



Contribution COP 30 Presidency Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

This contribution represents the views and principles of Fundación Barranquilla+20, the Women for Climate Justice Network¹ and allied organizations.

We are a Latin American organization, based in Colombia, with more than a decade of experience in climate justice, focused on intergenerational justice, women, intersectionality, and ethnic and rural communities. We articulate territorial processes, policy advocacy, and cooperation to promote just transitions that integrate human rights, a gender approach, and community-based knowledge. Our work combines local action with participation in global spaces such as the COP.

Structural barriers to a just transition

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

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

1. Invisibilization of care work as an economic and climate barrier

The current energy transition faces a structural barrier: the persistence of an extractivist economic model sustained by the double exploitation of women. On the one hand, territories —especially in Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and rural contexts— are subordinated to extractive dynamics that degrade ecosystems and livelihoods. On the other hand, the system invisibilizes and extracts value from care work, both paid and unpaid, which sustains economies and community resilience.

Environmental degradation intensifies these burdens. When ecosystem services fail, it is primarily women, LGBTQIA+ persons (SOGIESC)² and historically marginalized communities who must ensure access to water, food, and well-being. However, climate frameworks continue to limit the notion of the “workforce” to formal employment, excluding reproductive and community-based labor.

This omission reproduces structural inequalities and limits communities’ capacity to adapt and transition. The most severe impacts of this invisibilization fall on the most vulnerable communities, those with the least resources to cope with climate shocks, the least access to decision-making processes, and the least recognition of their contributions to resilience. Children, youth, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, and LGBTQIA+ persons within these communities face compounded and differentiated vulnerabilities that climate frameworks must explicitly name and address.

¹ In Spanish: Red de Mujeres por la Justicia Climática

² Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Expression, and Sex Characteristics. In Spanish is Orientación Sexual, Identidad de Género, Expresión de Género y Características Sexuales (OSIGD)



2. Technocratic and decontextualized transitions

Energy transition strategies are often designed through centralized approaches that prioritize investment and economic reconversion without considering territorial realities.

The disconnection from local economies and the exclusion of affected communities can reproduce new forms of extractivism. If the implementation of renewable energy maintains current patterns, it may replicate historical inequalities and hinder the development of just economic alternatives. The large-scale exploitation of critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earths can not be overlooked. Various communities, particularly in Latin America, are already experiencing intense pressure on their territories due to the growing global demand for these minerals, driven by the expansion of renewable energy technologies.

Many local economies across the Global South are deeply dependent on activities tied to fossil fuels. Transition strategies that do not account for this economic reality risk devastating local livelihoods and deepening poverty in affected territories. Furthermore, the exclusion of children and youth from transition planning processes alongside rural, ethnic, and marginalized communities –reproduces intergenerational inequalities and deprives these processes of the knowledge and perspectives of those who will live longest with the consequences of today's decisions.

3. Gaps in governance, financing, and protection of rights

Financing, governance, and participation are key pillars for the implementation of just climate policies, projects, and initiatives. However, significant gaps persist between climate commitments and their implementation.

These include the lack of accessible financial instruments for community-based energy transition and ecological restoration initiatives, as well as discontinuity and limited participation opportunities for women, youth, and local leadership. There is also an absence of binding governance mechanisms and high risks for environmental defenders. These barriers weaken effective international cooperation and restrict the role of civil society in monitoring and accelerating the transition.

In countries such as Colombia, although Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) recognize differentiated gender impacts, they do not include concrete measures to address the burden of care work, its relationship with the climate crisis, or its redistribution through public infrastructure.

Climate and care are inextricably linked. The degradation of ecosystems deepens the burden of care, while the absence of care infrastructure leaves communities more exposed to climate impacts. Effective climate action must therefore also be care action and vice versa. Policies, mechanisms, and implementation frameworks must reflect this interdependence, integrating care as a cross-cutting axis across all climate strategies.



Our territorial experiences and learnings

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

For over 14 years, our territorial processes have demonstrated that a transition rooted in care and community knowledge is both possible and necessary. Our work spans the protection and restoration of coastal marine ecosystems along the Colombian Caribbean coast; capacity-building programs that strengthen local actors' ability to sustain territorial initiatives and engage in policy advocacy; and initiatives that have expanded democratic access to energy, providing technical and technological resources to rural and peripheral schools to strengthen community governance.

More recently since 2020, we have built a network of women through which we promote diverse territorial initiatives and processes such as Women Caregivers and the Feminist Climate Juntanza³. These initiatives have integrated agroecology and water ecotechnologies as strategies of resistance that directly confront the double condition of exploitation by positioning care as the fundamental social infrastructure that sustains life in the face of extractivism.

Additionally, educational processes such as community-based diploma programs have bridged academic and territorial knowledge, strengthening intergenerational learning. Spaces such as circles of dialogue function as pedagogical environments where knowledge for climate adaptation, territorial defense, and peacebuilding is transmitted.

In rural and peripheral contexts, gaps in access to education are significantly worsened by a climate crisis that is not neutral. Ecosystem degradation, combined with the lack of climate-resilient public services, forces girls and women to prioritize survival and care tasks over their educational processes. In this context, our diploma initiatives have made significant progress by fostering collaboration with higher education institutions, enabling dialogue between academic knowledge and territorial knowledge.

Furthermore, we have promoted the meaningful participation of women in international spaces such as the COP and in territorial mobilization processes. These efforts have strengthened advocacy, articulation, and dialogue with key stakeholders, positioning agendas related to climate justice, body-territory defense, and peacebuilding.

These experiences demonstrate that communities are not passive beneficiaries, but key agents of the transition. Through our network, we have accompanied the territorial experiences led by women caregivers across our territories. As one territorial leader from the Colombian Caribbean shares, our communities are already living the consequences of the climate crisis: extreme heat, loss of tropical dry forest, and water contamination linked to fossil fuel extraction. Another leader from the Andean-Amazonian corridor highlights how these communities are on the frontlines of environmental destruction and climate impacts, yet they remain among the most excluded from transition planning and financing. Territories such as the Salar de Maricunga (Chile) and the Salar de Uyuni (Bolivia) are some of the ecosystems of high ecological and cultural value facing threats of extraction that degrade fragile ecosystems, contaminate water sources, and destroy ancestral ways of life.

³ In Spanish: "Mujeres Cuidadoras" and "Juntanza Climática Feminista" respectively.



For these communities, the energy transition is not a distant technical matter, but an urgent opportunity to care for life, protect ecosystems, and build a healthier future for their children. Their territorial knowledge and their role as guardians of these corridors must be explicitly recognized and resourced within the TAFF roadmap. Forests, rivers, and biodiversity corridors are not peripheral to the energy transition — they are foundational to it. Protecting them is an act of climate mitigation and adaptation, and their defenders must be recognized and supported accordingly.

Prioritized actions

(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?

We prioritize three urgent actions to move forward:

1. Integrate care as climate infrastructure within the TAFF, NDCs and climate policies.
2. Establish meaningful participation mechanisms for women and marginalized communities in climate governance.
3. Create non-debt-generating finance mechanisms to support effective, territorial and low-emission initiatives.

Solutions and recommendations for the COP30 roadmap

Based on these barriers and learnings, we propose the following lines of action for the TAFF roadmap:

1. Recognizing care as climate infrastructure

Care must continue to be discussed and it should advance to be adopted as a human right and as key social infrastructure for climate resilience. It is imperative to strengthen the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and integrate care into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans, and just transition strategies.

This includes recognizing both paid and unpaid care work as fundamental to sustaining economies and community adaptive capacity. Climate frameworks must incorporate measurable targets to reduce the burden of unpaid care work and promote the expansion of climate-resilient public services, including early childhood education, decentralized healthcare, water and sanitation, and accessible public transport.

Climate policies must also ensure the meaningful participation of women, LGBTQIA+ persons (SOGIESC), Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, and territorial organizations as agents in the design and implementation of climate solutions.

2. Ensuring intersectional participation

Strengthening mechanisms for meaningful paritarian and intersectional participation shall be established across all phases of climate and energy transition policies: diagnosis, design, implementation, and evaluation. Including dedicated budgets, clear representation rules, and real decision-making power.



These mechanisms should guarantee the effective inclusion of women's organizations, Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, diversities, peasant movements, youth, and care collectives, groups who have been disproportionately affected by the climate crisis and will bear the longest-term consequences of transition decisions. Participation must be substantive, sustained, and grounded in human rights, with dedicated funding, capacity support, and genuine decision-making power at every stage.

3. Climate finance without debt generation

It is critical to create international climate finance mechanisms to enable Global South countries to accelerate the phase-out of fossil fuels and invest in regenerative and care-based economies. These mechanisms should not generate debt to not deepen structural inequalities and fiscal burdens of the communities of the Global South.

This includes gradually divesting from fossil fuel extraction and redirecting resources toward low-carbon sectors that strengthen social protection, community resilience, and decent work, including initiatives led by women and territorial organizations.

A global fund should be established to mobilize resources through taxes on fossil fuel production or exports, international public contributions, and climate finance mechanisms, prioritizing projects aligned with the Gender Action Plan and care infrastructure. This recognizes the care economy as a sector that generates employment, social resilience, and reduced climate vulnerability.

4. Protection of defenders and human rights safeguards

Ensuring the protection of environmental and community defenders must be a central component of transition strategies beyond fossil fuels.

In contexts such as Colombia, where socio-environmental conflicts linked to extraction generate high levels of violence against territorial leaders, the energy transition must incorporate human rights safeguards, including protection mechanisms, access to justice, and recognition of their role in caring for ecosystems and territories. Protection mechanisms must incorporate differentiated approaches that account for the specific risk faced by indigenous, afro-descendants, LGBTQIA+ and women leaders.

Climate policies and territorial plans must recognize community-based care practices— such as agroecology, community water management, traditional medicine, and care networks— as key climate adaptation strategies requiring technical and financial support. Energy projects must also guarantee Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and promote decentralized, community-based energy models.

5. Education, intergenerational knowledge, and adaptation

Capacity-building strategies and the integration of territorial knowledge into energy planning are essential for climate adaptation.

Educational processes with ethnic, community-based, and intergenerational approaches contribute to preserving cultural identity and the continuity of peoples. This includes supporting eco-schools in remote and peri-urban communities as spaces for environmental



education, intergenerational knowledge exchange, and climate resilience, particularly in territories where access to education is most constrained by the climate crisis itself.

Integrating these approaches into the COP30 roadmap implies recognizing that a just transition is not only a technical shift, but a profound transformation and process of historical reparation, in which women and their communities are positioned as political actors capable of leading care-based economies, resilience, and sustainability from their own roots.

6. Protecting Corridors and Border Territories and Territorial rights

High-value ecosystems –including the Andean-Amazonian corridor, tropical dry forests, savannas, and coastal wetlands– and the communities that inhabit and steward them must be formally recognized as priority zones requiring active protection, not merely regulatory oversight. Many of these territories lie in border zones, far from national capitals and international forums, yet they bear a disproportionate share of the impacts of both fossil fuel extraction and the climate crisis, while remaining largely excluded from transition policy discussions. Respecting the autonomy of Indigenous and border communities, and providing them with effective mechanisms to defend their territories, is essential to safeguarding these ecosystems for present and future generations.

The transition away from fossil fuels must not reproduce patterns of territorial sacrifice in the name of global climate solutions. Ecosystems must be recognized as ecological limits that no transition project may override. Indigenous women and communities must have binding participation in any decisions affecting their territories.

Proposed roadmap

To outline the actions and solutions necessary for the just transition, we propose the following timeline of milestones towards 2050.

2026–2031

- Adoption of international guidelines for paritarian participation.
- Adoption of standards for the meaningful participation of children, adolescents, and youth in climate governance processes.
- Integration of care into NDCs and climate policies and vice versa.
- Creation of global climate finance mechanisms without debt generation.
- Integration of safeguards for environmental defenders into transition frameworks.

2032–2040

- Full implementation of participatory processes in energy transition.
- Consolidation of care infrastructure as climate public policy.
- Large-scale financing for community-based initiatives.
- Expansion of decentralized, community-owned energy models.
- Establishment of independent monitoring bodies with community representation to evaluate NDC implementation.
- Recognition and integration of food sovereignty, seed preservation, and community water stewardship into national adaptation plans.



- Scale-up of eco-school and community-based technical training programs across rural and remote territories.

2041–2050

- Consolidation of inclusive climate governance systems.
- Low-carbon economies centered on care and social resilience.
- Effective participation of communities in global decision-making.
- Full integration of the care economy into national and international climate accounting frameworks.
- Intergenerational governance structures fully institutionalized, with youth and adolescent leadership embedded in climate decision-making bodies.
- Full recognition and resourcing of community-based care economies as foundational to national and international climate resilience frameworks.

Final considerations

A transition beyond fossil fuels will only be possible if it addresses the structural inequalities that underpin the climate crisis. This requires recognizing that there can be no climate justice without care justice.

This transition must not reproduce, under a green banner, the same logics of dispossession and sacrifice that have historically devastated our territories. A just transition is one that centers the rights, knowledge, and leadership of women, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, peasant movements, youth, and LGBTQIA+ persons.

We call on parties, international organizations, and financial actors to work towards a just transition by adopting new and inclusive measures as part of the roadmap toward COP30.

The international community has already developed a significant body of mechanisms, frameworks, and commitments toward climate justice. However, the gap between commitment and implementation remains wide resulting in fragmented, duplicative, or ineffective processes. We call for synergy, a concerted effort to build on existing progress, streamline implementation, and foster genuine collaboration across actors, scales, and sectors, so that the transition delivers on its promise to those who need it most.

Women, youth, and communities in the Global South are not marginal actors, we are fundamental protagonists of this process.

We urge the COP30 Presidency to ensure that the TAFF roadmap incorporates care justice, intersectional participation, and human rights safeguards as non-negotiable pillars of the transition.



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