

Consultation Response

COP30 Presidency Roadmap on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner



Introduction

At COP28 in Dubai the Presidency secured historic language around transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly, and equitable manner to achieve net zero by 2050. This transition is well underway with renewables surging, but efforts are urgently required to speed up the transition away from fossil fuels.

Seven out of nine Planetary Boundaries, the life support systems for the planet, have now been breached according to leading Earth system science, and the accelerated transition away from fossil fuels is one of the most important actions to take to bring these boundaries back to safe operating zones. The sustained use of these carbon-based fuels is pushing our planet into dangerous territory.

We welcome the Brazilian Presidency's focus on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels which is urgently needed.

We submit this response as a coalition working at the intersection of climate, nature, and finance, with experience supporting public, private, and philanthropic action on forest protection and restoration.

Action to speed up the transition is required immediately. The current geopolitical crisis is showing us yet again that fossil fuels are not the answer for stable, resilient and cheap power let alone the impact on the Planetary Boundaries. Planetary harmful subsidies because of this energy crisis are increasing at a time when we need to break the link between fossil fuels and the health of the global economy and health of the planet.

This action-orientated Roadmap must tackle the systemic barriers to accelerated transition while looking at how to immediately incentivise national action given the urgency of timelines.

Our response below addresses each of the four consultation questions in turn but the single greatest effort we believe must be focussed on **ending planetary harmful fossil fuel subsidies**. A roadmap to stop and re-direct this finance towards renewables would be the single most powerful measure that this roadmap can achieve.

Question 1: Critical Barriers Preventing a Transition Away from Fossil Fuels

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

Planetary Harmful Subsidies

Fossil fuel subsidies exceeding \$7 trillion annually (IMF estimates), including \$600 billion in direct subsidies, artificially suppress the cost of coal, oil and gas. This distorts energy markets, discourages private investment in clean alternatives, and entrenches economic dependence on fossil fuels across supply chains, state revenues and employment. Ending these flows of finance must be a key focus of this Roadmap as we cannot simply accelerate the transition while continuing to subsidise the energy we are trying to move away from.

Knowledge and Understanding Gaps

Low understanding of Planetary Boundaries is hindering the transition across all dimensions. Without a holistic understanding of how fossil fuels are destabilising multiple planetary life support systems, the transition is not prioritised as a true emergency. This knowledge gap is compounded by fossil fuel lobbying and disinformation campaigns that delay regulation and weaken ambition.

Absence of a Global Roadmap and Governance Framework

Despite scientific consensus on the need to phase out fossil fuels, no international instrument yet provides coordinated governance of a global phase-out. Without a roadmap informed and guided by science, obligations remain unclear, action remains piecemeal and fragmented, and there is little or no structural protection to enable a just transition. A Roadmap should be informed by the Science Panel (see Question 2).

Institutional Fragmentation

Action on phasing out fossil fuels requires coordinated and coherent engagement across relevant international bodies, including trade and maritime institutions, yet governance remains siloed. The High-Level Coalition has demonstrated what is possible within COPs to coalesce key countries around high ambition text, but this model has not been extended to the broader institutional architecture needed for a managed phase-out.

Social Norms and Cultural Lock-in

Fossil fuel dependence is reinforced through advertising, cultural association and the invisibility of clean alternatives. Without deliberate effort to shift social norms, including banning fossil fuel advertising and elevating clean economy solutions, public appetite for transition remains suppressed as they are not seeing the radical shifts already underway. The transition must be more visible, both in moving away from fossil fuel-based economy to the emergence of clean solutions and innovations.

Question 2: Levers for Accelerating the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels

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

Ending Fossil Fuel Subsidies

Removing the financial support that makes coal, oil and gas artificially cheap is one of the most powerful levers available. When fossil fuels reflect their true market cost, including environmental and health externalities, renewables become far more competitive, accelerating the energy transition. Redirecting even a fraction of the \$7 trillion in annual subsidies toward renewables, grid infrastructure and efficiency programmes would dramatically accelerate decarbonisation. Subsidies can be repurposed to support the most vulnerable in adapting to lower-carbon livelihoods, as demonstrated by the hypothecated carbon tax model in Ireland.

Key instruments include:

- Carbon pricing mechanisms replacing implicit subsidies with true cost signals
- Transparency legislation mandating subsidy disclosure
- Regulatory reforms removing subsidy preferences from energy licensing and taxation frameworks
- Social protection schemes to cushion impacts on vulnerable groups

Establishing a Science Panel for the Global Energy Transition (SPGET)

Decision-makers frequently lack clear, integrated guidance on how to design and implement transition pathways that are both ambitious and feasible. SPGET, proposed at COP30 and backed by COP President and CEO, would serve as an independent global science-based support function with two core objectives:

- Generating annual benchmarks for high-ambition decarbonisation pathways to minimise overshoot and return to 1.5°C
- Mapping the most promising policy mixes, financial arrangements and governance dimensions to support an accelerated transition

The Panel would consist of 15–20 experts with regional hubs at the University of São Paulo and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

Common Timelines in a Global Roadmap

A coordinated international roadmap built initially through a coalition of the willing would create conditions for states to coordinate a managed phase-out of fossil fuel production and end new licensing. Re-establishing coordinated market signals from national actions would be incredibly valuable, such as what happened at COP26 with ZEVs transition. The first phase could include:

- Subsidy reform and ending new licensing
- Re-affirming phase-out dates for internal combustion engine vehicles
- Ending export finance support for fossil fuels
- Limiting advertising of environmentally harmful products
- Regulating banks and insurers supporting fossil fuel infrastructure

Promoting Clean Solutions and Banning Fossil Fuel Advertising

Actively promoting green economy solutions accelerates the transition by making clean alternatives visible, aspirational and accessible. Doing this alongside banning fossil fuel advertising is a powerful cultural lever. Combined with national support to scale the green economy, uplifting new solutions builds economic momentum, creating jobs and investment that make returning to fossil fuels both economically and culturally unthinkable.

Planetary Guardians plan to lead such an initiative which would celebrate the entrepreneurs, companies and industries driving change at scale, accelerating capital toward planetary-aligned businesses and making fossil-free leadership aspirational.

Question 3: Country, Regional and Sector Roadmap Experiences, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

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

Ireland — Hypothecated Carbon Taxation

Ireland's carbon tax model demonstrates how carbon pricing revenues can be ring-fenced to protect vulnerable households from the distributional impacts of fossil fuel price increases, particularly those in low-income groups disproportionately affected by energy costs. This model provides a replicable template for socially just subsidy reform.

Amsterdam — Fossil Fuel Advertising Ban

Amsterdam pioneered the banning of fossil fuel advertising in public spaces, demonstrating that cities can act ahead of national governments to shift social norms and reclaim public space for clean economy messaging. This provides a practical legislative model that national and local actors can use to advance similar campaigns in their own contexts. Many other Dutch cities have already taken similar steps.

The High-Level Coalition Model within COPs

The High-Level Coalition approach has demonstrated the value of building a caucus of willing actors to drive coordinated ambition within intergovernmental processes. This model, high ambition coalition-first, then broadening offers a viable pathway for establishing the kind of cross-institutional coordination needed to govern a global fossil fuel phase-out across trade, maritime and energy bodies. This would force greater inter-Governmental collaboration to ensure that policies of climate ministries are aligned with those of transport, finance etc.

SPGET Regional Hub Model

Embedding scientific support capacity in regional institutions, such as the University of São Paulo for Latin America, reflects the lesson that global scientific assessments must be translated into nationally and regionally relevant guidance to be actionable. Decision-makers require context-specific, integrated pathways, not only global averages.

Question 4: Reflecting Diverse Country Realities in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Transition

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 must be grounded in the recognition that countries face profoundly different starting points in terms of fossil fuel dependence, institutional capacity, access to finance and vulnerability to transition impacts.

Differentiated Roadmap Obligations

A global roadmap must be structured to allow differentiated national commitments that reflect varying degrees of fossil fuel dependence and development status, while maintaining alignment with the science of 1.5°C. Beginning with a coalition of willing states allows momentum to build without requiring uniform action from all parties simultaneously.

Protecting the Most Vulnerable

Subsidy reform and carbon pricing must be accompanied by robust social protection mechanisms targeted at those most exposed to energy price increases, particularly women in low-income households who bear primary responsibility for energy-dependent tasks such as cooking and heating. Hypothecated revenue models, as in Ireland, provide a proven mechanism for ensuring that transition costs do not fall disproportionately on those least able to bear them.

Science-Based Support for Developing Countries

SPGET's mandate to support strategic partner countries in translating scientific insights into national transition pathways is essential for equity. Countries with lower institutional capacity require tailored, accessible guidance to design feasible and fair decarbonisation pathways. Regional scientific hubs can play a critical role in bridging the gap between global scientific assessments and local implementation realities.

Gender-Responsive and Human Rights-Based Approaches

Across all solutions, transition planning must actively promote gender-responsive design. Celebrating new solutions should highlight how the post-fossil-fuel economy benefits from and is often driven by women and delivers improved human rights and social outcomes. Reclaiming public space for clean solutions must reflect diverse communities and ensure equitable access to clean transport, housing and energy.

Ending Export Finance as a Solidarity Measure

Ending export finance support for fossil fuel infrastructure in developing countries is a critical equity measure - it closes off the pipeline of new fossil fuel lock-in while creating space for redirecting international public finance toward clean energy access for those who need it most.