

Energy Transition Council submission to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

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About the Energy Transition Council

The Energy Transition Council (ETC) is a multilateral platform, co-chaired by the UK and the Philippines, that brings together over 40 governments and institutions offering global political, financial and technical leadership in the power sector. See <https://energytransitioncouncil.org/> for further information.

Summary

In response to the COP30 Presidency's open call on the Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, this submission draws on the ETC's experience supporting Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs) to translate political commitments into actionable delivery for their own clean energy transition away from fossil fuels. The ETC is committed to continuing to work with the COP30 presidency and development partners to help deliver real impact and support a well-managed and swift transition away from fossil fuels (TAFF).

Key recommendations:

- **Transitions must be country-owned**
Effective transition pathways must be defined and led by countries themselves, reflecting national development priorities, energy security considerations and economic structures. Experience from the ETC shows that building political buy-in is critical to align transition pathways with national priorities and mobilise investment. The TAFF roadmap should therefore ensure the process of strong and continuous country engagement, so that it reflects country needs and supports implementation.
- **The TAFF roadmap should support strengthening coordination for delivery**
The roadmap should prioritise establishment of coordination structures and mechanisms that connect high-level, global political commitments with country-level planning, financing and delivery processes. This is essential to support national implementation and develop credible, investable transition pathways towards clean, secure, cheap energy systems.
- **Integrated approaches are critical to accelerating implementation**
Experience from the ETC demonstrates that combining political engagement, stakeholder coordination and practical implementation support – including technical

assistance, project preparation and finance mobilisation – can help countries move from ambition to delivery. This integrated approach is particularly beneficial for EMDEs, where addressing both structural dependence on fossil fuels and investment readiness is essential to enable effective and sustained transition with various development and economical consideration.

What are the most critical barriers — whether physical, economic, financial, institutional, technological or social — preventing a transition away from fossil fuels?

A critical barrier for Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs) is continued **structural economic dependence on fossil fuels**, combined with significant fiscal constraints. Structural dependence creates country- and industry-wide lock-ins, limiting the pathways for future clean energy infrastructure, as investment patterns often continue to support existing infrastructure and systems. It also constrains countries' abilities and capacities in planning, regulatory development, and project preparation for the transition away from fossil fuels.

Fiscal barriers further compound these challenges. Even where investment pipelines and implementable projects for clean energy transition exist, high costs of capital and limited access to concessional and blended finance remain major constraints to scaling clean energy investment, particularly given limited fiscal space in many EMDEs.

To overcome these challenges, countries will need integrated approaches that address both structural dependencies on fossil fuels and investment readiness. This includes:

- **Strengthening enabling environments for clean energy investment, improving project preparation and robust analysis and risk assessment.** It could help aligning transition strategies with broader economic development priorities and mobilise both international and domestic investment.
- **Enhancing coordination and delivery support through platforms such as the ETC.** The ETC works closely with partner countries governments **to provide an inclusive and integrated platform to address system-wide challenges and priorities.** Leveraging its experience in convening a wide range of stakeholders – including domestic actors, donor governments, multilateral development banks, philanthropic organisations and technical partners – **the ETC helps identify priority actions, strengthen coordination and align support.** Through this approach, the ETC supports the mobilisation of public and private finance and helps translate national transition priorities into actionable and investment-ready plans.

What potential levers, whether economic, financial, institutional, social or technological, exist for accelerating the implementation of the transitioning away commitment?

Building on the ETC's experience supporting EMDEs since COP26, we identified three key levers which can accelerate the implementation of the transition away from fossil fuels:

1. **Structured, institutionalised, and continuous dialogue processes** that link political commitments with planning and delivery.
2. **Strong, country-owned coordination of international support**, alongside improved alignment across international alliances and initiatives.
3. **Strengthening the link between planning and implementation**, including targeted technical assistance, project preparation support and capacity building.

The ETC's engagement and delivery model – built around high-trust political dialogue, donor and investor coordination, and a Rapid Response Facility (RRF) that provides and coordinates targeted technical assistance in line with identified country priorities – demonstrates how political ambition can be translated into practical support and impact.

- **High-trust political dialogue:** ETC Ministerials, typically held both virtually and alongside COPs, have helped elevate political commitment and signal priorities at the global level. Recent discussions have focused on scaling investment in clean power systems, strengthening grid infrastructure, and addressing financing barriers such as high costs of capital and regulatory risks, and support just and equitable transitions.
- **Donor and investor coordination:** These political signals are then translated into action through national dialogues held in partner countries. These dialogues support partner country governments in identifying priority reforms, investment pipelines and investment needs, including through working groups and engagement with international and local delivery partners.
- **Targeted technical assistance:** Building on high-trust political dialogue and donor and investor coordination, the ETC supports in coordinating of technical assistance through its Rapid Response Facility, helping to translate identified priorities into concrete support.

To date, this has included **around ten Ministerials, 20 national dialogues and over 30 technical assistance requests coordinated**, helping to move from ambition to implementation. Through coordinated engagement across ministerial, regional and national levels, the ETC helps align government priorities with international support and technical solutions.

What country, regional or sector roadmap experiences, best practices, and lessons learned can be shared?

Experience from ETC engagements highlights the importance of integrated and coordinated approaches to supporting country-led transitions. Effective implementation is strengthened when political, country-led dialogue processes are linked with practical follow-up support which can help remove bottlenecks and build strong momentum. Dialogues alone are not sufficient; but are more effective when combined with technical assistance, project preparation and financing support that enables countries to move towards implementation, with the capacity to manage and plan this while knowing there is support where it is most needed.

Key lessons from ETC experience include:

- Convening a broad range of stakeholders – including governments, MDBs, private sector actors and civil society – helps to identify priorities, align support and strengthen delivery. In the Philippines, for example, a series of ETC national dialogues has brought together government agencies, development partners, financiers and private sector actors to identify priority reforms and investment opportunities in the power sector. The national dialogues are supported by thematic working groups held in advance, enabling more detailed technical discussion among partners led by the government. This structured and ongoing process – from thematic working groups to national dialogue – creates a consistent rhythm for coordination, helping governments articulate priorities and implementation gaps while aligning support across stakeholders. As a result, the Philippines has made progress across several priority policy areas, including marine spatial planning, offshore wind permitting and smart grid development, supporting implementation of its clean energy transition.
- At the regional level, ETC engagements in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2025 illustrates how multi-country dialogues can help identify shared challenges and opportunities, strengthen cooperation, and feed into global processes such as COPs specifically COP30. In Panama, during the UNFCCC regional climate week in May 2025, an ETC co-convened regional dialogue brought together countries and partners to identify common barriers – including financing constraints and the need for just and inclusive transition approaches – as well as regional opportunities and priorities. This contributed to political signalling, the development of a more aligned regional narrative, strengthened coordination among partners, and more coherent planning ahead of COP30.

These experiences highlight the importance of building and maintaining an ecosystem for the whole process – from political engagement to technical support and finance, which are aligned around country-defined priorities.

How can a just, orderly and equitable transition best reflect the diverse realities of countries at different stages of development and with different degrees of dependence on fossil fuels?

A just, orderly and equitable transition should reflect national circumstances, local opportunities and resources, development priorities, and levels of fossil fuel dependence.

At the national level, this is strengthened by integrating just transition considerations into national planning and decision-making processes. This includes aligning transition pathways with improved energy access, affordability and economic development goals, engaging stakeholders across society, and designing policies that balance decarbonisation with social and economic outcomes.

ETC-supported analysis highlights how applying just transition principles within policy and planning processes can accelerate the inclusive deployment of renewable energy. This approach is underpinned by three core elements: recognising existing socio-economic inequalities, ensuring transparent and inclusive decision-making processes, and enabling a fair distribution of the costs and benefits of the transition.

In applying these principles to the planning process, the following aspects need to be considered:

- High level buy-in and strong ambitions
- early, proactive, inclusive and meaningful stakeholder engagement, across all levels
- place-based approaches reflecting local contexts
- robust and transparent governance structures
- financing mechanisms that leverage a range of fair and quality sources
- strategies for regional revitalisation for economic resilience
- targeted support for workers and communities affected by the transition, especially those communities often underrepresented

Together, these elements when considered should support more inclusive, context-specific and implementable transition pathways.