
Green jobs: Towards **decent work** in a sustainable, low-carbon world

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Synopsis

- ▶ Decent Work
- ▶ Green jobs
- ▶ ILO Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, No. 174
- ▶ Conclusion



What is “Decent Work”?

- ▶ **Decent work** is the opportunity for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity through social dialogue.
- ▶ **Decent work** sums up the aspiration of people in their working lives – their aspiration for opportunities and income; rights, voice and recognition; for family stability and personal development; for fairness and gender equality.
- ▶ **Decent work** is central to efforts to reduce poverty, and is a means for achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development.



What are “green jobs”?

▶ **Green jobs**

- ▶ Green jobs contribute to preserving or restoring environmental quality.
- ▶ Green jobs help to protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity; reduce energy, materials, and water consumption through high-efficiency and avoidance strategies; de-carbonize the economy; and minimize or altogether avoid generation of all forms of waste and pollution.
- ▶ Green jobs must be good jobs that meet demands and goals of the labour movement, i.e., adequate wages, safe working conditions, and workers’ rights, including the right to organize trade unions.

▶ **Green jobs** will address two major challenges through:

- ▶ Adverting dangerous and potentially unmanageable climate change and protecting the natural environment which supports life on earth (**environmental challenge**).
- ▶ Providing decent work and thus the prospect of well-being and dignity for all in the face of rapid population growth worldwide and the current exclusion of over a billion people from economic and social development (**decent work challenge**).



Environmental challenge

- ▶ **Climate-related disasters:** 262 million people affected annually over the period 2000-2004.
- ▶ **Water shortage:** 1.8 billion people expected to suffer from fresh water scarcity by 2025.
- ▶ **Environmental refugees:** 50 million people potentially forced to become environmental refugees by climate change over the next few years.
- ▶ **Displacement by flooding:** 330 million people increasingly exposed to flooding.
- ▶ **Food shortages and malnutrition:** currently affect 180 million people and threaten to affect 600 million people by 2080.
- ▶ **Pollution:** 2 million premature deaths globally each year due to indoor and outdoor air pollution.
- ▶ **Loss of biodiversity:** the great majority of well-studied species are declining in distribution, abundance or both. Biological products and processes make up 40% of the global economy. Poor people, especially those living in areas of low agricultural productivity, depend heavily on the genetic diversity of the environment.



“Decent Work” challenge

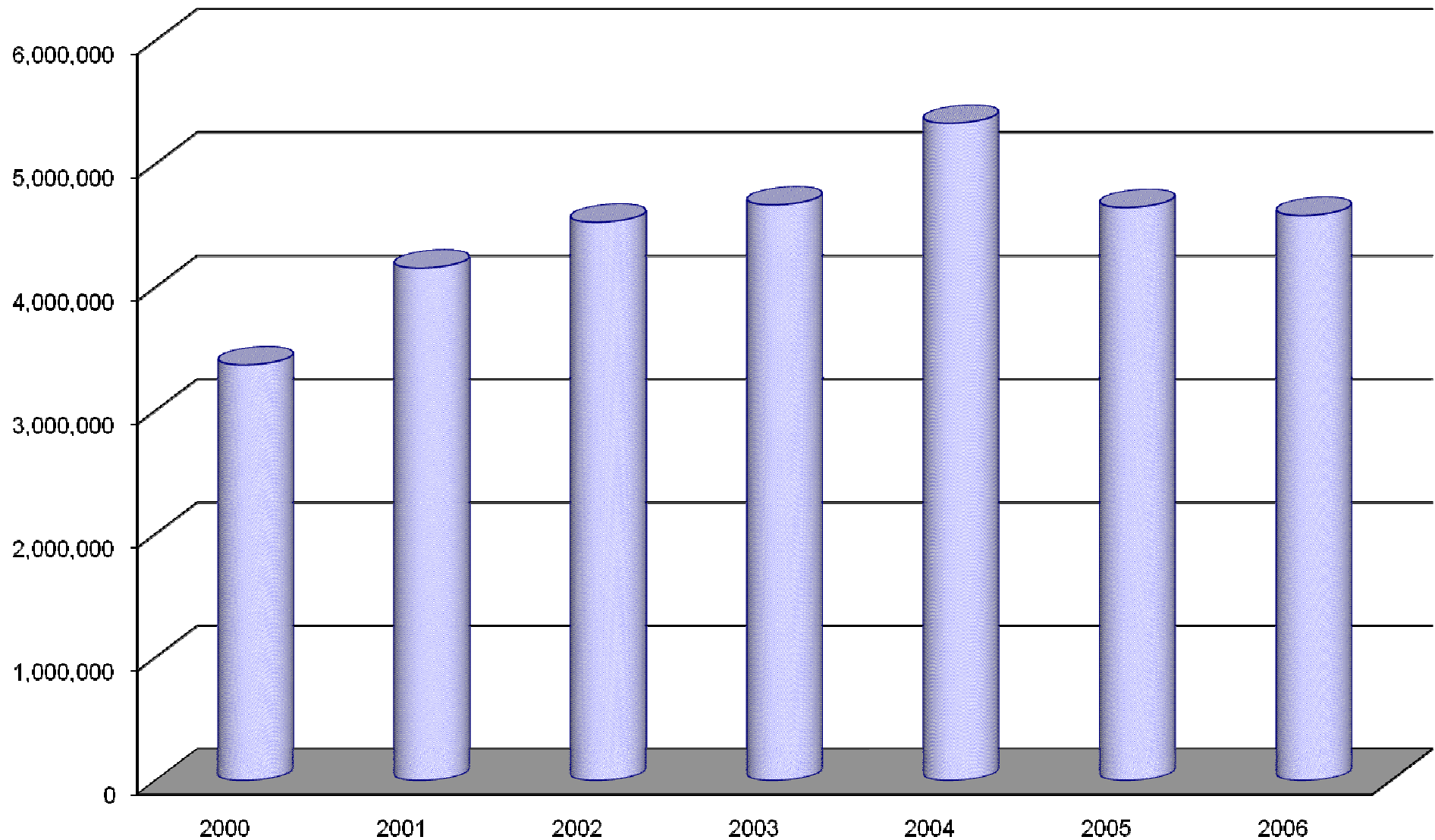
- ▶ **Working poor:** 1.3 billion people in the world with earnings too low to lift them and their dependants above the poverty threshold of US\$ 2 per day (more than 43% of the global workforce).
- ▶ **Unemployed:** 190 million people globally + economic recession may increase the unemployed.
- ▶ **Young job seekers:** over 500 million people additional job-seekers over the next 10 years.
- ▶ **Insecurity:** 5.3 billion people without access to any social security coverage.
- ▶ **Access to energy:** 1.6 billion people without access to modern energy (almost 1 in 4 humans living today).
- ▶ **Adequate housing:** 1 billion slum dwellers in poor housing lacking essential facilities such as clean water and sanitation.



Green and Decent Jobs?

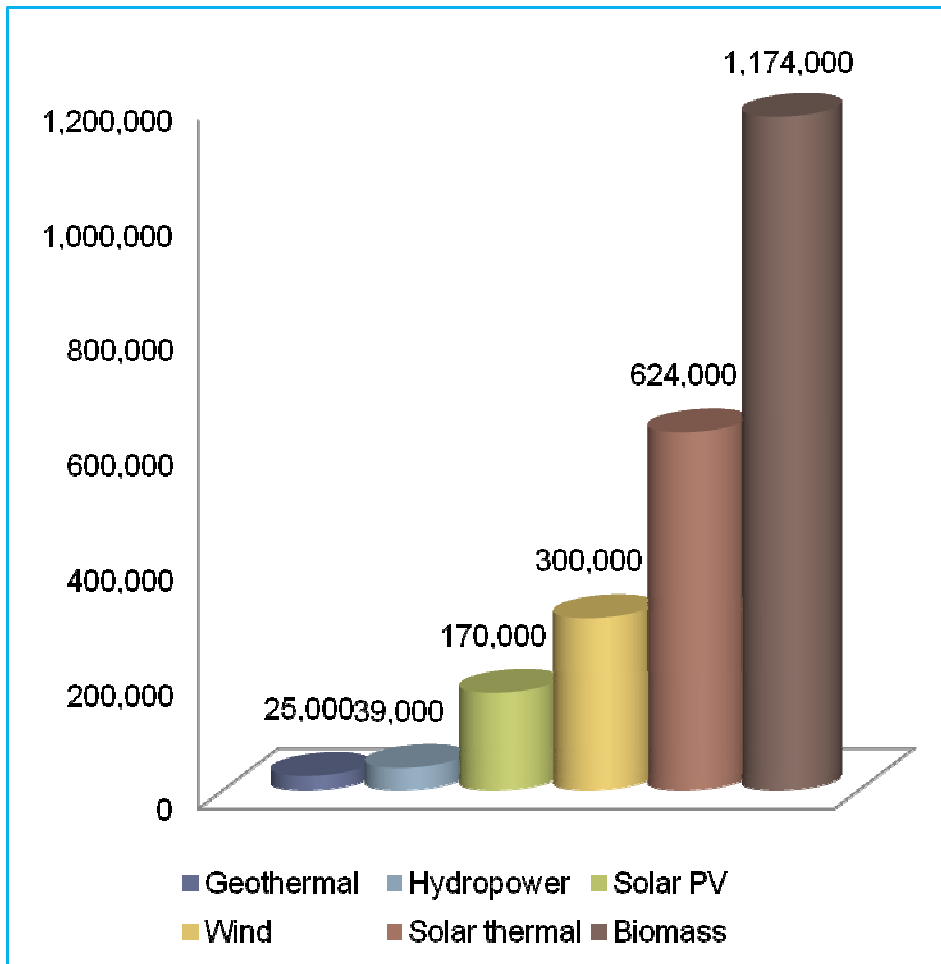


Global estimated employment in the extraction sector, 2000-2006

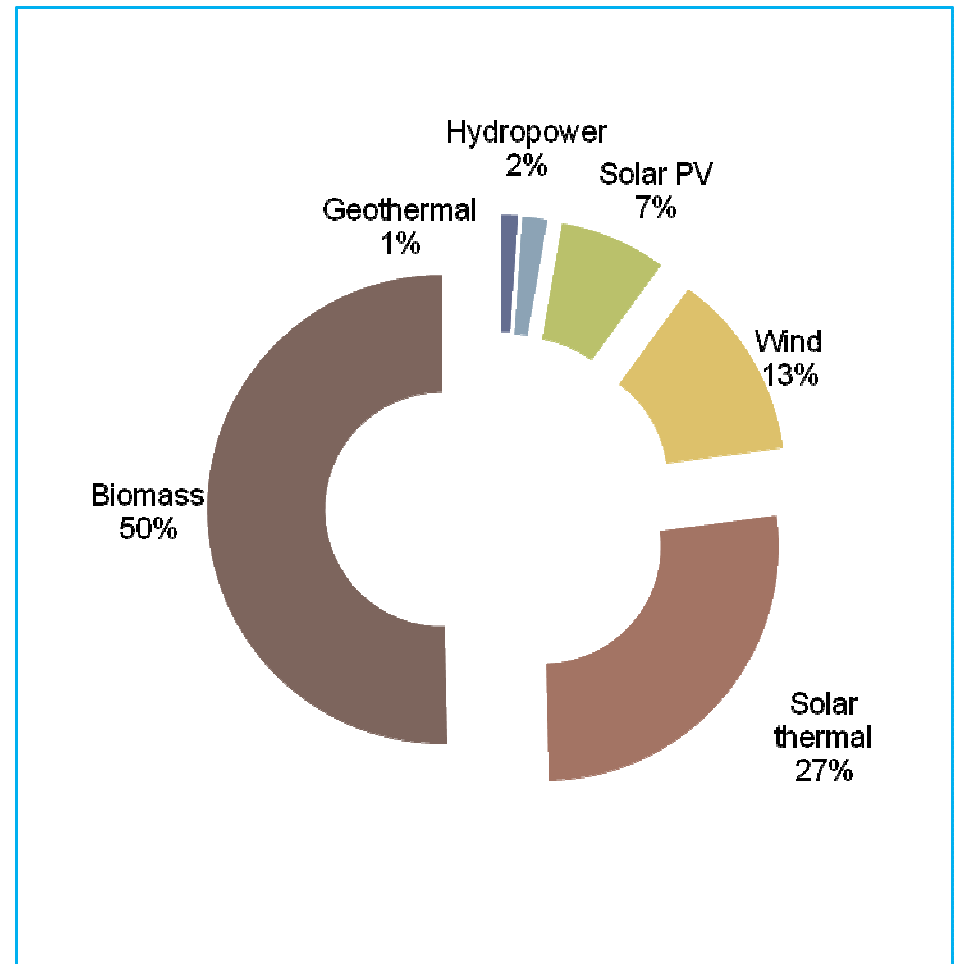


Job creation in the renewable energy sector in 2006

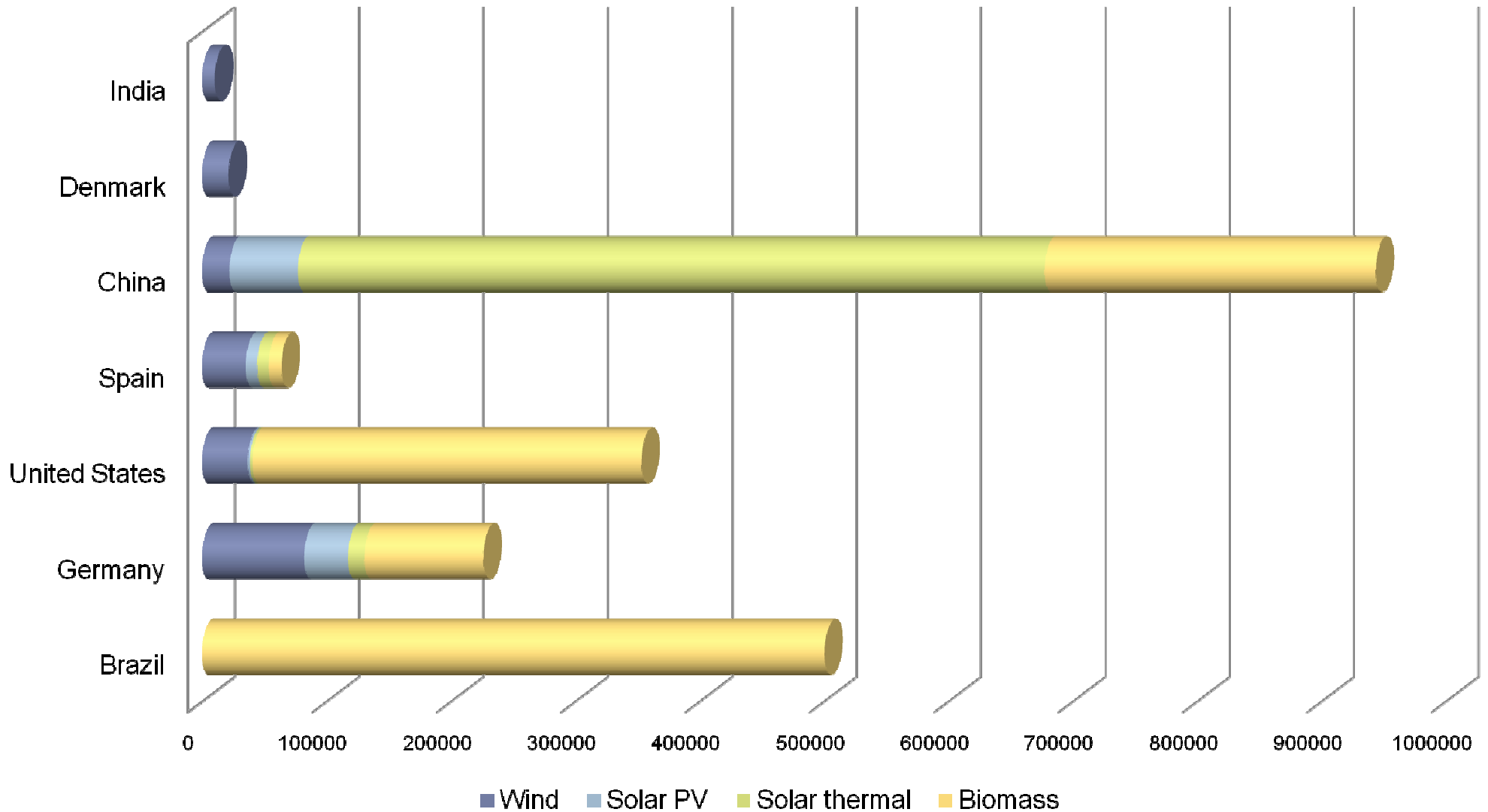
Job created



Percentage



Job creation in the renewable energy sector, selected countries, 2006

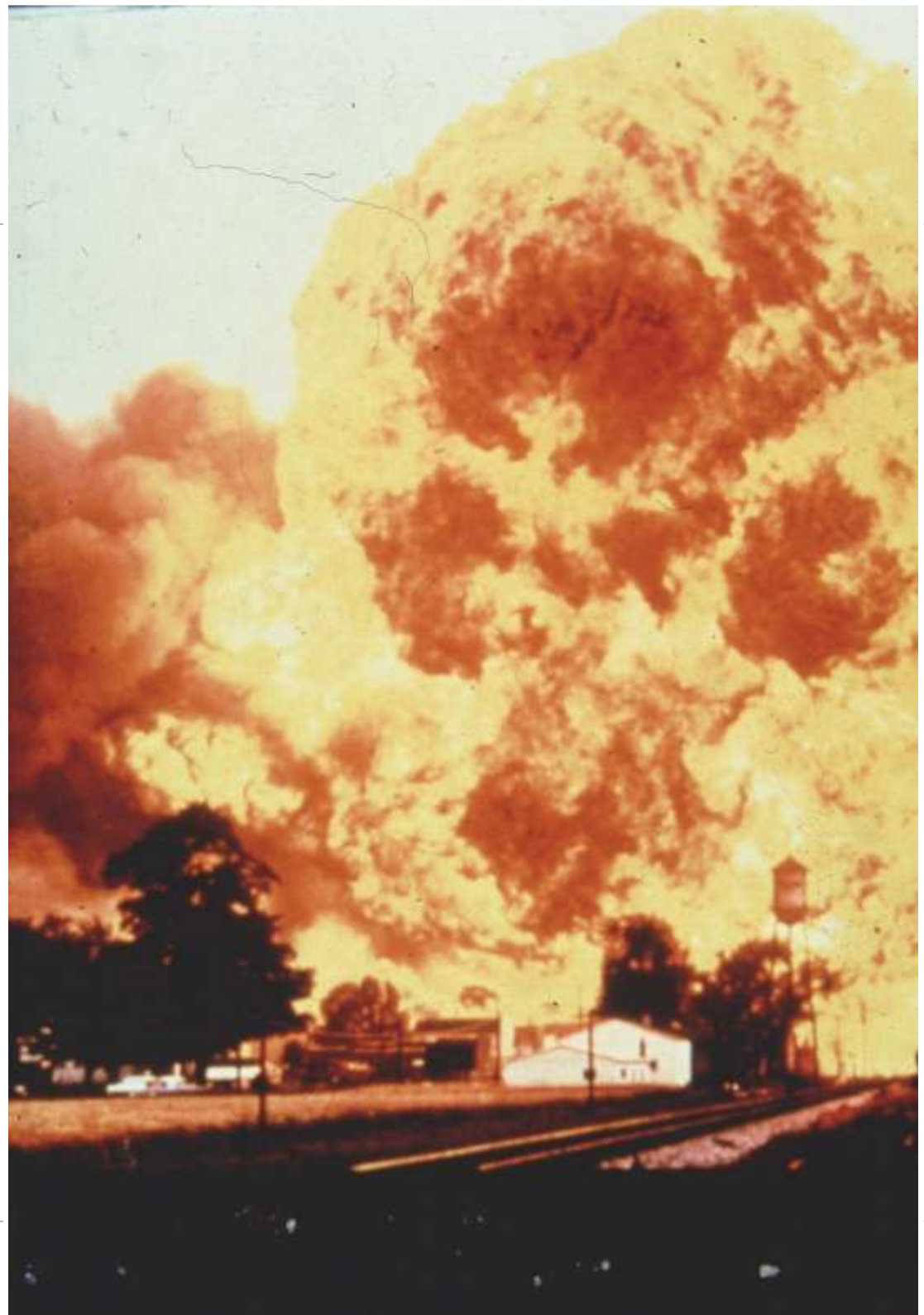


Major industrial accidents and ILO's response

- ▶ Major industrial accidents
 - ▶ Crescent City, 1970
 - ▶ Flixborough, 1974
 - ▶ Mexico City, 1984
 - ▶ Bhopal, 1984
 - ▶ Piper Alpha, 1988
 - ▶ BP Texas City, 2005



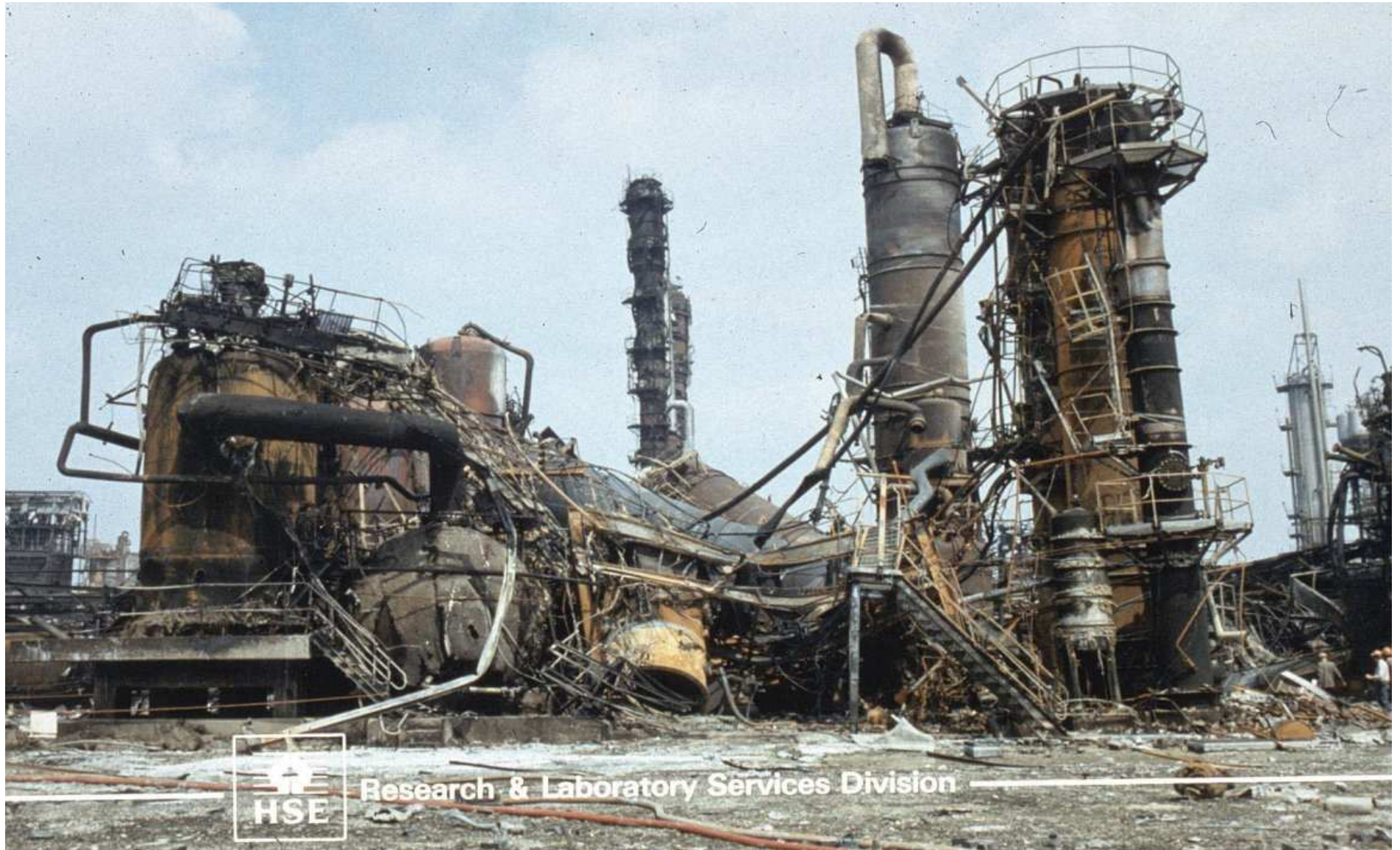
Crescent City,
Illinois, US,
1970



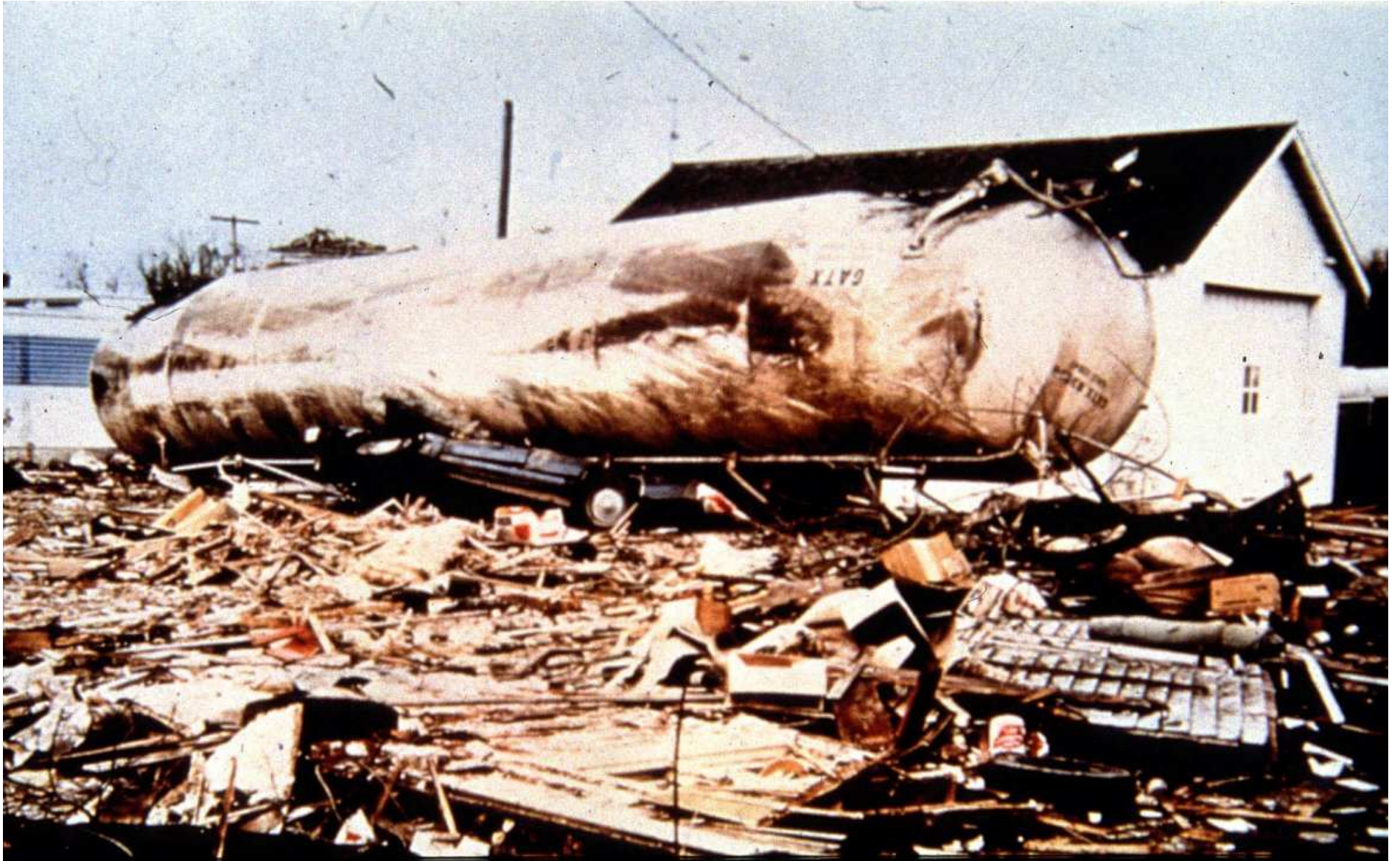
Flixborough, 1974



Flixborough, 1974



Mexico City, 1984



Mexico City, 1984



Bhopal, 1984



Piper Alpha, 1988



BP Texas City, 2005



ILO Convention No. 174

- ▶ **Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, No. 174** and its accompanying Recommendation aim to cope with the sudden occurrence of major industrial accidents by:
 - ▶ Providing comprehensive national framework for major hazard control;
 - ▶ Facilitating a systematic national action for prevention and mitigation; and
 - ▶ Facilitating collaboration of all government authorities and all stakeholders, including workers and the public.
- ▶ **Exclusion of the application:** nuclear installations; plants processing radioactive substances; military installations; and transport outside the site of an installation other than by pipelines.



Types of Major Industrial Accidents involving chemicals under the ILO Convention No. 174

- ▶ Major explosions
- ▶ Major fires
- ▶ Release of toxic chemicals, including CO₂



Key elements of major hazard control

- ▶ Identification of major hazard installations
- ▶ Risk assessment and control
- ▶ Mitigation
- ▶ Management System approach (Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems ILO-OSH 2001, with the participation of workers)



Other elements under the Convention No. 174

- ▶ **National policy** (Article 4) – policies for protecting workers, the public and the environment to be formulated by the Government, in consultation with employers' organizations, workers' organizations, and other interested parties who may be affected.
 - ▶ **Safety report** (Article 10) – written presentation must include: hazards and risk assessment; preventive measures; and emergency planning; and this report will be used for government inspection.
 - ▶ **Accident reporting** (Articles 13 and 14) – immediate reporting in the event of major industrial accidents. The detailed report must be submitted to the government within a fixed time-frame, including analysis of causes and accidents; immediate on-site consequences (damages); and actions taken to mitigate the effects.
 - ▶ **Rights and duties of workers** (Articles 20 and 21)
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Rights and duties of workers

- ▶ Workers should have the **rights** to:
 - ▶ Access to information on hazards and potential consequences
 - ▶ Be informed of instructions/recommendations by the competent authority
 - ▶ Have access to safety reports, emergency plans, accident reports
 - ▶ Notify the competent authority of major hazards
- ▶ Workers have the **duties** to:
 - ▶ Comply with practice and procedures for control of developments likely to lead to a major accident
 - ▶ Comply with emergency procedures



Conclusion

- ▶ **Decent Work** is the opportunity for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity through tripartite social dialogue.
- ▶ **Green jobs** will address both environmental and decent work challenges by reducing the environmental impacts of enterprise and economic sectors, ultimately to optimize the levels that are sustainable.
- ▶ **ILO Convention No. 174** will reduce the occurrence of adverse consequences to workers and the public due to the major industrial accidents, involving CO₂.

