

Argentina 1.5 submission on the COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner (paragraph 28.d/GST1).

This submission is presented by Argentina 1.5, a non-profit non-governmental organisation that began its work in 2020 and was formally established as a foundation in 2024. Argentina 1.5 is a Latin American think and action tank dedicated to the co-creation of ideas, solutions and dialogue to tackle the climate emergency, with a focus on just ecological transitions and prioritising the most vulnerable sectors. The organisation's main areas of work are: adaptation; loss and damage; mitigation; a just energy transition; and green and climate finance. Furthermore, the organisation adopts a gender, diversity and justice approach as cross-cutting themes.

Introduction

The transition away from fossil fuels is a cornerstone of the global response to the climate crisis and a prerequisite for achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. Scientific evidence is unequivocal: a rapid, deep, and sustained reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions is required to keep the 1.5°C limit within reach. For Latin America and the wider Global South, this transition is not merely a technical or energy-related shift, but a profound socio-economic transformation that must address entrenched inequalities and development needs. Furthermore, for Argentina 1.5, this transition is inseparable from the achievement of the Global Goal on Adaptation. A decarbonized energy system is a prerequisite for long-term resilience, and the transition process itself must be "adaptation-aligned" to ensure that energy infrastructure supports the adaptive capacity of local communities.

Discussions on the energy transition have evolved through successive decisions under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, culminating in the historic mandate of the First Global Stocktake (GST1)¹ to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems. However, for this transition to be "just, orderly, and equitable," it must be underpinned by the principles of equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).

As a Latin American think and action tank, Argentina 1.5 emphasizes that the roadmap toward COP30 must move beyond "one-size-fits-all" approaches. It must instead account for the diverse national circumstances of developing countries, ensuring that the phase-out of fossil fuels is accompanied by robust means of implementation—including predictable finance, technology transfer, and capacity building—to avoid deepening the ecological and economic debts of the South.

In response to this call, we would like to offer the following views regarding critical barriers and potential levers:

¹ Decision 1/CMA.5. Outcome of the first Global Stocktake. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/1_CMA.5.pdf

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

We are facing systemic barriers that are hindering the transition away from fossil fuels. The liberal international order was built on a foundation of dependence on coal, oil and gas, led by state and private actors from the world's major economies, and subsequently expanded to developing economies. This framework of global power highlights the collusion between the 'ultra-rich' and the fossil-fuel-based model, which resists attempts to alter this pattern of consumption and production. Indeed, a range of academic studies (Nitzan & Bichler, 2014; Di Muzio, 2016) have demonstrated the direct link between major international conflicts in history and the consolidation of the economic power of the fossil fuel lobby.

On the other hand, the energy transition we are currently undergoing involves major countries and private corporations that perpetuate the logic of green capitalism. The natural resources (critical minerals) necessary for the transition to renewable energy are treated as commodities, perpetuating neo-extractivist logic.

This dynamic leads to fragmentation among the states that possess these resources – mostly in the Global South – and, at the domestic level, exacerbates inequalities. It perpetuates a vicious circle of poverty and marginalisation for the most vulnerable populations and gives rise to new enclave economies and sacrifice zones. In turn, the erosion of democracy and the rule of law, driven by far-right liberal movements, undermines historic gains in human rights and reinforces a mindset focused on fiscal balance at any cost. A model that is inevitably financed by the most structurally vulnerable groups.

The current aggressive efforts to attract foreign investment (focused on large-scale mining and oil extraction) have required the undermining of existing environmental regulations and commitments to the environment and human rights. This has resulted in activities that violate environmental and human rights, particularly those of traditional and indigenous communities, women and children, sexual diversities, people of African descent, and local productive sectors. Furthermore, it creates a state of latent competition between countries and regions that tends to undermine socio-environmental policies and regulations.

To put it briefly, the current global structure has led to a long-standing fiscal dependence of developing countries and regions on the exploitation of fossil fuels; a lack of financial resources to initiate the transition; a technological gap—namely, a gap in intellectual property and the lack of genuine technology transfer, which forces developing nations to import expensive solutions rather than producing them locally; and regulatory frameworks designed for centralised fossil fuel systems, which reinforce and perpetuate their wealth and power.

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

Specific mechanisms can act as catalysts if applied with an equity-focused approach:

International cooperation: A framework for international cooperation that complements conventional national coordination could become an institutional lever for accelerating the implementation of the transitioning away commitment. The UNFCCC has a range of

arrangements, including the Mitigation Work Programme, the Just Transition Work Programme and the recent Just Transition Mechanism established at COP30. Furthermore, the UNFCCC is the main multilateral climate forum. However, the international context highlights the limitations of exclusively top-down strategies. In this regard, the adoption of a Fossil Fuels Treaty is promoted, one that can incorporate all actors on an equal footing: nation-states, sub-national actors, civil society organisations, private actors, amongst others. Latin America has the precedent of the Escazú Agreement which, although an instrument between states, opens the door to direct civil society participation. Our region and the world require a move to the next stage of multi-stakeholder, multi-level international environmental agreements that strengthen governance as an active mechanism of democracy.

Reform of the International Financial Architecture: Pushing for changes within the International Financial Organizations so that debt relief is linked to investments in resilience and decarbonization.

Local content policies: Ensuring that the technological transition includes job creation and technical capacity building within the territory, making sure economic development remains local and inclusive.

Cross-Sectoral Policy Alignment: Aligning energy roadmaps with National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to ensure that the phase-out of fossil fuels directly strengthens the adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable sectors.

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

Key lesson: Transitions fail without "social license". Ensuring the right to participation for all stakeholders is a fundamental prerequisite for making a just energy transition a reality. In this regard, organised civil society is currently working on a regional roadmap for Latin America for TAFF, which will be submitted to the COP Presidency in Bonn.

Key lesson: the scale as a key factor of success. The primary determinant of success in local energy communities lies in the systemic strengthening of local capacities. Therefore, transitioning community members from passive consumers to active stewards of their energy resources. This best practice entails the integration of technical and administrative training from the project's inception, ensuring that the community possesses the requisite expertise to operate and maintain renewable infrastructure independently. By decoupling operational sustainability from perpetual external assistance and aligning energy generation with the specific productive and social exigencies of the territory, projects achieve not only long-term technical viability but also a profound sense of social ownership that underpins a grassroots-led energy transition.

Community-Based Distributed Generation: Based on our work in Argentina (cities like Buenos Aires, Córdoba, and Rosario), we have seen that decentralizing the grid through community-based projects not only reduces emissions but also increases energy security during extreme weather events, serving as a successful model of urban adaptation.

(d) 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?

To reflect diverse realities, the transition must move away from "one-size-fits-all" formulas:

Diversity of timelines: Recognizing that countries and regions with less historical responsibility and larger poverty gaps require more flexible timeframes and greater external support. Moreover, a just transition must recognize that "orderly" means different things for a country dependent on fossil fuel revenues versus one facing immediate climate threats. The roadmap must allow for diverse timelines that prioritize the survival and adaptation of frontline communities.

Climate justice: We must recognise that we cannot begin the transition away from fossil fuels without first acknowledging the ecological debts incurred through years of exploitation of communities affected by the fossil fuel industry. To initiate a just energy transition, we must restore and transform the exploited areas into places where life can flourish. Furthermore, the introduction of renewable energy must take place within institutional frameworks that put people at the centre, whilst at the same time preserving biomes for future generations.

Participation, intersectionality and human rights: A just energy transition must focus on human rights and gender justice, in line with core human rights conventions. Meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, women and frontline communities; Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC); and just transition provisions that explicitly address the unequal impacts of extraction and the energy transition on women and children, racialised peoples and territories. In many regions, the aforementioned communities are the guardians of key ecosystems; their participation in energy governance is essential to avoid "green colonialism".

Equity through Means of Implementation: True equity requires that the Global North fulfills its commitments to technology transfer and predictable finance. This support must be "intersectionality-aware," ensuring that the transition does not lead to "green colonialism" but instead empowers Indigenous Peoples and women as the primary guardians of territorial resilience and adaptation.