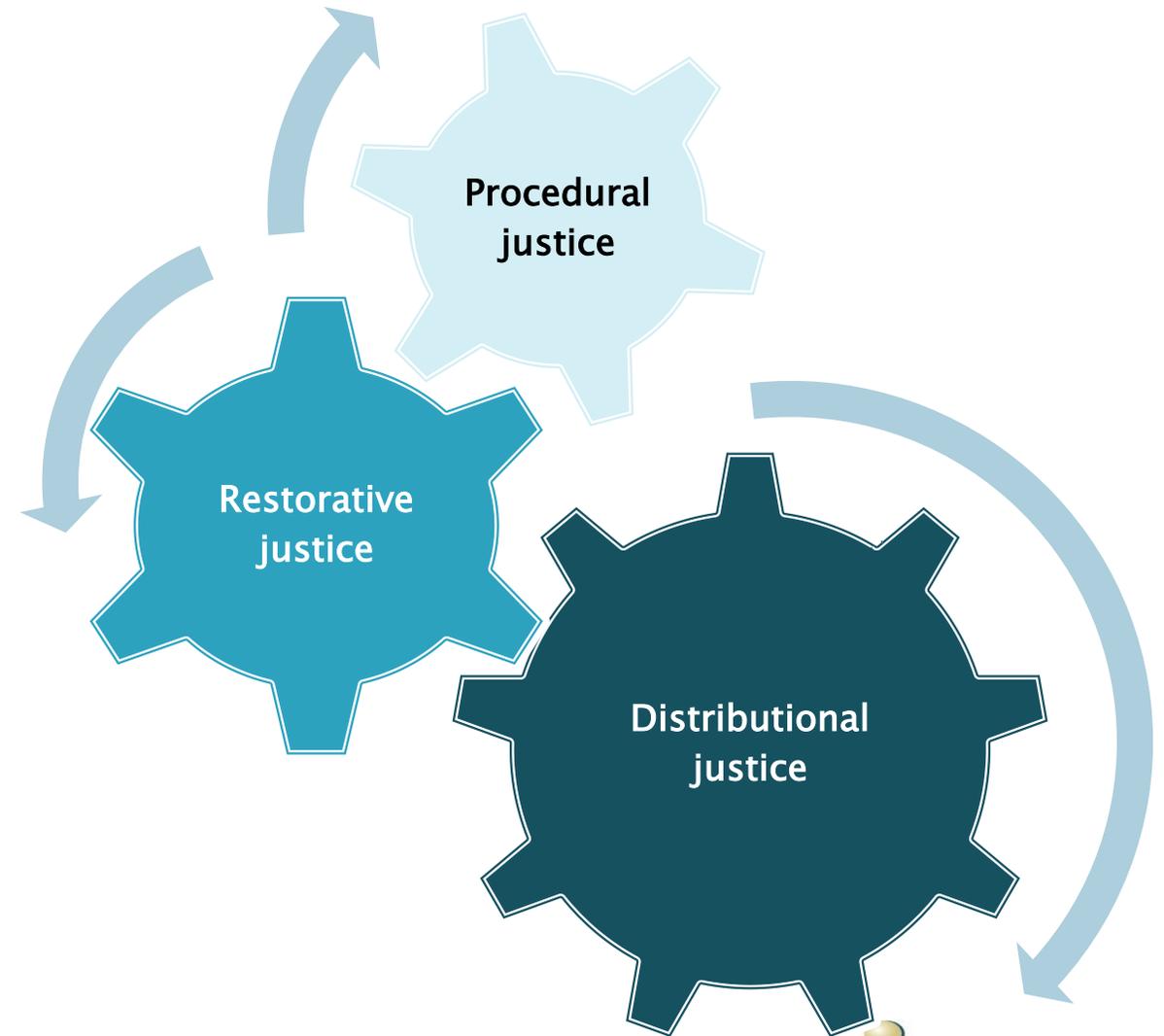
NEDLAC consensus

- ▶ “a shift towards low carbon, climate resilient and ecologically sustainable economies and societies which contributes to the creation goals of decent work for all, social inclusion, and the eradication of poverty”

What is a just transition?

3 dimensions of transitional justice

- ▶ *Procedural justice* focuses on the form and aims at facilitating an inclusive process
- ▶ *Distributive justice* deals here with the distribution of risks and responsibilities, and focuses on addressing the direct impacts resulting from the transition process
- ▶ *Restorative justice* considers damages against individuals, communities and the environment, with the goal of rectifying or ameliorating the situations of harmed or disenfranchised communities



Procedural justice

A key underlying assumption in JT discussions is that a just outcome can only emerge out of an inclusive process.

Focuses on facilitating an inclusive decision-making and implementation process, paying particular attention to enabling and empowering vulnerable and oft-neglected stakeholders to take part.

Dignity and respect

- All individuals are treated with dignity and respect

- ▶ Inclusive public participation
- ▶ Equal weight for all

Voice

- Individuals are given a chance to express their concerns and participate in decision-making processes by telling their side of the story

- ▶ Bottom-up process
- ▶ Empowerment / capacity building / skills dev.
- ▶ Support for participation
- ▶ Firm-level participation

Neutrality, impartiality and transparency

- Decisions are unbiased and guided by consistent and transparent reasoning

- ▶ Evidence-based
- ▶ Equal, unrestricted access to info

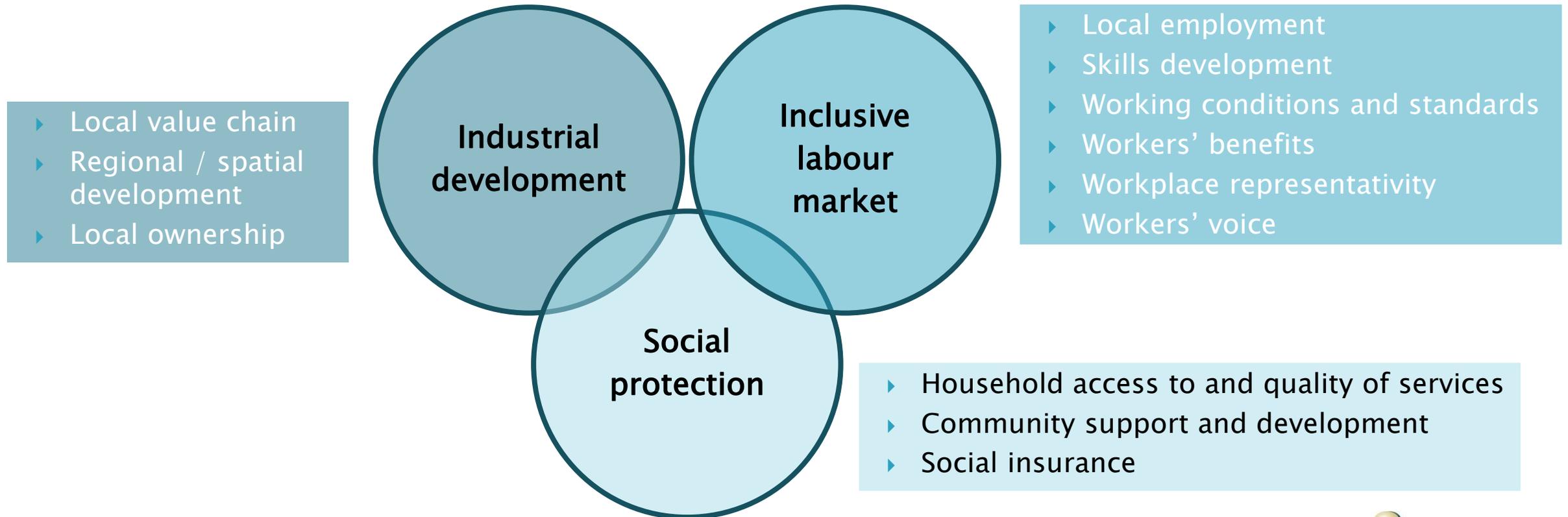
Trustworthiness

- Decision-makers convey trustworthy motives and concern about the well-being of those impacted by their decisions

- ▶ Ongoing public engagement
- ▶ Permanent community / grassroots forums
- ▶ Clear, explicit proceedings

Distributive justice

As the transition disrupts the economic structure, it is critical and necessary to: foster employment and decent work; drive investment and support the emergence of new opportunities; and provide a genuine safety net to workers and citizens in general



Restorative justice

Restorative justice is a core pillar of improving the economic, social and environmental resilience of vulnerable stakeholders, activities and regions.

Socio-economic empowerment

- Access to modern housing and services (energy, water, etc.)
- Access to new technologies
- Access to economic opportunities
- Social ownership

Socio-cultural restoration

- Non-predatory use of land
- Consider the true value of land, nature and ecosystem
- Respect for local, indigenous culture, heritage and practices
- Access to health, education, safety, etc.

Environmental restoration

- Land (mine) rehabilitation
- Safe, clear air
- Safe, clean water

Looking ahead

- ▶ The rollout of RE-based electricity generation can provide a source of economic activity and employment

- ▶ The RE industry can be a driver of more inclusive and progressive workplaces

- ▶ The RE industry can be a platform to reduce land use competition

- ▶ RE technologies can provide a platform to enhance the access to modern energy services by all, including through increased new ownership models

- ▶ RE project development can provide a platform for public participation and co-development

- ▶ The local / regional development of the RE value chain can generate economic activity and employment

- ▶ The RE industry can foster socio-environmental restoration

The RE industry can be a driving force of SA's just transition

But it's not automatic

It starts by 'being a good steward of the land'

Trade & Industrial Policy Strategies

Supporting policy development
through research and dialogue

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